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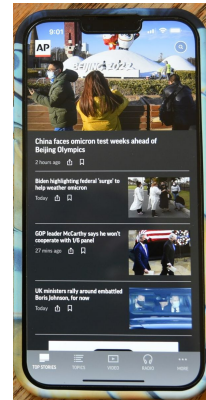
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Connecting

June 10, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this June 10, 2022,

Happy birthday, [Scott Charton](#)! Happy birthday, [Scott Charton](#)!



Ye Olde Connecting Editor isn't seeing double, really really... Scott explains:

I was born at St. Vincent Infirmary in Little Rock, Arkansas, at 11:59 p.m. on June 12, 1961. At least that's what my birth certificate says.

I noticed the time a few years ago, and I asked my late mom, Jimmie Dean "Honey" Charton, about its precision on the cusp of a new day.

Honey laughed and said she only learned later (she was a bit preoccupied birthing me at the time) that a superstitious old nun in attendance told a family friend who came by the hospital that I was born after midnight, but "I couldn't stand to let that precious baby have a birthday on Friday the 13th." So she artfully adjusted the official record of my arrival.



Hence, I now celebrate my birthday on June 12 AND June 13! More time for happy toasts and meals with family and friends.

And another favorite contribution of the week, following up on **Marty Steinberg's** post yesterday, this from colleague **Frank Aukofer**:

Back in the day, as they say, a joke circulated about Larry LaPrise and the Hokey Pokey. It went like this:

The song writer Larry LaPrise, who was the author of the famous Hokey Pokey song, has died. The family arranged for a service at the funeral home with an open casket. As Mr. LaPrise was laid out and mourners approached, there was a twitch and his right foot fell out of the casket. The funeral director rushed up immediately and put it back. A few moments later, the left foot fell out.

And, well, you know the rest . . .

Have a great weekend - be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A harrowing American moment, repackaged for prime time



An image of former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows is shown as committee members from left to right, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla., Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-

Miss., Vice Chair Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., and Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va., look on, as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds its first public hearing to reveal the findings of a year-long investigation, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, June 9, 2022. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

By TED ANTHONY

NEW YORK (AP) — Promised: New footage. New testimony. New and damning revelations designed to eliminate all doubt. Hired to package it all for the airwaves: A former network news president. The time slot: 8 p.m. on the East Coast, once a plum spot for the most significant television programming in the land.

Presented in prime time and carefully calibrated for a TV-viewing audience (itself increasingly an anachronism), the debut of the Jan. 6 hearings was, in essence, a summer rerun. Designed as a riveting legislative docudrama about an event that most of the country saw live 18 months ago, it tried mightily to break new narrative ground in a nation of short attention spans and endless distractions.

But did it? Can it? Even with gripping, violent video and the integrity of American democracy potentially at stake, can a shiny, weeks-long production that prosecutes with yesterday's news — news that has been watched, processed and argued over ad nauseam — punch through the static and make a difference today?

“The idea of a televised investigative proceeding maybe feels a little obsolete when so many people already had so much access to what happened,” said Rebecca Adelman, professor and chair of media and communication studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. “This is a population that by all evidence is fatigued by a lot of things. I’m not sure how much sustained attention anyone has left at this point.”

That’s why the hearings needed one key thing most legislative committees lack: a professional TV executive — someone who could arrange and curate violent amateur and surveillance video, 3D motion graphics, eyewitness testimony and depositions into a storyline built to echo.

Enter James Goldston, the former president of ABC News. The language Axios used in reporting his involvement was instructive. Goldston, it said, would approach Thursday night’s hearing “as if it were a blockbuster investigative special” with “the makings of a national event.”

Read more [here](#).

Does a typo count? This one did.

[Michael Putzel](#) - In my first year at the AP, one of my jobs in the Raleigh bureau was to file the 8:30am, five-minute “radio split,” a quick mashup of pieces from the overnight report. I was alone in the bureau, getting in early to choose the copy, cut and edit it to broadcast style for the rip-and-read guys at radio stations throughout the Carolinas. Once assembled, I typed the copy on the all-caps keyboard of the teleprinter, and a

reperforator (known as a "reperf") would punch a five-level code for each character into pale yellow paper tape, one character at a time.

I always tried to get a head start before the split because my typing wasn't fast enough to keep up with the transmitter, which sent the copy straight onto the radio wire at 66 characters per minute. When the teleprinters around the two states paused to make room for the split, Charlotte, the control bureau for the Carolinas, signaled RA GA (Raleigh, go ahead) on the wire. Without wasting more than a couple seconds, of precious wire time, I would flip a switch, and the tape reader would begin pumping out my copy. It was a desperate race to keep up with the tape, and I sweated bullets as the reserve of tape I had built up before the go-ahead rose off the floor by my left knee as it was drawn inexorably into the reader. I kept punching, desperate to keep up before the tape tripped a safety shutoff that would stop the transmitter, leaving teleprinters everywhere—well, in the Carolinas anyway—utterly silent.

As it happened, the lead story that morning was about segregationist Governor George Wallace of Alabama arriving in the state capital to petition the Board of Elections to put his name on the ballot for president as a third-party candidate against Republican Richard Nixon and Democrat Hubert Humphrey. Wallace carried the petitions in a sizable suitcase to the State Board of Elections.

Just after the split ended and I wiped the sweat from my brow, the Charlotte "control" bureau called to tell me to read the lead item from the printer: "GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE BROUGHT A SHITCASE FULL OF PETITIONS TO RALEIGH..." The news editor in Charlotte said that the lead item would have to be fixed in the next split, one hour later. I figured my six-month probation would have been terminated by then, and I would be looking for a job elsewhere. But when Carl Bell, the chief of bureau for North and South Carolina, was informed of the disastrous faux pas, he quieted his panicky staff.

To file a CORRECTION changing SHITCASE to SUITCASE one hour after it ran on the wire would only call attention to the typo and increase the AP's embarrassment, he reasoned. The newscasters who read it on the air the first time either fixed it on the fly or didn't. Reading it again would only make it more obvious in broadcast newsrooms in both states—and perhaps make it legend elsewhere, too. If anyone had already said the bad word on the air, that instant had passed and was not correctable. Any attempt at a fix would only encourage widespread guffawing. Better to let it go, Bell decided.

My job was saved. I never did hear whether anyone had ever actually uttered the word on the air—and you can bet I never brought it up—until now.

Connecting mailbox

A shame how Barry Sussman was slighted

[Doug Goodrich](#) - Found the extended article (in Wednesday's Connecting) on Barry Sussman absolutely fascinating. Of course, as a non-journalist, I had never heard of

him. Really a shame how Woodward & Bernstein and the movie producers slighted him in the end.

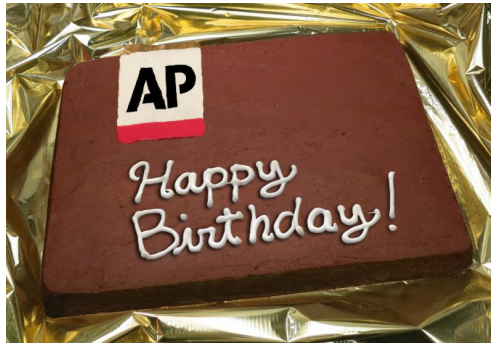
-0-

Morning from Ponce Inlet, Florida!



Taken and shared by [Jo Steck.](#)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Hans Madsen](#)

[Bill Wilson](#)

On Sunday to...

[Scott Charton](#)

[Jody Kurash](#)

[Mort Rosenblum](#)

[Ed Staats](#)

[Shawn Temple](#)

Stories of interest

How 'All the President's Men' went from buddy flick to masterpiece (Washington Post Magazine)

By Ann Hornaday

Bob Woodward peruses a well-thumbed manuscript, its blue paper cover threatening to tear away from the metal clasps precariously holding it together. Dated Sept. 25, 1974, the document is the second draft of William Goldman's Oscar-winning screenplay for "All the President's Men," an adaptation of Woodward and Carl

Bernstein's book about their Washington Post investigation of Watergate. The burglary story that Woodward and Bernstein began to report during the summer of 1972 would, over the next two years, uncover widespread malfeasance and criminality within the Republican Party, send high-level White House aides to prison, prompt congressional investigations and impeachment proceedings and lead to the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

Sitting at a table in the sunroom of his Georgetown home, Woodward glances through Goldman's 161-page script, recalling when "All the President's Men's" producer and star Robert Redford sent it to him for his input. With ballpoint pen in hand, Woodward had pored over the screenplay, scrawling "No!" or "Wrong" in the margins every few pages, usually where Goldman had inserted a made-up scenario or "His Girl Friday"-type banter for his and Bernstein's characters to deliver.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad, Scott Charton.

-0-

Felicia Sonmez fired by The Washington Post (Politico)

By Max Tani

The Washington Post has fired Felicia Sonmez for "insubordination" after the well-known reporter spent days publicly accusing fellow colleagues and leadership at the paper of fostering an environment unsupportive of female staffers.

The news was first reported by The Daily Beast and confirmed by a person with knowledge of the decision. The Washington Post did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Sonmez's firing tops a whirlwind week for one of the nation's most venerable media institutions, in which internal newsroom strife erupted into public view, affecting some of the most high-profile people on staff. It comes just days after the paper suspended a fellow reporter, Dave Weigel, for a month after he retweeted a crude joke about women.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

-0-

As El Salvador's president tries to silence free press, journalist brothers expose his ties to street gangs (Los Angeles Times)

BY KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — Carlos Martínez peered over his brother Óscar's shoulder as they proofread the investigation they were about to publish, a story they feared could change their lives forever — or perhaps even worse, change nothing at all.

Óscar tapped his foot frantically, rattling the floorboards. Carlos heaved deep sighs, as if steadying himself for a fight.

The brothers, two of El Salvador's most celebrated journalists, had produced a damning report exposing President Nayib Bukele's ties to the street gangs that have long terrorized Central America.

The report showed that a recent historic rise in homicides was the result of a broken pact between the government and El Salvador's largest gang. The brothers and their colleagues had previously reported the details of the secret deal, in which Bukele aides gave jailed leaders of the Mara Salvatrucha gang special treatment in exchange for their pledge to reduce violence on the streets.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

-0-

The Life of Legendary Sportscaster and UFCJC Alum Red Barber Chronicled in New Book (University of Florida College of Journalism and Mass Communications)

The life of sports broadcasting legend Walter Lanier "Red" Barber, B.S. Journalism 1934 and Hall of Fame 1970, is the subject of a new book, "Red Barber: The Life and Legacy of a Broadcasting Legend" by Judith Hiltner and James Walker. Barber got his start in the industry at commercial radio station WRUF-AM which is now part of the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications.

The book follows the trajectory of Barber's long career from radio and television play-by-play man for the Cincinnati Reds, Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees to his work calling college and professional football games. He had a nine-year tenure as director of sports for CBS Radio, was an Episcopal lay reader, sportswriter, and weekly guest with Bob Edwards on NPR's "Morning Edition."

According to the amazon.com book review, "From his colorful expressions like 'rhubarb' and 'sitting in the catbird seat' to his vivid use of similes—a close game was 'tighter than a new pair of shoes on a rainy day'—Barber's influence on his contemporaries and the many generations of broadcasters who followed him cannot be overstated. But behind all the base hits, balls, and strikes lies a compelling story that dramatizes the shifting expectations and roles of a public figure—the sports broadcaster—as he adapted to complex cultural changes throughout the course of twentieth-century American life."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Today in History - June 10, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 10, the 161st day of 2022. There are 204 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 10, 1967, six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.

On this date:

In 1692, the first execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1907, eleven men in five cars set out from the French embassy in Beijing on a race to Paris. (Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy was the first to arrive in the French capital two months later.)

In 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron, Ohio, by Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith and William Griffith Wilson.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act of 1963, aimed at eliminating wage disparities based on gender.

In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon lifted a two-decades-old trade embargo on China.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

In 1978, Affirmed, ridden by Steve Cauthen, won the 110th Belmont Stakes to claim horse racing's 11th Triple Crown.

In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Dugard of South Lake Tahoe, California, was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido; Jaycee was held by the couple for 18 years before she was found by authorities.

In 2009, James von Brunn, an 88-year-old white supremacist, opened fire in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., killing security guard Stephen T. Johns. (Von Brunn died at a North Carolina hospital in January 2010 while awaiting trial.) Donald Trump fired Miss California USA Carrie Prejean, who'd sparked controversy when she said gays shouldn't be allowed to marry.

In 2013, jury selection began in Sanford, Florida, in the trial of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, charged with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. (Zimmerman was acquitted.)

In 2016, Muhammad Ali was laid to rest in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, after an all-day send-off. "Mr. Hockey" Gordie Howe, who set scoring records that stood for decades, died in Sylvania, Ohio, at 88.

In 2020, protesters pulled down a century-old statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederacy. NASCAR announced that it was banning the Confederate flag at all of its races and venues; the flag had been a common sight at those events for more than 70 years.

Ten years ago: Parts of northern Colorado and southern New Mexico battled wildfires that were spreading rapidly through mountainous forest land, forcing hundreds of evacuations. Shanshan Feng won the LPGA Championship to become the first Chinese player to win an LPGA Tour title and a major event, closing with a 5-under 67 for a two-stroke victory at Locust Hill Country Club in Pittsford, New York. The bittersweet "Once" won eight Tony Awards, including best musical; "Clybourne Park" won best play.

Five years ago: British Prime Minister Theresa May struck a deal in principle with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party to prop up the Conservative government, which had been stripped of its majority in a disastrous election. Unseeded Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia stunned No. 3 Simona Halep 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the French Open final for the first title of her career.

One year ago: Republican lawmakers voted with majority Democrats in the Oregon House of Representatives to expel a Republican member, Mike Nearman, who had let violent, far-right protesters into the state Capitol in December 2020. The wife of Mexican drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman pleaded guilty in Washington to charges that she helped her husband run his multibillion-dollar criminal empire. (Emma Coronel Aispuro would be sentenced to three years in prison.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alexandra Stewart is 83. Singer Shirley Alston Reeves (The Shirelles) is 81. Actor Jurgen Prochnow is 81. Media commentator Jeff Greenfield is 79. Actor Frankie Faison is 73. Football Hall of Famer Dan Fouts is 71. Country singer-songwriter Thom Schuyler is 70. Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is 69. Actor Andrew Stevens is 67. Singer Barrington Henderson is 66. Rock musician Kim Deal is 61. Singer Maxi Priest is 61. Actor Gina Gershon is 60. Actor Jeanne Tripplehorn is 59. Rock musician Jimmy Chamberlin is 58. Actor Ben Daniels is 58. Actor Kate Flannery is 58. Model-actor Elizabeth Hurley is 57. Rock musician Joey Santiago is 57. Actor Doug McKeon is 56. Rock musician Emma Anderson is 55. Country musician Brian Hofeltdt (The Derailers) is 55. Rapper The D.O.C. is 54. Rock singer Mike Doughty is 52. R&B singer Faith Evans is 49. Actor Hugh Dancy is 47. R&B singer Lemisha Grinstead (702)

is 44. Actor DJ Qualls is 44. Actor Shane West is 44. Country singer Lee Brice is 43. Singer Hoku is 41. Actor Leelee Sobieski is 40. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tara Lipinski is 40. Americana musician Bridget Kearney (Lake Street Dive) is 37. Actor Titus Makin is 33. Actor Tristin Mays is 32. Sasha Obama is 21. Actor Eden McCoy is 19.

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

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