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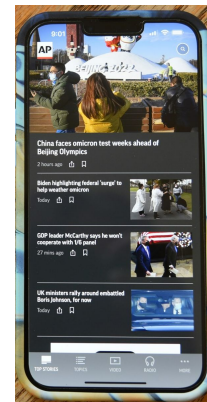
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# Connecting

February 14, 2022

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you've got more style  
than the



10,000 WORDS

Good Monday morning on this Feb. 14, 2022,

Happy Valentine's Day!

Three of our colleagues were Valentine's Day Babies – **Jim Bagby**, **Bob Greene** and **Karren Mills** – and we cite them in our Birthday section today.

It's the biggest day of the year in Valentine, Neb., which is the former home of colleagues **Bob Petsche** and **Diane Smith**. Click [here](#) to see how and why this small Nebraska city celebrates the special day. The story begins: "With a name like "Valentine," a city almost has to embrace the identically named holiday, and that is exactly what Valentine does."



However, the most well-known Valentine's Day tradition is the annual re-mailing program. Each year, around 5,000 romantics from all over the country send their Valentine's Day letters to the Valentine post office in order to have it stamped with that year's Valentine Postmark. Keep that in mind for next year.

With sadness we bring news of the death of our colleague **Tony Keefe**, who worked for nearly a half century in the AP's London bureau as a technician and then technical services manager. He was 82. It was a great career that began in 1956 as a copy boy. He was later trained on the Teletypes left behind by the departing U.S. military following World War II.

We lead today's Connecting with a story on his life and career - and invite you to share a memory of working with him. If you'd like to send a message to his family, drop me a note and I'll forward.

Today's issue brings you first responses to our new Connecting series – the first, on famous people who once worked for the AP and the other, the most unusual datelines from whence you reported. Please send along your own stories.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Tony Keefe, stalwart of AP London technical services, dies at 82



**Steve Graham (Email)** – Sadly, former longtime London technician/technical services manager Tony Keefe passed away on Feb. 7 at the age of 82, leaving Sylvia, his wife of 59 years; two children, three grandchildren and (at least) one great-grandchild.

In a Facebook post, Tony's family said, "We, his family, are heartbroken and will miss him beyond measure. He was an exceptionally funny, intelligent and all-round amazing man. There are no words to describe the love we had for him. Details of his funeral will be shared in due course."

He also left an incredibly wide array of friends gathered during his 47 years of dedicated service with the AP that began in 1956 as a copy boy and later trained on the Teletypes left behind by the departing U.S. military following World War II.

In a 2018 Connecting post, Tony told the story of his early days: "I was born on the 15th of July, 1939, two months before England went to war. After the war, I attended ordinary local schools and left full-time education at the age of 15. I'd had a good childhood, free from most of the traumas that some (no, most) had endured. Food had been rationed. There wasn't much to overindulge oneself in, so I was a lithe (nay, skinny), fit, tallish, youth, ready for the world and work.

"In May 1955 I found both when I responded to an advert in The Evening News. 'Printer attendant' required, the advert said. Apply at The Associated Press, Farringdon Street, London. Off I trotted. Three stops down the line from home on the underground to St Paul's, the nearest station for me to Farringdon Street and The AP, only to find the word printer used in the job description meant teleprinter and not the man who stamped words on paper.

"I had become a copyboy, a revered and exacting occupation, dealing with both writers who knew special words to hurt you and those who knew how important I was to the operation of the newsroom. I stayed, for the next 47 years.

"After a year as a copy boy I was offered an apprenticeship to learn how to maintain the Teletype equipment we used in London (most of it later to comprise equipment declared redundant and left in England by the U.S. Signal Corps after the war.)"

His AP service was interrupted by two years in the British military, which not only honed his communication skills but taught him fluent French, which served the AP well at multiple Olympics, government conferences and other events around the world, often on short notice and in places where the AP had little or no infrastructure.

"After national service I returned to AP and was there to help with the transition from mechanical teletype to all the latest technology of the day," he said in his 2018 Connecting post. "I was called upon to visit most European (and some beyond) AP bureaus to assist with installation of new technology.

"I attended many scheduled events, sporting and others. Sometimes I would have to cover news events at very short notice in places where AP had little or no infrastructure. President Reagan and Michael Gorbachev's SALT summit in Reykjavik in October 1986, for example and many more, too many to enumerate.

“In 1962 I married Sylvia Major, had two kids, and now have three grandchildren and one great grandchild. These days Syl and I gloat over our kids, enjoy good food and wine and spend time in the garden in the same house in London we've lived in for 38 years.”



**ABOVE:** London bureau chief Barry Renfrew (right) presents Tony Keefe and his wife Sylvia a book of retirement messages from around the world in 2003. Looking on are European photo editor Horst Faas, center, and London Chief of Communications Peter Roberts (partially obscured). (Both photos courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.)

His never-failing good humor and competence endeared him to those of us privileged to have been his colleagues, especially when faced with the technological revolution that wrenched the AP from the world of Teletypes in the late '80s.

He enjoyed good food and drink and took to Facebook where he posted daily photos of the gastronomic delights he and Sylvia were enjoying as well as photos of friends and family. He wished us all a Happy Christmas this past Christmas Eve.



● London AP Maintenance man Tony Keefe and his bride, the former Sylvia Major, after their wedding at St. John's Parish Church in Bethnal Green on Sept. 26.

I first met Tony when the AP shipped him to Los Angeles for the 1984 Olympics and we stayed good friends, especially during my year and a half in London overseeing European communications 1985-86, where he patiently brought this visiting Yank up to speed not only on European telecommunications, but pubs, Scotch and cricket as well.

## **Tony Keefe epitomized ‘the best of AP’**



• LUNCH HOUR IN LONDON. AP traffic staffers Ted Skidmore, Tony Keefe, Larry Monk and Brian Steggles stroll in sunshine on London's famous Fleet Street, around the corner from the AP office. In left background is the old King Lud pub, and at left center is the St. Martin's-without-Ludgate Church. In distance can be seen the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, enshrouded in scaffolding. The dome is getting a good scrubbing to remove the grime of 200 years.

1965 photo, courtesy AP Corporate Archives

**Myron Belkind** ([Email](#)) - Tony Keefe epitomized the best of AP, from the way he rose from copy boy to technical services manager during a 47-year career from his London base to the respect he earned from his colleagues around the world and to his endearing devotion to his wife Sylvia and their family. I was honored to work with

Tony during my years in London from 1977 to 2001 and remain indebted to him for the professional manner he quietly and competently moved the AP into the era of computers as a key member of the AP communications team in London. My thanks to Steve Graham for his beautiful obituary remembrance of Tony and my condolences to Tony's family and all his colleagues and friends in London and around the world.

## *New Connecting series:*

# Celebrities who once worked for the AP

## *Mark Hamill*

**John Brewer** ([Email](#)) - When AP reporter Jake Coyle interviewed "Star Wars" actor Mark Hamill in 2017 (click [here](#)), Hamill introduced himself to Coyle as "a fellow AP employee."

Hamill noted that he had been a news assistant (copyboy) in the AP's Los Angeles bureau in the 1970s.

"Jedi masters, it turns out, hail from the most unexpected corners of the universe," Coyle wrote.

Hamill was one of many part-time actors the bureau had attending to our banks of chattering printers, loading paper and changing ribbons, storing away the day's national and state reports and keeping up the reference files.

He worked the night shift so he could make ends meet and attend to his day job, minor acting roles he had in TV shows.

It was an easy job for him. He kept to himself. I remember him working on and off in the bureau, full-time and part-time, until 1975, when he left for good because he had won an audition, getting a role, he told me, in "a sci-fi movie."

That turned out to be "Star Wars," with Hamill in his breakout starring role as Luke Skywalker.



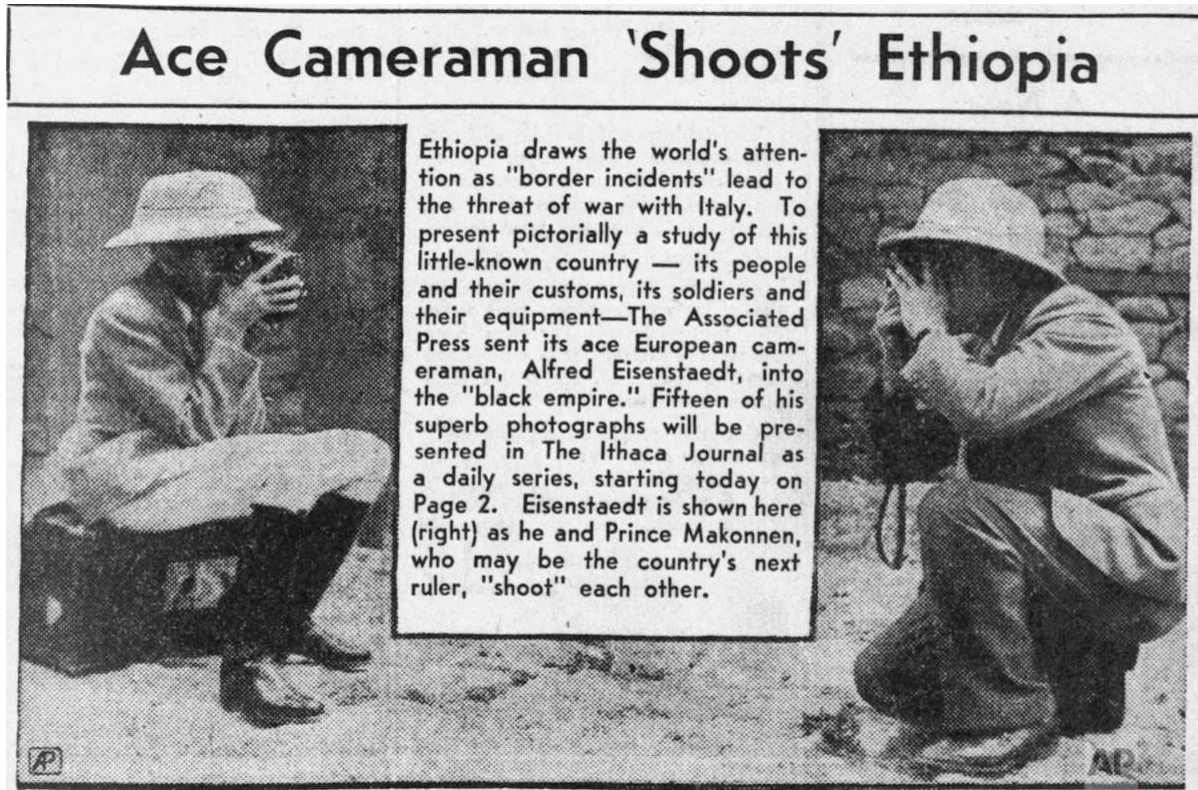
When the movie premiered in May 1977, we were both far removed from the bureau's office in the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner building.



Hamill was in a celluloid "galaxy far, far away." I had been promoted from AP/LA news editor and was now the AP bureau chief in Seattle. As I watched the movie at a theater in downtown Seattle, I remember realizing that I never knew anything about his talents as an actor.

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## Alfred Eisenstaedt



This Associated Press advert appeared in many US newspapers in 1935. (AP Corporate Archives)

**Francesca Pitaro (Email)** – The photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt worked for the AP in Germany. This from an [AP Images blog](#):

Photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt was born in 1898 in the city of Dirschau, Germany, which is now in Poland. He began shooting pictures at age 12 when his uncle gave him a camera. "I began clicking madly everything in sight," he recalled.

Whether he was photographing ordinary people or great world figures, Eisenstaedt was a master at finding the detail that told the big story. His style was unaffected, naturalistic; he let his subjects speak for themselves.

After serving in World War I, in which he suffered shrapnel injuries, Eisenstaedt went to work as a salesman in Berlin to help out his family, whose department store business had run into hard times.

Three days after quitting as a salesman, he began several years of free-lance work for The Associated Press by heading to Stockholm to photograph writer Thomas Mann at the Nobel Prize ceremonies. His photographs for a couple of German picture

magazines and for the news service established his reputation both as a photographer and as a journalist.

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## More on Tony Bennett

**John Willis** ([Email](#)) - I interviewed Tony Bennett in his dressing room at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas back in 1997. Took me two nights in between shows, and the second night he told me to bring my wife to the first show and we would have dinner together in his dressing room between shows. So I did. That feature also noted that he was a copy boy at The AP as a youngster - Antony Benedetto. I also learned that he was a damned good painter, and I don't mean house painting. Sadly, he has ALZ now, they say, or some type of dementia. He could not have been a more cooperative subject for an interview 45 years ago, and I think he got more popular since than he was back in the 40s and 50s...

## How do you pronounce Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine?

**Dennis Conrad** ([Email](#)) - FYI, I watched the NBC Nightly News on Saturday, during which the anchorman noted that some members of the viewing audience had wondered why the telecast was pronouncing the name of the Ukrainian capital differently from what they thought it should be: Kyiv, pronounced KEE-eve. The anchorman explained NBC uses the Ukrainian pronunciation for the capital of Ukraine — not the RUSSIAN way - Kiev and KEE-yev - that some of the audience apparently prefers. On Sunday, I watched Fox News Sunday, where their journalists in the first segment repeatedly used the RUSSIAN pronunciation for the name of the Ukrainian capital.

You can't make this stuff up! We can't even get our news media to agree on how to pronounce the capital of the city that appears to be targeted for invasion. As one with Polish ancestors who came from the area not far from Ukraine, and who for many years were forced to live under Czarist Russia, I must say I am more accustomed to the Russian way of pronouncing the Ukrainian capital. The Russian pronunciation and Polish pronunciation also certainly have more in common with each other than they do with the Ukrainian version. I am also so used to saying/writing Kiev, rather than Kyiv, as a longtime student of the ever-changing boundaries of Eastern Europe, Poland and Russia.

For those who don't know, several hundred years ago the kingdom of Poland and Lithuania was enormous and occupied much of present-day Russia and Ukraine. [This NPR article](#) is helpful background for this discussion, I think. If it means I am against a Russian invasion and for Ukrainian independence from KGB veteran Vladimir Putin, I can get used to pronouncing the capital in the spirit of Kyiv. While we are at it, can we change Putin's name? I have a few good ideas. How does Tucker Carlson sound?

## *New Connecting series:*

# What are unusual datelines from whence you reported?

**Sandy Johnson (Email)** - I didn't write this story but I assigned it because of the unusual dateline. After 9/11, then VP Dick Cheney often went missing for days. His office would cryptically say he was at "a secured undisclosed location." It was an open secret that he was at an underground government bunker near Hagerstown. So we sent WDC wordsmith Cal Woodward to talk to the locals about the facility. When the White House got wind that we were reporting from there, an irate press secretary Ari Fleischer called and tried to strong-arm me into not publishing the story. He said he would violate national security -- which is the trope the White House and Pentagon always trotted out if they were trying to stop us from publishing something. I just laughed and said it was a light feature about Cheney's mysterious hideout. The dateline, of course, was "A Secure Undisclosed Location."

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**Mike Rouse (Email)** - When I was the news editor in Charlotte, I sent a staffer to the community of Whynot, N.C., to find out why they named Whynot Whynot.

Here's why: A bunch of residents were trying to agree on a name and kept throwing out suggestions: Why not this and why not that?

Eventually one frustrated resident exclaimed: why not, why not—that's all I'm hearing! And the crowd said why not?

And so they chose Whynot.

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**Chris Sullivan (Email)** - Re unusual datelines and the circumstances surrounding them, several come to mind from my lucky sojourn as AP's regional writer for the South and later as a national writer there. As Bill Hendrick's story from HELL FOR CERTAIN, Kentucky, shows, the South has its share of memorable datelines.

Reporting a story on a federal effort to help blighted parts of the multi-state Mississippi Delta region, I spent time in Greasy Corner, Arkansas, named by a customer who encountered a grease-smudged plate at a diner, the only real business in what was previously called Mack's Corner, Arkansas; Midnight, Mississippi, which I was told got its name from the hour when a poker player won a game and title to property that became the town; and Waterproof, Louisiana, its name supposedly taken when the whole town was moved back from the river and survived a major flood. (Though these were among places mentioned, the story was undated.)

A week or so after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, as the news was settling down and we were looking for color and stories about how people were faring, I sought out and

found a guy I'd heard of years before, a hermit living on a tiny island far off the Florida Gulf Coast, directly in the hurricane's path. Heading out with a boat captain who knew the hermit to determine whether he'd survived, I had an unforgettable interview with the lone resident of DISMAL KEY, Florida.

Following the Oklahoma City bombing, I did a piece about the surviving 11-year-old son of a single mother who'd died in the blast. The story was about this smart, resilient woman who'd overcome hard times, who was a semester away from finishing a degree in geography at the University of Oklahoma and who took her son on geography field trips to Texas mesas and Oklahoma prairies; it was also about how the boy was suddenly ripped from everything familiar in his home and life near Oklahoma City and was starting anew with relatives 100 miles away. His new home and the story's dateline, symbolic in my mind: BROKEN ARROW, Oklahoma.

## Carol Emma Oukrop: 1934 - 2022

Carol E. Oukrop, 87, a long-time faculty member at Kansas State University and former director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, died Saturday evening, February 5, 2022, at her home in Manhattan, with loved ones at her side.

She was born Sept. 6, 1934, in Fargo, N.D., to Vic and Mildred Christensen, Watford City, N.D., and grew up on a cattle ranch in western North Dakota. She earned a B.A. in Journalism from the University of North Dakota, and an M.A. in Journalism and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Iowa, from which she was honored as an Alumni Fellow. She worked on newspapers and in public relations in North Dakota and Iowa.

Oukrop began her teaching career at Dickinson State College in Dickinson, N.D. She taught at the University of Iowa 1965-69, and joined the faculty at Kansas State University in 1969, where she remained for 33 years. She was the first director of the A. Q. Miller School of Journalism, and served in that capacity for 11 of those 33 years. Oukrop led the school through an arduous reaccreditation process, including spearheading the naming of the newly designation A.Q Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications. In 1983-84 she was a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She retired from Kansas State University in 2002.



In her career Oukrop was best known for her pioneering work on the status of women in journalism and mass communications education. She and colleague Ramona Rush conducted two national studies, 30 years apart, on the status of women in journalism education. Oukrop developed one of the first courses on gender issues in the mass

media, and she co-edited Seeking Equity for Women in Journalism and Mass Communication Education: A 30-Year Update.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### *Touching the moon*



**Malcolm Ritter** ([Email](#)) - This statue – known as “Angel of the Waters”- stands in the middle of the huge Bethesda Terrace fountain in New York’s Central Park. Fortunately, the fountain had been drained for the winter before I took this shot on Friday. Otherwise, I would have had to get very wet to line up the shot.

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### *Rocking Chair Meditations*

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - I moved my rocking chair near a window so that I could see the birds and squirrels filling their tummies.

I then decided to print a couple of pictures on the computer. I made all of the adjustments, and then reached for the printing paper. I opened the box and removed one piece of photo printing paper.

Right then I got hit by an emotion – You dummy, this will expose the print paper to electric lights and outside daylight. and ruin it!

Seconds later, it dawns on me that times have changed, and it is a whole new (compared to my photo days with AP) era. The printing paper now isn't bothered by light!

This also reminds me of my age!

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## ***A look back at 1993 Super Bowl – illustrated by AP photos***

**Doug Pizac** ([Email](#)) - [Here's](#) an interesting look-back story by the LA Times on the 1993 Super Bowl held at Pasadena's Rose Bowl. While it was written by a LAT staff writer, ALL the photos illustrating it are by the AP staff photographers who covered the game instead of by the paper's own shooters. That's an honor for AP.

### ***Best of the Week***

**Accountability reporting uncovers taxpayer-funded anti-abortion centers, racial disparities in access**



AP Photo/Mark Zaleski

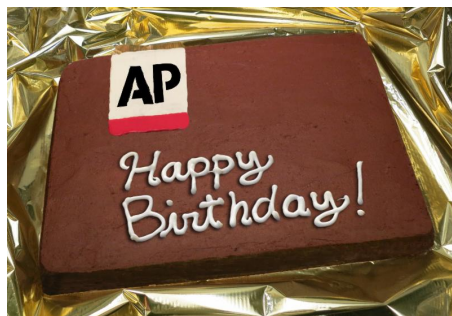
With the continued weakening of state laws protecting women's rights to abortion in the U.S., the AP's strong coverage of abortion continues with two stories earning Best of the Week for impressive state accountability reporting and analysis.

In a story about federal dollars being spent on nonprofits aligned with the anti-abortion movement, Nashville state government reporter Kimberlee Kruesi noticed that Tennessee was helping so-called crisis pregnancy centers buy ultrasound equipment, raising the question of whether that was also happening elsewhere.

Her research into state budget and health department documents showed that in this fiscal year, legislatures in about a dozen U.S. states were funneling nearly \$89 million to such centers. Many of the pregnancy centers have ties to religious groups, provide little if any actual health care services, are typically not licensed as medical facilities and have been accused of engaging in misinformation campaigns that target pregnant women seeking abortion services. Kruesi also found that taxpayer funding for the centers has spiked in recent years as more Republican-led states have passed legislation severely limiting access to abortion. The amount of state and federal tax money going to these nonprofits totaled almost half a billion dollars since 2010, details that were turned into a graphic by artist Phil Holm.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



**Jim Bagby**

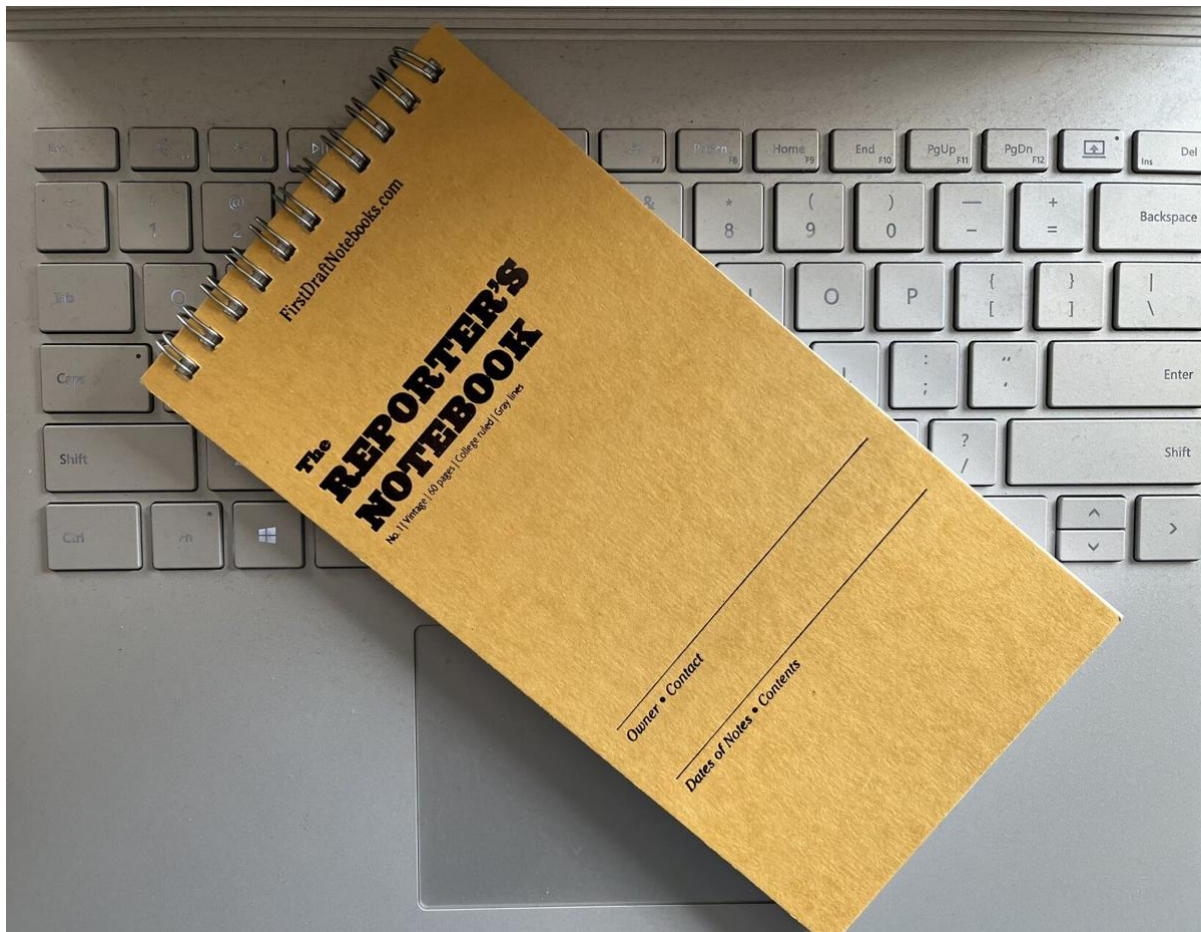
**Bob Greene**

**Karren Mills**

## Stories of interest

***Lohmann: Richmond company that produced reporter notebooks used all over the country closes,***

## *a journalist picks up the trade with First Draft Notebooks*



**By Bill Lohmann**

Back in school, when I thought I might want to do this sort of work for a living, naturally I started paying attention to the people who already did: how they went about their job, how they interviewed people, how they hunched over their typewriters at the end of a game punching up their stories.

I was a sportswriter in my dreams and in my first few years, which were a long time ago, the mention of “typewriters” proving my point.

I also noticed something else back then: many of the reporters carried little mustard-colored, pint-sized notebooks that fit in their pockets. I thought they were the coolest things; I guess I had a very low bar for “cool.” The spirals were on the top, not the side like the notebooks I was familiar with, and you just flipped over the pages as you wrote. So functional. So handy. They also said “Reporter’s Note Book” right there on the front cover, which sort of announced who you were and what you did.

They were perfect.

Might sound silly – I mean, it’s a .... notebook, for goodness sake -- but when I started using them as a young reporter, I really felt like I had made it and that I belonged.



Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt...and by Chris Carola, who noted: "When I left AP in Albany, N.Y., in May 2019 I had drawers full of used notebooks. Packed them up in boxes and took them all with me. I tore out used pages in most of them and still use those thinner notebooks when I do freelance assignments. I kept the ones with notes from the stories I really liked doing. I still have a bunch with the AP name on them. I believe the AP had custom ones made when the company turned 150. Wonder if they ordered them from this same Richmond company?"

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## ***Opinion: Sarah Palin and the price of fame*** (Washington Post)

**By Kathleen Parker**  
**Columnist**

Sarah Palin is the 21st century's Monica Lewinsky.

Catchy lead, KP, but people don't understand analogies or metaphors anymore. They'll think you mean that Palin was once a presidential intern who had an affair with a president.

That's not what I mean, but one can't be too careful these days when so-called free speech has become increasingly more constricted. "Hate" speech is a crime; satire is nearly dead; and the room to express an opinion may be narrower if Palin prevails in her libel suit against the New York Times and its former editorial page editor.

But first, a proper reintroduction:

Palin, of course, is the once very-famous former superstar Republican governor of Alaska who became the vice-presidential running mate of John McCain in 2008. In the years since, Palin has receded somewhat from public view, but she's still a media magnet. Whether contemplating another run for office, mediating brawlers (her own family) or rapping on "The Masked Singer" dressed as a bear, she's catnip to reporters and photographers.

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

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## ***The Post announces newsroom expansion, adding more than 70 positions in 2022***

**By WashPostPR**

Memo from Executive Editor Sally Buzbee:

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to tell you that 2022 will bring significant new investment in our journalism with more than 70 positions being added to the newsroom, plus additional resources in areas such as marketing that will extend the impact of our reporting and support The Post's growth.

Over the last six months, we have worked to expand and strengthen our news leadership team. We also announced the addition of 41 new editing positions across coverage areas. Both steps aimed at strengthening our newsroom infrastructure as a foundation to support the additional growth we will launch this year.

The expansion we are laying out today reflects our strong commitment to our news mission of scrutinizing power and empowering people. It comes after months of in-depth research surveying our audiences, including younger news consumers, about what they need and want from us. We believe this expansion will attract an even larger global audience for our journalism and deepen our engagement with that audience.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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## ***Prosecutor isn't pressing charges against reporter who found flaw in state website*** (Missouri Independent)

By JASON HANCOCK

A St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter targeted by Missouri Gov. Mike Parson for uncovering a security flaw in a state-run website won't face criminal charges.

The decision comes after the governor spent months publicly labeling the reporter a "hacker" for discovering the flaw and notifying the state about it. Parson asked the state highway patrol to investigate and repeatedly said the reporter had committed a crime.

In a statement released on Twitter Friday evening, Post-Dispatch reporter Josh Renaud confirmed the Cole County prosecutor has declined to file charges.

"This decision is a relief. But it does not repair the harm done to me and my family," Renaud said in his statement.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

## **The Final Word (more journo Valentines)**



**YOU ARE THE WOODWARD  
TO MY BERNSTEIN**



10,000 WORDS

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

**Today in History - Feb. 14, 2022**



## By The Associated Press

**Today is Monday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2022. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.**

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

On Feb. 14, 2018, a gunman identified as a former student opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, killing 17 people in the nation's deadliest school shooting since the attack in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years earlier. (Nikolas Cruz pleaded guilty to murder in October 2021; a jury will decide whether he is to be executed.)

### **On this date:**

In 1876, inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray applied separately for patents related to the telephone. (The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled Bell the rightful inventor.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation.

In 1913, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa was born in Brazil, Indiana; college football coach Woody Hayes was born in Clifton, Ohio; sports broadcaster Mel Allen was born in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1924, the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. of New York was formally renamed International Business Machines Corp., or IBM.

In 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian forces reached the Rhine River in Germany.

In 1967, Aretha Franklin recorded her cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" at Atlantic Records in New York.

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient when the surgery was performed at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (she lived until November 1990).

In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

In 2013, double-amputee Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa; he was later convicted of murder and is serving a 13-year prison term.

In 2020, after being stranded at sea for two weeks because five ports refused to allow their cruise ship to dock, passengers cheered as they left the MS Westerdam in Cambodia; the Holland America Line had said no cases of the coronavirus had been confirmed among passengers and crew. (An 83-year-old American woman who was on the ship and flew from Cambodia to Malaysia was later found to be carrying the virus.)

Ten years ago: A fire broke out at a farm prison in Honduras, killing 361 inmates. "Linsanity" continued as Knicks sensation Jeremy Lin made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with less than a second to play and New York rallied to beat the Raptors 90-87, extending a winning streak to six games. Malachy the Pekingese won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club in New York.

Five years ago: A former store clerk, Pedro Hernandez, was convicted in New York of murder in one of the nation's most haunting missing-child cases, nearly 38 years after 6-year-old Etan Patz (AY'-tahn payts) disappeared while on the way to a school bus stop. Authorities lifted an evacuation order for nearly 200,000 Northern California residents living below the Oroville Dam after declaring that the risk of catastrophic collapse of a damaged spillway had been significantly reduced.

One year ago: Japan formally approved its first COVID-19 vaccine and said it would start nationwide inoculations within days, but months behind the U.S. and many other countries. Vast numbers of people across Myanmar flouted orders against demonstrations to march again in protest against the military takeover that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Andrew Prine is 86. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is 80. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 79. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 78. Former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is 75. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 74. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 74. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (doo-SAY') (Beausoleil) is 71. Actor Ken Wahl is 65. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 63. Actor Meg Tilly is 62. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly is 62. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 61. Actor Sakina Jaffrey is 60. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 59. Actor Zach Galligan is 58. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 58. Former tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 55. Actor Simon Pegg is 52. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 50. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 50. Former NFL quarterback Drew Bledsoe is 50. Actor Danai Gurira is 44.

Actor Matt Barr is 38. Actor Stephanie Leonidas is 38. Actor Jake Lacy is 36. Actor Tiffany Thornton is 36. Actor Brett Dier is 32. Actor Freddie Highmore is 30.

## 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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in 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.**

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