

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

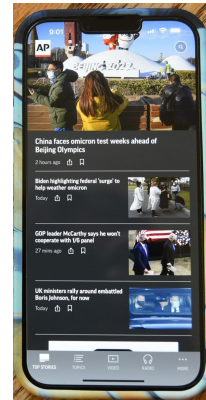
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

February 15, 2022

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP Photos](#)

[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Feb. 15, 2022,

Our colleague **Ike Flores** is featured in a newly released book written by former Tallahassee Correspondent **David Powell** – titled, *Ninety Miles and a Lifetime Away: Memories of Early Cuban Exiles*.

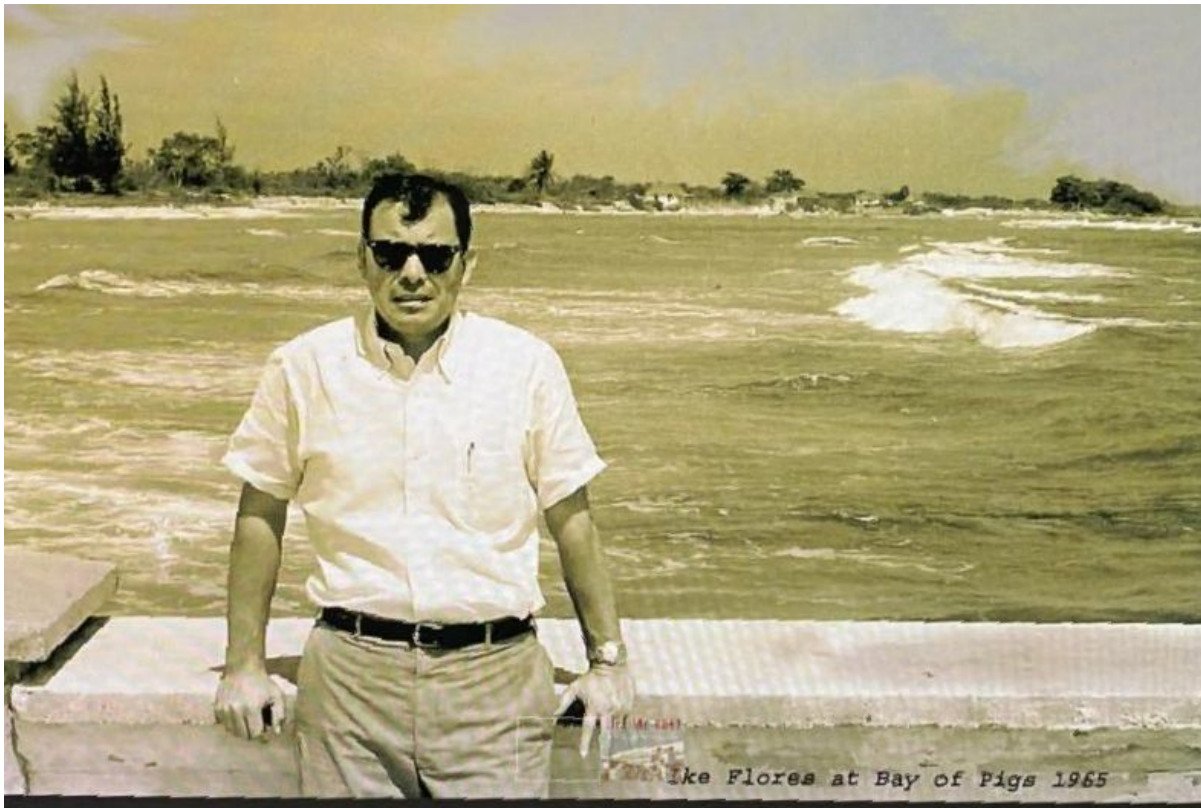
It was a challenging assignment for Flores as AP’s Havana correspondent – as Powell describes in our lead story in today’s edition.

The series on famous people who once worked for the AP gets a new twist – with our colleague **Margaret Callahan** writing about her mother, an AP copy kid in the 1940s who was a teen-age pal of a young **Tony Bennett**. She recalled how her mother and Bennett and other young people working for AP would get together after hours, and how he would break out in song – long before he attained stardom with his golden voice.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

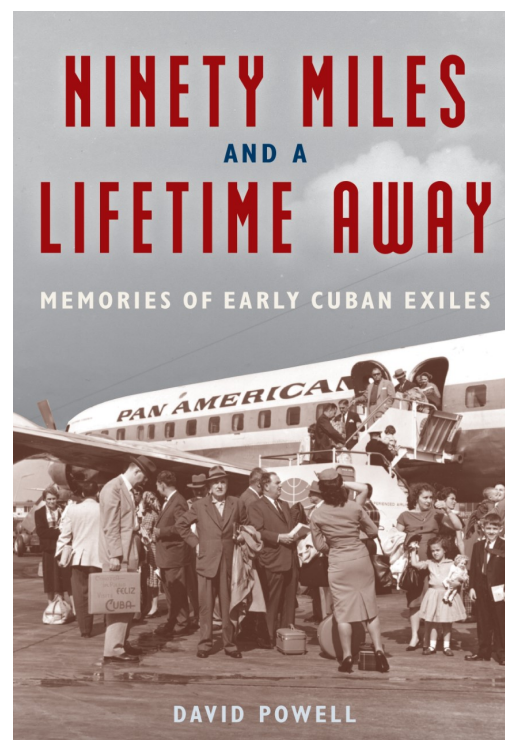
Paul

Ike Flores regales with stories about years as AP's resident correspondent in Havana



Former Tallahassee Correspondent David Powell has written an oral history book on Cuban exiles that will be released today. Entitled [Ninety Miles and a Lifetime Away: Memories of Early Cuban Exiles](#), the book includes 54 personal accounts of the early years of the Cuban diaspora by those who participated in or witnessed it. One was former AP Havana Correspondent Isaac M. "Ike" Flores of Winter Park, Florida.

David Powell (Email) - When I began exploring my book idea in 2015, Ike was one of the first persons I consulted. He was enthusiastic about my project to tell the story of the 600,000 Cuban exiles who came to the US in two massive waves between



1959 and 1973. He offered to help and in two extensive interviews did just that, regaling me with stories about his years as the AP's resident correspondent in Havana.

Ike joined the AP in Albuquerque while studying at the University of New Mexico on the GI Bill and eventually got desk assignments in New York. Fluent in English and Spanish, he won a posting as the AP's resident correspondent in Havana from 1965 to 1967. I met him in 1975 when we both worked in the Miami bureau.

"I talked myself into Cuba with the authorization of our general manager Wes Gallagher and our director of personnel Keith Fuller," Ike said. "I thought that Cuba, being an isolated place, would want its story told to the world, which Cuba was so anxious to please in 1965. I pointed out that the AP had a worldwide reputation for reporting objectively on both sides of the story. I became the first resident American correspondent in Cuba since the Bay of Pigs."

Always on a 90-day visa that the regime periodically renewed, Ike left his wife and two sons in the US and returned home frequently to see them.

"It was a helluva story," Ike said. "My dateline competed with Saigon, with Moscow, with places in Europe. We were on front pages; we were everywhere in newspapers."

One challenge was writing pieces with unflattering information about the regime. Because the regime controlled all communication with the outside world, officials saw his dispatches before they were transmitted.

"Fortunately," Ike said, "I had two very good diplomatic friends whom I won't name who saw my difficulties and offered to help. They agreed to take my writings in sealed envelopes and put them on a weekly shuttle flight that the diplomats had between Havana and Nassau. Those on the receiving end in Nassau would take my sealed, addressed envelopes and post them to the AP in New York. Much of my reporting went out of Cuba in that way because of my two good friends."

Then there was Castro.

"Fidel didn't like interviews," Ike said. "He didn't like people to speak to him face-to-face, particularly not journalists. And American journalists were anathema because he considered Americans to be CIA agents. There wasn't anything to prove that I wasn't a CIA agent, so he never granted *me* an interview. But I would talk to him, along with the local press, when I found out where he would be during the day. That was a big part of my job."

Ike has vivid memories of one late-night meeting between Castro and Swiss ambassador Emil Anton Stadelhofer in a Havana pizzeria in 1965. Ike got a tip about it and waited outside. After the ambassador left, Ike was escorted to meet Fidel.

"He was still a fairly young man," Ike said. "I had seen him at various places, but to meet him for the first time, he was an impressive figure, with that beard and cap, the fatigues and boots. He was personable, but charismatic? I wouldn't go that far. He liked people. He talked to people whenever he could, so I guess to Cubans he was charismatic."

As described in my book, that meeting between Castro and the Swiss ambassador ultimately led to President Lyndon B. Johnson's creation of the "Freedom Flights," US-chartered airliners that flew between Miami and Cuba, twice a day, five days a week, with few interruptions, from 1965 to 1973. They brought 261,000 Cuban refugees to the US.

Ike covered the Freedom Flights until his Havana assignment ended in 1967. He later got postings to Lisbon and Saõ Paulo before moving to Miami. Ike served as Orlando correspondent until his retirement.

The University of Miami has acquired the interview recordings and transcripts from my interviews for the book. Ike's final transcripts, along with the others, will be posted online by the university's Cuban Heritage Collection.

Remembering Tony Keefe:

Creating miracles for Moscow bureau

Tom Kent ([Email](#)) - If I may offer a brief remembrance of Tony Keefe: Tony was a hero in the Moscow bureau when I was COB in 1979-81. We had just received two brand-new Delta Data computer terminals to write stories ... a spectacular upgrade from having to punch paper tape on an old teletype machine. (The tape went into a mechanical transmitter connected to our slow-speed circuit to London.) The DDs were also designed to generate tape for the transmitter, but typing our stories on a screen was obviously a lot better than working on a teletype keyboard.

The problem was that the DDs didn't work. When we pressed the "send" button, no signal came out, and no tape was generated. What to do? We went back and forth by telex with various people in the London "traffic" department. No solution. It looked like we'd have to send the machines back to London and get new ones sent -- a weeks-long ordeal given the suspicions of Soviet customs authorities about any kind of Western technology going in or out of the country.

Enter Tony, who was able to replicate our problem on a DD in London. No shipping was required; it was just a question of typing in some mysterious codes to get into a setting menu, and changing a line or two there. We were in business. All in a day's work for Tony, but for our little AP crew in distant Moscow, it was a miracle.

-0-

A guy you instantly knew would be a friend

Dave Lubeski ([Email](#)) - Tony Keefe was just one of those guys you met and instantly knew he was going to be a friend. I first met him in 1980 at the Moscow Olympics. The AP crew stayed at a hotel just off Red Square. One night a group gathered in the room

of one of the writers. We took turns telling our favorite jokes. I laughed the hardest at Tony's.

On an Olympic planning trip to France ten years later we went to a restaurant and Tony did the ordering in French. Two years later we were covering the Albertville Winter Olympics and Tony's fluent French came in handy on a trip to the hospital when a member of my staff had a heart attack.

It was just in the past year that I reconnected with Tony on Facebook. I enjoyed the almost daily photos of his "gastronomic delights" and he always had a comment on my posts about my son's baseball games. Tony once commented that he was just going to have to learn the game of baseball.

As I wrote at the beginning of this piece, Tony was a friend. He was a caring, funny, delightful man.

Her mother shared stories of being an AP 'copy kid' along with Tony Bennett



My mother had a fun sense of humor, and on the back of this photo of her is where it was noted "Rapid Messenger Service" along with "I'm after Lee who took AP's motorcycle".

Margaret Callahan (Email) – *AP confidential secretary in Washington, 1976-83* -

The Hell for Certain article in last Friday's Connecting caught my eye, especially with the mention of singer Tony Bennett having been "an AP guy". Yes, Mr. Bennett was an AP copy boy back in the 40's and so was my mother Anne Callahan – well, she was an AP copy kid. (And Callahan is her married name.)

My mother shared stories with my sister and I plus her friends of her having worked with Mr. Bennett at AP when they were both in their teens. My mother shared that the group of copy kids would get together after work and Mr. Bennett would start singing along if music was playing. She said they all thought he couldn't sing but they were pranking their friend and coworker. Many, many years later, one of my mother's friends from Time magazine went to one of Mr. Bennett's concerts here in the DC area and she interviewed him after the concert. She also brought up my mother's name and the time of working at AP as a teen and he remembered the time fondly, along with my mother.

I think my mother could have worked in the NY AP office from possibly 1940 to mid-1947. Unfortunately, neither my mother or myself got this information down on paper. (My mother died in 1991 at the age of 66.)

And more of your stories of celebrities who worked for AP

Lindel Hutson (Email) - I don't know if the late Shelby Foote qualifies as a celebrity or how much time he spent with AP.

To refresh memories, Foote was the historian whose honeysuckle voice helped drive the 1990s PBS series 'Civil War,' one of the Ken Burns epics.

Foote, born in Mississippi in 1916, was a historian who specialized in the Old South and the Civil War.

He authored a three-volume history: 'The Civil War: A Narrative.' His expertise was heavily sprinkled throughout the PBS series. Foote has been criticized recently for his southern sympathies.

According to Wikipedia, Foote was booted out of the Mississippi National Guard in the 1940s for violating rules, then was hired by AP in New York. I once heard him say in an interview he worked for AP in New York so he must have been proud of it. However, I've never seen a time frame of whether he worked for AP one month or one year or longer. Foote died in 2005.

Foote and I were fraternity brothers in Alpha Tau Omega, although in different times and different schools and different sympathies.

-0-



Neal Ulevich (Email) - Interesting piece (in Monday's Connecting) on the great Alfred Eisenstaedt, though he appears to have aged some by the time I made this picture in 1977 during a brief visit to New York. (Eisenstaedt is at right.) He visited AP to see his old friend Eddie Adams.

-0-

Dan Sewell (Email) - John Brewer's recollections of future Star Wars hero Mark Hamill's AP career swept across the Twitterverse at warp speed. I posted a summary from Monday's Connecting, and within eight hours, there were more than 100 Retweets and nearly 55,000 impressions. (My post: *Former LA AP bureau chief John Brewer recalls a struggling actor moonlighting as night news assistant - filing, changing ribbons, loading paper - in the '70s. He informed Brewer in '75 he had been cast in "a sci-fi movie."* And so ended @HamillHimself's AP career!)

AP Oregon staffer Andrew Selsky noted that he and Hamill both attended Edgar Allen Poe school in Virginia and both worked for Brewer; Selsky went overseas, Hamill to outer space.

A popular comment suggested Disney + will do a series on Luke Skywalker opening an AP bureau in Tatooine.

... it was a nice distraction from the Bengals' Super Bowl loss!

More on the pronunciation, spelling of capital city of Ukraine

Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - Apparently, use of the AP Stylebook is not universal. Like Connecting colleague Dennis Conrad, I have been wondering about the pronunciations, mispronunciations and spellings of the capital city of Ukraine.

The mispronunciation on TV that blares out for Kyiv, Ukrainian for the capital, is monosyllabic "Keeve." I talk back to the TV: "Wait a minute, Kyiv has two syllables – Kee-iv."

My community has a substantial Slavic population, mostly Ukrainians, followed by Russians then Serbs with several businesses and at least four churches. I have been wondering about Kyiv-Kiev and asking them what's up. While they avoid politics, in conversations over time I have learned that Ukrainians want to retrieve their historical names from the Soviet-Russian era and insist on Kyiv (two syllables). They are sick, they say, of having had Russians impose their language on things Ukrainian.*

While, Ukrainian and Russian are related (a la Italian and Spanish), to an untrained foreign ear the languages can be difficult to distinguish.

When I wonder whether the proprietors/clerks at the stores where I buy black bread and smoked fish are Ukrainian or Russian, I listen carefully (or ask outright) on how they say "thank you." Ukrainians say "дякую" (дякую), Russians "spasibo" (спасибо).

*I experienced similar anti-Russian enmity in Mongolia. While the world calls the iconic nomad Mongolian dwelling "yurt," for some Mongolians the word is fingernails on blackboard. The word, they say, is Russian; the Mongolian word is "ger" (hard G, roll the R). During an assignment by the International Federation of Journalists soon after Soviet communism collapsed, Mongolian journalists also described a similar insult -- Russians had replaced Mongolian characters with the Cyrillic alphabet.

Connecting series:

Reporting from unusual datelines

Henry Bradsher (Email) - Waterproof, LA, a tiny village mentioned by Chris Sullivan for its curious name, is protected from the nearby Mississippi River by a levee. It has minor claim to fame as where Claire Lee Chennault grew up – before attending LSU and leading the Flying Tigers in China.

But it's probably remembered by journalists for the headline in a regional paper: "Waterproof Man Drowns". In the same category as the World War II headline about some U.S. general: "General xx Flies Back to Front." And Connecting readers doubtlessly remember lots of other amusing things that copydesks failed to catch.

-0-

Tom Cohen (Email) - In the strange dateline category, I believe an AP predecessor in Toronto, Jeff Ulbrich, wrote a story from Alberta with the dateline Head-Smashed-In-

Buffalo Jump. It is a World Heritage Site at the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, and Jeff found a reason to write about it and claim, in my opinion, the honor of strangest AP dateline.

My own dateline story involves the only time the dateline changed while I was reporting the story. It was in the former Zaire when kleptocratic dictator Mobutu Sese Seko fled the country in 1997. The next day, rebels under Laurent Kabila marched into Kinshasa, and soon after, the name of the country, and therefore the dateline for the story, changed to Congo. It was strange having to remember to use the new dateline those first few days.

Another predecessor of mine in Canada, David Crary, also had a dateline change when he covered the birth of the Canadian territory of Nunavut in 1999. Dave filed the first AP story bearing the dateline of the new territory that encompassed the traditional Inuit homeland.

Note: I have coded Dave and Jeff on his message in case they want to add more details or correct the record if I've gotten something wrong.

And this from **Jeff Ulbrich (Email)** - Yes, I plead guilty to having written a story from Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump back in the early 90s. Canada offers a plenitude of great datelines. Another of my favorites was Witless Bay, Newfoundland. I wrote a piece about cod fishing using that dateline, but my real inspiration for going there was because it is the setting for a wonderful novel, *The Bird Artist* by Howard Norman.

-0-

Mike Feinsilber (Email) - One slow Saturday, when I was the Newark, N.J. bureau manager of, alas, another wire service, I arranged for coverage of the wedding of two minor league members of royal families. It took place in a little New Jersey borough with a population under 4,000 and a name that was a contraction of one given it by a tribe of Delaware Native Americans.

Ordinarily this event would go uncovered, but the dateline was irresistible. I've forgotten the identities of the bride and groom and every detail — this was 40 or 50 or more years ago — except for the dateline: Ho Ho Kus, N. J. (UPI).

-0-

Bill Kaczor (Email) - While spending most of my life covering the Florida Panhandle I must have driven by the tiny hamlet of Two Egg hundreds of times but never could come up with a way to get a Two Egg dateline. So, I have to hand it to Tallahassee Correspondent Brendan Farrington. He had a Two Egg dateline on a 2016 story about odd place names in the U.S., leading with Two Egg, Florida, of course. He also reported on Chicken, Alaska; Santa Claus, Indiana; Uncertain, Texas; Butts County, Georgia, and Wood, California. Two Egg, as Farrington explained, got its name from the local practice of trading eggs for merchandise at the town's long-gone general store.

As for me, I've had several shipboard datelines including four aircraft carriers that have hosted many reporters, but I think it's a safe bet I'm the only one who has had an Aboard the USS Robin or an Aboard the Joint Venture dateline. The former was a minesweeper that I visited for a story on remotely piloted vehicles being added to the Navy's mine warfare inventory. It was most memorable for the great steak dinner aboard one of the Navy's smallest ships. The Joint Venture was an experimental water-jet ship being tested by the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

My most unusual terrestrial datelines were Niceville and Bagdad, both in the Panhandle. Niceville once was called Boggy Bayou, which would have been a great dateline. The locals, though, didn't think it was very nice and decided to change the town's name to Portsmouth in the early 20th century. The U.S. Postal Service nixed that name because it was similar to the nearby town of Portland, so the local postmaster suggested Niceville and it was approved. I have a long list of Niceville datelines including one of my first AP bylines in 1980 about a memorial service held at the high school football stadium for eight service members, including five Air Commandos from nearby Hurlburt Field, who were killed during the abortive attempt to rescue American hostages from Iran. Other Niceville stories included features on local residents: a couple who invented a kid-proof computer keyboard, a World War II bomber pilot who was trying to find the family of his tail gunner killed when their plane was shot down (the story resulted in a connection) and a retired Green Beret and CIA contractor who helped capture "Carlos the Jackel" and spied on Osama bin Laden. Niceville also was the dateline for stories on the high school's vice principal being transferred due to his religious proselytizing and a resolution against gay ministers passed during a meeting there of an Episcopal diocese. My last Niceville dateline came as an AP stringer for a story on Florida State's victory over Purdue in the finals of the Emerald Coast Classic basketball tournament in 2019.

To my knowledge there's only one Niceville, but Bagdad, Florida, is one of three in the U.S., all without the "h." The others are in Arizona and Kentucky. It's presumed Bagdad got its name because, like Baghdad, Iraq, it is at the confluence of two rivers although one of Bagdad's is a creek. The first of my two Bagdad datelines was for a story on how local folks were supporting Operation Desert Storm in 1991 including a sign outside a church saying "Bagdad folks praying for Baghdad folks." The other was a feature on a local resident, then 82-year-old Howard Burris, a former beverage salesman who got bored during retirement, so he launched a company that produces Mary B's frozen biscuits and dumplings, one of the largest of its kind.

Meanwhile, I can only pine for the old days when the Florida Panhandle was a treasure trove of odd place names including Prosperity, Reform, Utopia, Fair Play, Bliss, Glory, Comfort and Harmony. They have long since vanished along with Salubrity, which was changed to Midway, and Teaspoon, which became Century. The latter, though, is somewhat unusual and I did have a Century dateline on a story about its centennial in 2000 that included a visit by its most famous son, now-Mets manager Buck Showalter.

-0-

Doug Tucker (Email) - Can't say I filed a story out of Tightwad, Mo. But the tiny hamlet certainly qualifies for the strangest-named place that I ever stumbled upon.

Apparently its penny-pinching ways had caused the town to fall upon hard times because a big sign said the Tightwad Bank had shut down. I wanted to file something on line. Have some fun at Tightwad's expense. But my wife would not allow it. Turns out a prominent Tightwader (Tightwadian? Tightwadite?) was a client of the wealth management firm where she worked. Was he a shrewd investor? Or an old miser who still had his first dollar? Just keep driving, she said.

Connecting mailbox

On AP Reporters Notebooks

Margy McCay ([Email](#)) - Noting the story about the Richmond company that made reporters notebooks, the AP's were produced by Tanner (later Tanner-Durso) Printing Co., which also produced AP stationery, business cards and other printed material, such as job applications, news-writing tests and personnel change forms (PCs). A big chunk of Tanner-Durso's AP business went away when desktop publishing allowed the AP to produce materials in-house.

-0-

'Grinded out' – a horrible choice

Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - Part of the weekly missive from Theresa Bottomly, editor of the Portland Oregonian.

Last, a sports reader sent me this: "This morning I wanted to scream and throw my iPad across the kitchen. ... In the story about the Arizona vs. UCLA basketball game last night, the writer used the term 'grinded out,' a truly horrible choice ... since the word 'grinded' does not exist."

He was referencing an article by The Associated Press, which has a stylebook for many sports terms. I didn't find a ruling on this usage so have to agree that it is non-standard.

Some sports idioms are best left to broadcast journalists, just for the sake of iPads everywhere.

-0-

Gene Herrick, and squirrels



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

Lot of that going around these days. This from my backyard in a snowstorm the other day.

My small backyard is a hangout for critters. Click [here](#).

Leonard Mosley parachuted into Normandy with a typewriter

By Marc Lancaster
World War II on Deadline

By the time Leonard Mosley jumped out of an RAF transport plane just after 1 a.m. on June 6, 1944 and floated into Normandy with a typewriter strapped to his chest, he had been working as a journalist nearly

half his life and had published six books — including an autobiography released before he had even turned 25.

This was not a man to shy away from the spotlight, and D-Day was the biggest stage yet for the Kemsley Newspapers war correspondent. Mosley's remarkable 2,000-word account of his drop into the action with the British 6th Airborne would run in newspapers worldwide and stand as a highlight in his 50-year writing career.

Born Feb. 11, 1913 in Manchester, England, Mosley began working at newspapers as a teenager and was well-traveled before the war, spending more than a year working in the United States in the early 1930s. By the summer of 1944 he was covering the war for the Kemsley chain, including the Daily Telegraph and the Daily Sketch. But his D-Day story ran everywhere under the terms of the pool agreement in place for the opening days of Operation Overlord.



Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Tim Harmon](#)

[Linda Kramer Jennings](#)

Stories of interest

Judge to dismiss Palin's libel suit against New York Times (AP)



Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as she leaves a courthouse in New York on Monday. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

By TOM HAYS

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge said Monday he'll dismiss a libel lawsuit that former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin filed against The New York Times, claiming the newspaper damaged her reputation with an editorial falsely linking her campaign rhetoric to a mass shooting.

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff made the announcement with a jury still deliberating at a New York City trial where the former Alaska governor and vice-presidential candidate testified last week.

The judge said Palin had failed to show that The Times had acted out of malice, something required in libel lawsuits involving public figures.

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff said he let jury deliberations continue in case his decision winds up being reversed on appeal. He said he would wait to formally enter the judgment when the trial ends.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Greenwich Woman Pleads Guilty to Sex Crimes for Secret Videos of Minors (New York Times)

The court record was sealed despite an A.P. reporter's objection. Hadley Palmer, 53, pleaded guilty to making the videos and photos at her home in the wealthy enclave of Belle Haven, Conn.

By Neil Vigdor

In a Greenwich enclave whose multimillion-dollar estates are favored by hedge fund moguls and come with their own private security force, the secret videos went undetected for nearly a year.

The recordings showed several minors in intimate situations without their knowledge, according to the authorities, who classified one of them as an “obscene performance.”

Now the source of growing chatter in town, the videos were the work of one of the neighborhood's own.

The woman who recorded them, Hadley Palmer, 53, pleaded guilty in January to several felony charges in the voyeurism case. Last week, the judge sealed the court records, over the objections of a reporter for The Associated Press, highlighting the tension between open access to court records and calls for victims' privacy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by George Walsh, who notes: “This NYT piece on court secrecy in Connecticut nods to the AP and links to colleague David Collins arguing against sealed case files. It's been many years since I stood to argue against a court or government body closing doors to the public. Happy to see we're still at it.”

The Final Word

Memory issues for older people could be the result of 'clutter' (NBC News)

By Sarah Sloat

There's a paradox in memory science: Empirical evidence and life experience both suggest older adults have more knowledge of the world. However, in laboratory settings, they generally perform worse on memory tests than younger adults. What can explain the disparity?

The answer might be “clutter,” according to a review of memory studies published Friday in the journal *Trends in Cognitive Science*.

Tarek Amer is a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia and Harvard Universities and the review's first author. While some scientists think that as adults grow older, they begin to form “impoverished memories” — memories that contain less information relative to the memories of younger people — Amer and his colleagues have a different view.

Instead, “older adults might actually be forming too many associations between information,” Amer said.

Compared to young adults, healthy older adults (defined in the paper as 60 to 85 years old) process and store too much information, most likely because of greater difficulty suppressing irrelevant information, the analysis found. This difficulty is described as “reduced cognitive control” and can explain the cluttered nature of older adults’ memory representations.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Feb. 15, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2022. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclede and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later.

In 1944, Allied bombers destroyed the monastery atop Monte Cassino (MAWN'-tay kah-SEE'-noh) in Italy.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1965, singer Nat King Cole, 45, died in Santa Monica, California.

In 1967, the rock band Chicago was founded by Walter Parazaider, Terry Kath, Danny Seraphine, Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn), James Pankow and Robert Lamm; the group originally called itself The Big Thing.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.)

In 2003, millions of protesters around the world demonstrated against the prospect of a U.S. attack on Iraq.

In 2005, defrocked priest Paul Shanley was sentenced in Boston to 12 to 15 years in prison on child rape charges.

In 2020, the U.S. government said Americans who were on board a cruise ship under quarantine in Japan because of the coronavirus would be flown back home on a chartered flight, but that they would face another two-week quarantine; about 380 Americans were aboard the Diamond Princess.

Ten years ago: Congressional negotiators sealed an agreement on legislation to renew a payroll tax cut for 160 million workers and jobless benefits for millions more. In defiant swipes at its foes, Iran said it was dramatically closer to mastering the production of nuclear fuel even as the U.S. weighed tougher pressure on the Tehran government.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump's nominee for labor secretary, Andrew Puzder, abruptly withdrew his nomination after Senate Republicans balked at supporting him, in part over taxes he had belatedly paid on a former housekeeper not authorized to work in the United States. In an ultimatum to America's allies, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told fellow NATO members to increase military spending by year's end or risk seeing the U.S. curtail its defense support.

One year ago: A sprawling blast of winter weather brought unusual snow and cold into Texas, knocking out power for more than 4 million people and sending temperatures into the single digits as far south as San Antonio; the icy blast across the Deep South would later be blamed for more than 100 deaths in Texas and dozens more across other Southern states. Salsa music idol Johnny Pacheco died at 85 in New York, where he'd been hospitalized with pneumonia. Michael McDowell stunned NASCAR by scoring his first career victory in the Daytona 500, charging through a

crash scene when Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano wrecked racing for the win; the race ended early on a Monday morning after a rain delay of nearly six hours.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Claire Bloom is 91. Author Susan Brownmiller is 87. Songwriter Brian Holland is 81. Rock musician Mick Avory (The Kinks) is 78. Jazz musician Henry Threadgill is 78. Actor-model Marisa Berenson is 75. Actor Jane Seymour is 71. Singer Melissa Manchester is 71. Actor Lynn Whitfield is 69. "Simpsons" creator Matt Groening (GREE'-ning) is 68. Model Janice Dickinson is 67. Actor Christopher McDonald is 67. Reggae singer Ali Campbell is 63. Actor Joseph R. Gannascoli is 63. Musician Mikey Craig (Culture Club) is 62. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green is 62. Actor-comedian Steven Michael Quezada is 59. Actor Michael Easton is 55. Latin singer Gloria Trevi is 54. Rock musician Stevie Benton (Drowning Pool) is 51. Actor Alex Borstein is 51. Actor Renee O'Connor is 51. Actor Sarah Wynter is 49. Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is 49. Actor-director Miranda July is 48. Rock singer Brandon Boyd (Incubus) is 46. Rock musician Ronnie Vannucci (The Killers) is 46. Rock singer/guitarist Adam Granduciel (The War on Drugs) is 43. Singer-songwriter-musician Conor Oberst (Bright Eyes) is 42. Actor Ashley Lyn Cafagna is 39. Blues-rock musician Gary Clark Jr. is 38. Actor Natalie Morales is 37. Actor Amber Riley is 36. Rapper Megan Thee Stallion is 27. Actor Zach Gordon is 24.

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.**

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com