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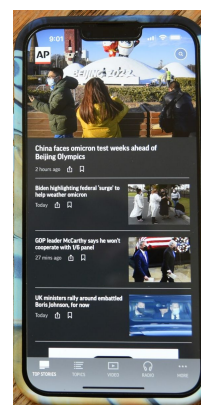
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Connecting

Nov. 9, 2022

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Connecting Books Edition 2022

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Nov. 9, 2022,

Here is Connecting’s annual books edition – featuring books written by your colleagues over the past year and submitted to Ye Olde Editor in the past month.

What, no election news???

The rationale of my timing is this:

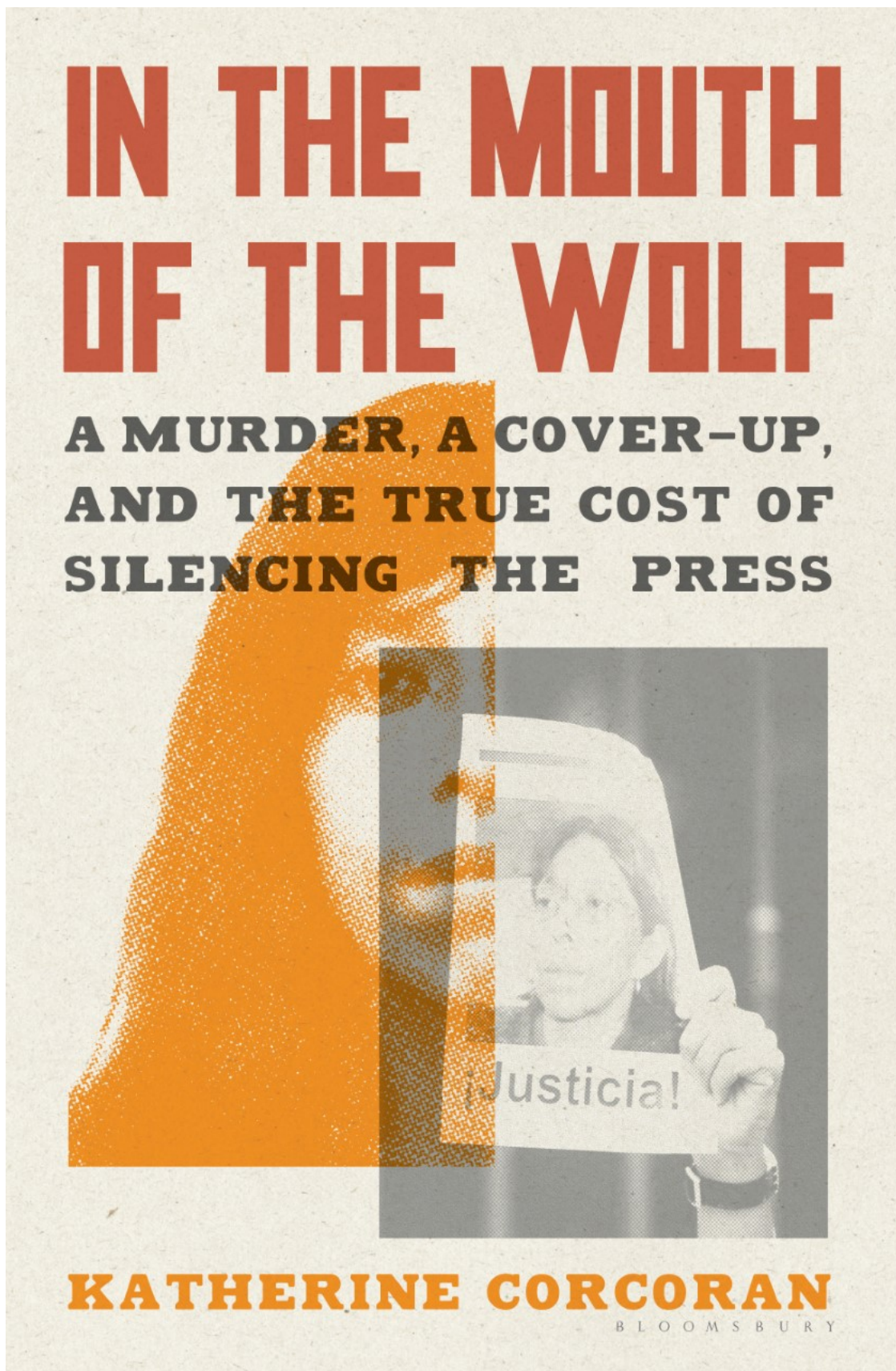
You are no doubt bleary-eyed from watching results from the midterm elections last night and maybe sick and tired already of anything politics. You need a break! So what better time to capture your attention than to bring you the fine work of your author colleagues.

But if you need your election fix, click on Top AP News and Top AP Photos in the masthead for the very latest.

Enjoy – and have a great day. Be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

In the Mouth of the Wolf: A Murder, a Coverup and the True Cost of Silencing the Press



Katherine Corcoran

Regina Martínez was no stranger to retaliation. A journalist out of Mexico's Gulf Coast state of Veracruz, Regina's

stories for the magazine *Proceso* laid out the corruption and abuse underlying Mexican politics. She was barred from press conferences, and copies of *Proceso* often disappeared before they made the newsstands. In 2012, shortly after *Proceso* published an article on corruption and two Veracruz politicians, and the magazine went missing once again, she was bludgeoned to death in her bathroom. The message was clear: No journalist in Mexico was safe.

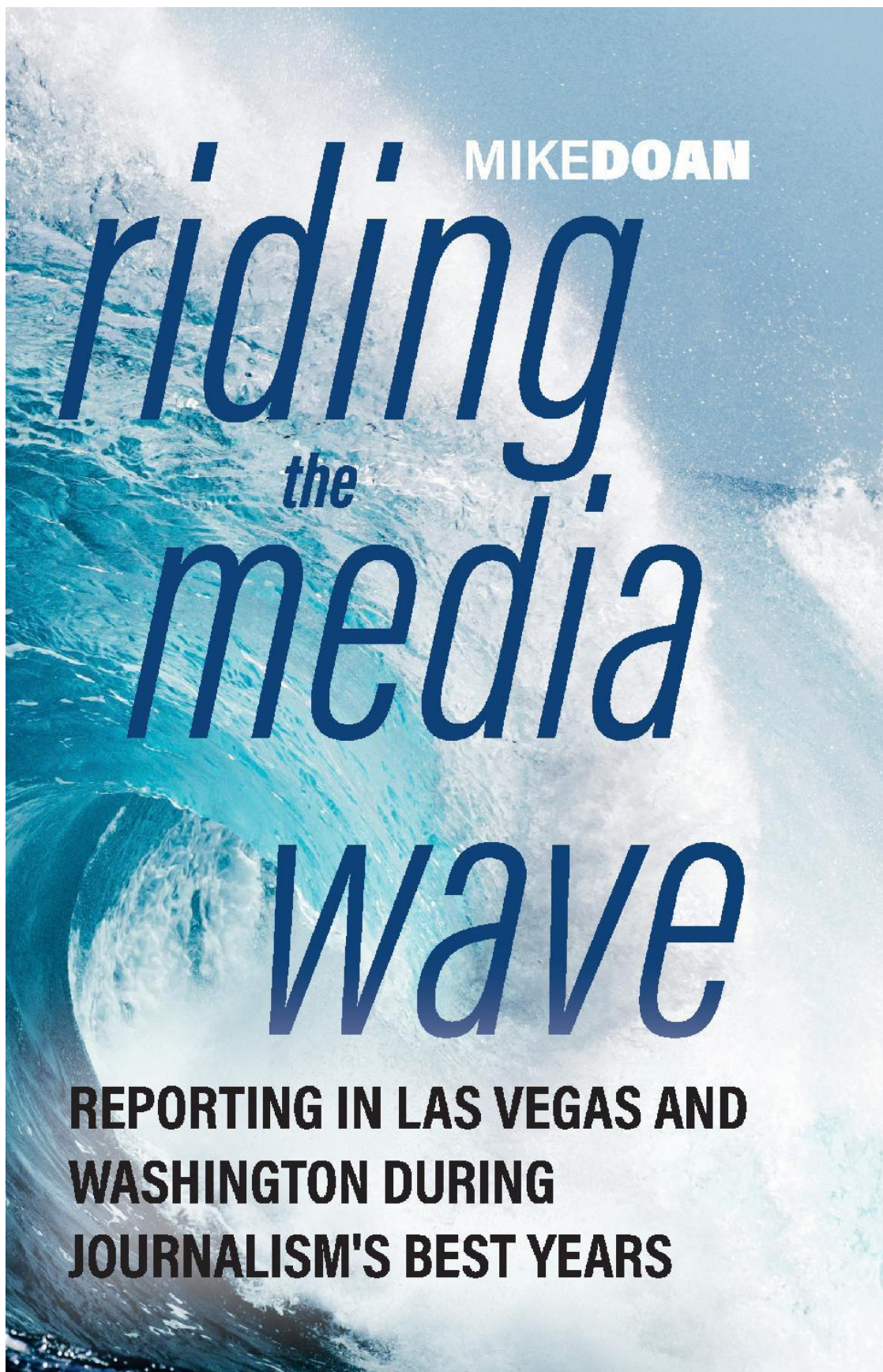
Katherine Corcoran, then leading the Associated Press coverage of Mexico, admired Regina Martínez's work.

Troubled by the news of her death, Corcoran journeyed to Veracruz to find out what had happened. Regina hadn't even written the controversial article. But did she have something else that someone didn't want published? Once there, Katherine bonded with four of Regina's grief-stricken mentees, each desperate to prove who was to blame for the death of their friend. Together they battled cover-ups, narco-officials, red tape, and threats to sift through the mess of lies-and discover what got Regina killed.

A gripping look at reporters who dare to step on the deadly "third rail," where the state and organized crime have become indistinguishable, *In the Mouth of the Wolf* confronts how silencing the free press threatens basic protections and rule of law across the globe.



Riding the Media Wave: Reporting in Las Vegas and Washington During Journalism's Best Years



Michael Doan

A prison riot. Celebrity interviews.
Watergate. These are some highlights

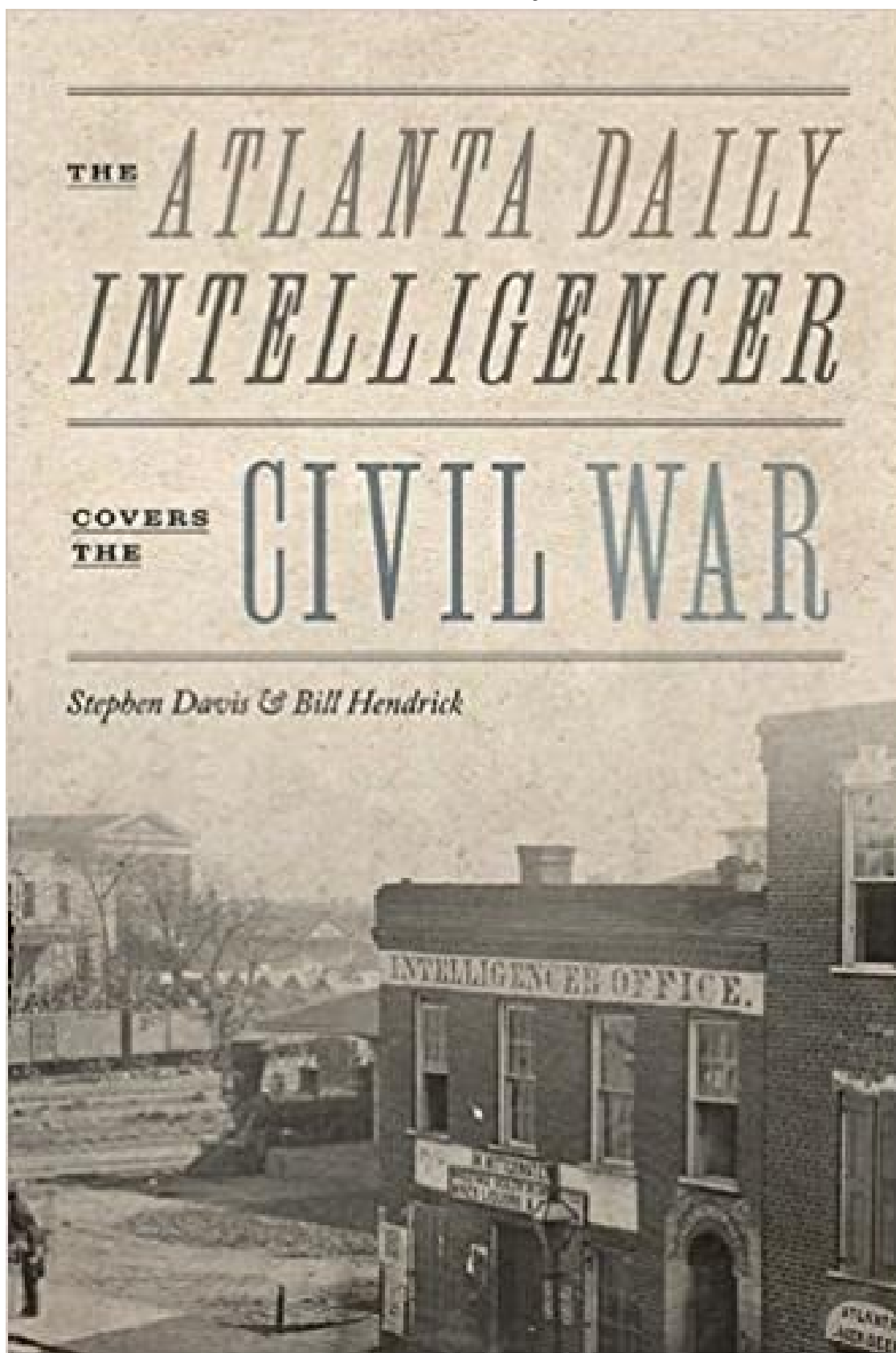
that a journalist describes about his 46-year career in Las Vegas, San Francisco, Washington and elsewhere. His adventures reflect the heyday of American journalism, when reporters and newspapers were plentiful before the industry collapsed with the advent of the Internet.

On top of that, he discusses how a retired person can make his way into show business in retirement, recounting his singing, acting and jazz piano performances.



Mike Doan also touches on his personal life in this whimsical account of journalism's great years. \$8.95 from [Book Baby](#).

The Atlanta Daily Intelligencer Covers the Civil War



Bill Hendrick and Stephen Davis

Twelve days after he was shot in the left arm on the second day of fighting in the Battle of

Gettysburg, Lieutenant William Hoyle Nesbit dictated a telegram to his father in far-away Georgia.

RICHMOND, July 14—To Mr. J.W. Neisbit, care of the *Intelligencer*:

Dear Father—I am at Jordan Springs Hospital, near Winchester. I lost my left arm at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Come to me. Answer by telegraph. W.H. NEISBET.

The person who handled the young soldier's plaintiff missive apparently didn't know the correct spelling of his name and only that he lived somewhere near Atlanta, so the telegram was sent in care of *The Atlanta the Daily Intelligencer*, the city's main newspaper. The paper's editor, John Steele, published the plea July 26 "hoping some one will convey to him the information it imparts."

Apparently, someone did. On August 3, Nesbit was granted a 60-day furlough and sent home, was discharged in November, became a beekeeper and farmer in an Atlanta suburb, had six children and lived to age 83.

Such poignant tales fill the pages of *The Atlanta Daily Intelligencer Covers the Civil War*, by former AP newsman Bill Hendrick and historian Stephen Davis. The 560-page book, published by the University of Tennessee Press, paints a picture of the times in Atlanta and the South and shows how Confederate and Northern newspapers propagandized the war, often reporting victories as defeats and vice versa. It is as much a narrative of the times as a military history and reports news about brothels, duels, crime and drunkenness as well as "marts" specializing in the sale of human beings.

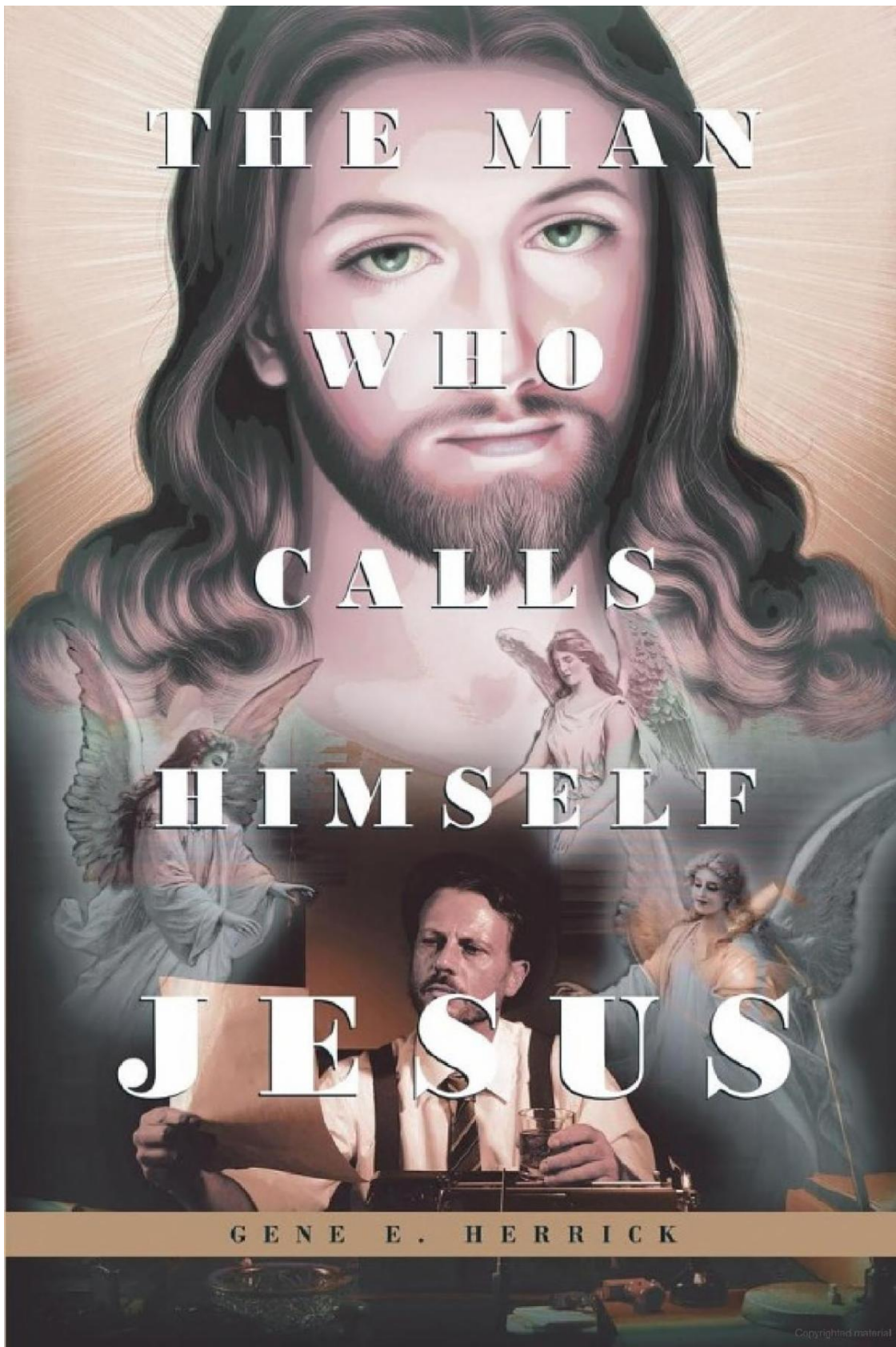
Confederate newspapers had the potential to be politically powerful, and their reporting — accurate or biased — shaped perceptions of the Civil War and its trajectory.

The book shows how *The Intelligencer* narrated the war's important events based on the news it received, at what points the paper got the facts right or wrong based on the authors' original research on the literature, and how the paper's editorial columns reflected on those events from an unabashedly pro-Confederate point of view.

The study adds to our understanding of the relationship between public opinion and misleading propaganda.



The Man Who Calls Himself Jesus



Gene Herrick

Journalism is the foundation and backbone of my life.

During the time of my journalistic career and the years since, I have played mental fantasies with the thought of what it would be like to be a journalist assigned to cover Jesus.

I so wanted to transcend myself to that time and cover Jesus as I would a thought-provoking person in today's world. I would want to interview Jesus and ask him the hard questions we journalists do.

That is what I did, and that is what the book is about. Jesus is the story I always wanted to write about. I became transformed back to those times Jesus was on earth.

Joshua, (me) was the reporter who caught up with Jesus and did the interviews.

I covered the crucifixion, burial, and ascension. Soon, I was brutally killed, and went to Heaven.



From there, I became good friends with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

I asked Jesus if he had problems with his parents, as children of today do. Did He ever get into trouble? Did He ever sass his parents? I would study the man, and determine, as journalists do, what kind of a person He was.

I want to ask the man in the street how he sees Jesus and how he feels about Him.

Jesus has been a curiosity and a wonder for the greater part of my life. And, also, people of the cloth and historians, His life, as reported in the Bible, is exciting.

There are those who think of Jesus as a profit, or teacher, or the son of God, or even a big phony.

It is the big question the peoples of the universe have always asked.

Building Back A Stronger Media: Inspiring Initiatives in Ensuring Media Viability



After the pandemic, BUILDING BACK A STRONGER MEDIA

INSPIRING INITIATIVES IN ENSURING MEDIA VIABILITY



The crisis facing independent news media presents an existential threat to our societies, with much discussion about how financial pressures are leading to closures and layoffs and what to do about it.

The crisis is a consequence of a broader, systemic, and long-term decline in the value of news and information. This decline is driven by a combination of factors, including the rise of digital media, the fragmentation of news sources, and the erosion of trust in traditional news organizations. The result is a media landscape that is increasingly polarized and less effective at providing the public with the information they need to make informed decisions.

Building back a stronger media requires a multi-pronged approach. First, we need to support independent news organizations through a variety of means, including grants, tax incentives, and public ownership. Second, we need to promote media literacy and digital skills training to help the public navigate the complex and often misleading information available online. Finally, we need to reform the regulatory and legal frameworks that govern media to ensure a level playing field for all news organizations.

These initiatives are essential for ensuring the viability of independent news media in the post-pandemic world. Without them, the public will be left with a media landscape that is less diverse, less accurate, and less effective at holding power to account. It is time to take action to build back a stronger media for the future.

Larry Kilman

The crisis facing independent news media presents an existential threat to our societies, with much discussion about how financial pressures are leading to closures and layoffs and what to do about it.

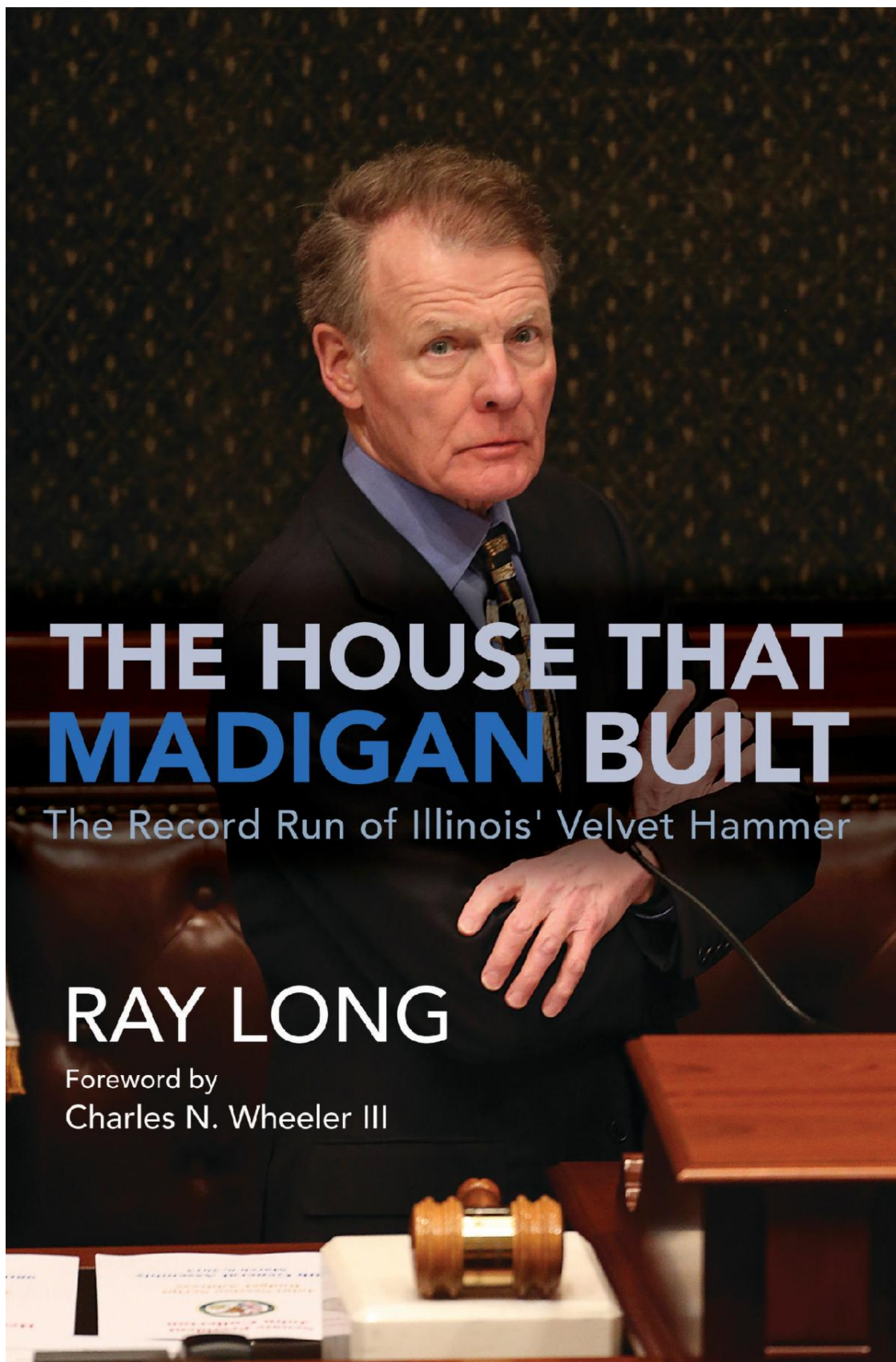
There is much to learn from the creativity and actions taken by media around the world, as well as individual journalists, publishers, educators and other media workers who are developing innovative strategies to help strengthen the viability of independent media.

This publication showcases some of these stories: success in cross-border collaboration for investigative journalism; revenue-earning fact-checking services that combat disinformation; new business models that leverage audience and advertiser needs; and much more. It is available from UNESCO

at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000380807_eng.



The House That Madigan Built: The Record Run of Illinois' Velvet Hammer



Ray Long

Michael Madigan rose from the Chicago machine to hold unprecedented power as Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives. In his thirty-six years wielding the gavel, Madigan outlasted

governors, passed or blocked legislation at will, and outmaneuvered virtually every attempt to limit his reach.

Ray Long, who ran the AP Springfield bureau in between stints with the Chicago Sun-Times and his current job as an investigative reporter for the Chicago Tribune, draws on four decades of observing state government to provide the definitive political analysis of Michael Madigan. Secretive, intimidating, shrewd, power-hungry-- Madigan mesmerized his admirers and often left his opponents too beaten down to oppose him. Long vividly recreates the battles that defined the Madigan era, from stunning GOP Gov. James Thompson with a lightning-strike tax increase a year after teaming up with him to save the White Sox, to steering the House toward Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich's impeachment. Long also shines a light on the machinery that kept the Speaker in power. Head of a patronage army, Madigan ruthlessly used his influence and fundraising prowess to reward loyalists and aid his daughter's electoral fortunes. At the same time, he reshaped bills to guarantee he and his Democratic troops shared in the partisan spoils of his legislative victories. Yet Madigan's position as the state's seemingly invulnerable power broker could not survive scandals among his close associates and the widespread belief that his time as Speaker had finally reached its end.

Long takes you through Madigan's ouster by his own caucus that ended his nationwide record run as the leader of any legislative chamber. While Madigan was indicted the same month the book came out in March, the bribery-related scandal is thoroughly outlined as prosecutors closed in and prepared to drop their own hammer.

Unsparring and authoritative, *The House That Madigan Built: The Record Run of Illinois' Velvet Hammer* is the page-turning account of one the most powerful politicians in Illinois history. [Here](#) is a link to purchase the book.



April and the Gardener



APRIL AND THE GARDENER



DOUGLAS GRANT MINE

Douglas Mine

A life of radical deed entwines with
two lives of observation and inquiry.

Blood doesn't wash away and old crimes provoke consequences far down the road.

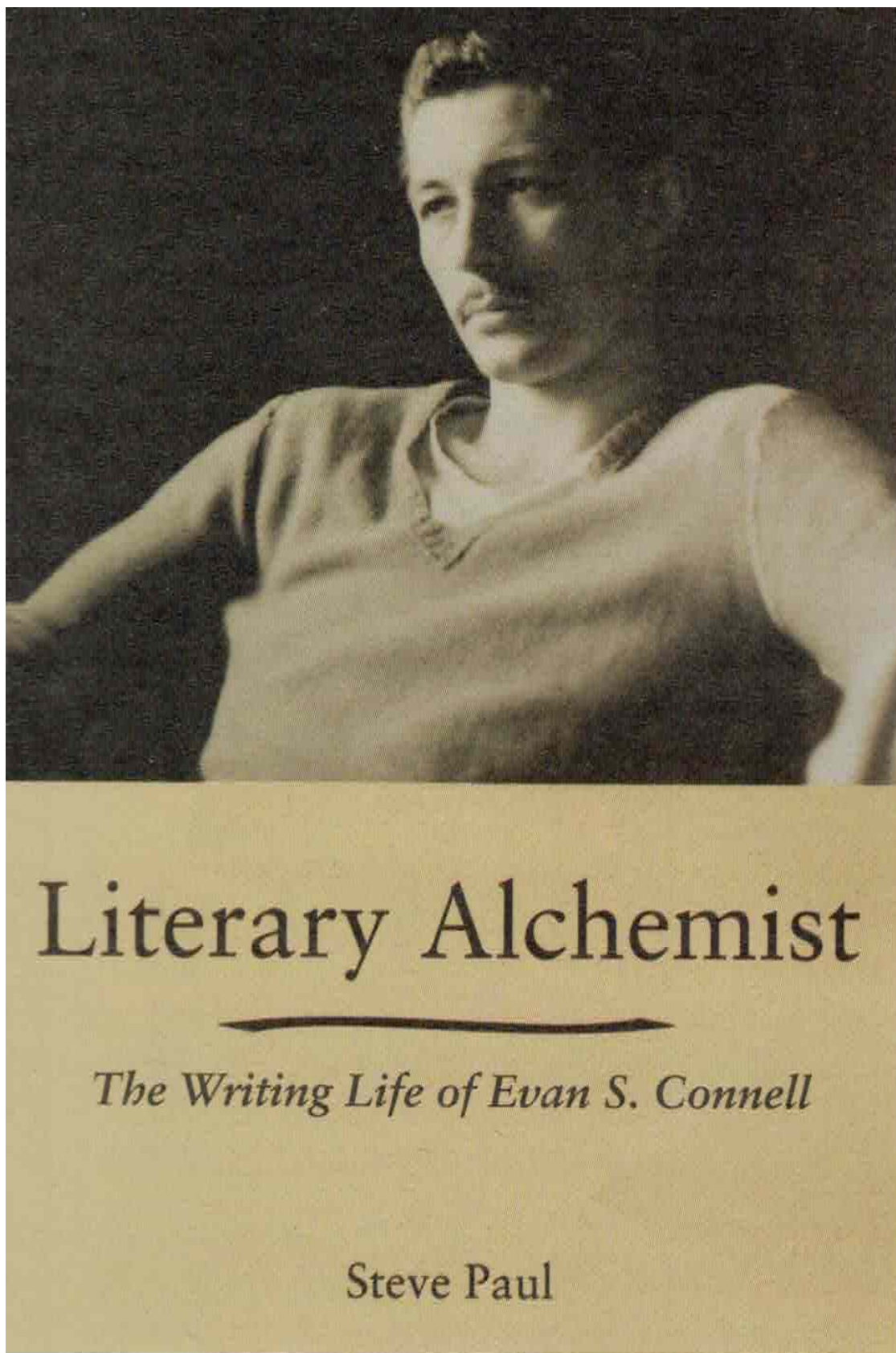
Juan Cano's mother took him from El Salvador to Los Angeles as an infant. He became an outstanding student and athlete, bound for Stanford upon graduation from high school. But that spring of 1985 brings his immigrant family previously unimaginable upheaval and sets Juan on a path leading back to his war-ravaged homeland. A decade of danger ebbs into a sojourn of comfortable calm in Antigua Guatemala. There, in the seemingly peaceful former colonial capital, Juan meets Berkeley professor and documentary filmmaker April Tashima and is reunited with an old comrade from the Salvadoran hills, American archeologist Joseph Guinness.



Juan ends his time in the Valley of Panchoy with an act stemming from his years as a revolutionary, and from a wantonly smashed musical instrument. The deed is planned in a way that allows April, who has abandoned her original Guatemala project in order to fashion a narrative about Juan, to film it.

The stories of individual women and men are the weft of history, and *APRIL AND THE GARDENER* portrays how the spinning earth braids separate destinies into cables from which are hung bridges between worlds.

Literary Alchemist: The Writing Life of Evan S. Connell



Steve Paul

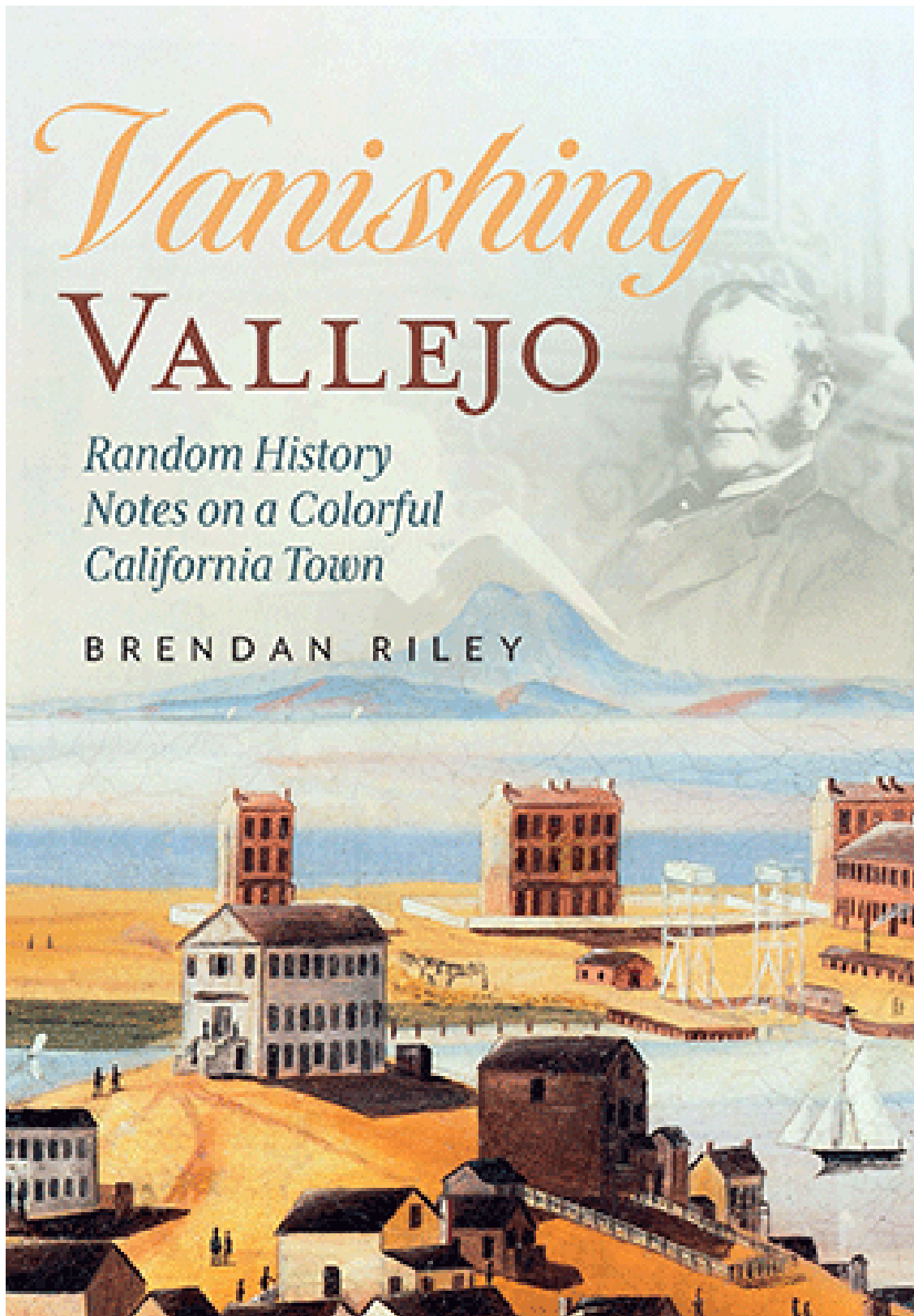
This first biography of an under-appreciated and intriguing American writer won the Society of Midland

Author's biography prize. Connell, a Kansas City native who later lived and wrote in San Francisco, Sausalito, and Santa Fe, was best known for the mid-century, minimalist novel *Mrs. Bridge* and the deeply researched and exquisitely written work of history, *Son of the Morning Star: Custer and the Little Bighorn*.

He published about 60 works of short fiction, dozens of essays, a historical novel about the Crusades, and two hybrid works of book-length poetry, history, philosophy, and political commentary. *Literary Alchemist* has earned high praise in publications including Harper's, the Washington Post, and the Missouri Historical Review. In September, it was reissued in paperback.



Vanishing Vallejo

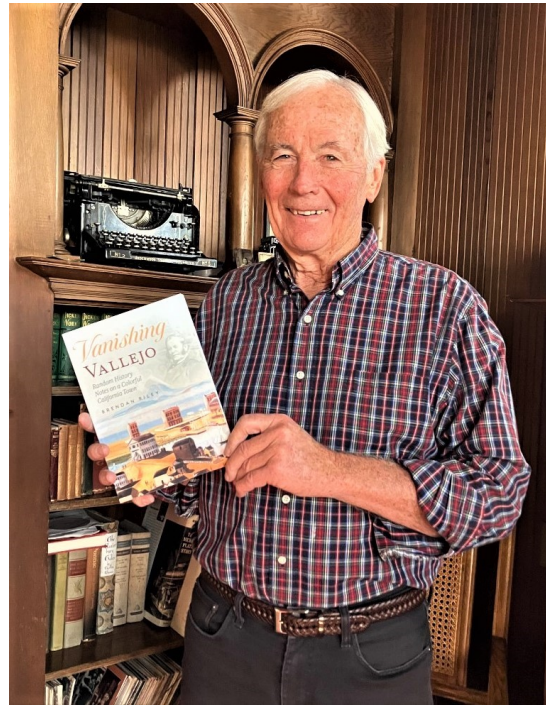


Brendan Riley

From the intro for Vanishing Vallejo: The columns in this book represent a selection of the Solano Chronicles articles, focused on the colorful and fascinating history of Vallejo, Mare Island and other areas of

Solano County, that I began writing in 2017. The column-writing began following the publishing of my book about Vallejo's infamous sailor district, Lower Georgia Street: California's Forgotten Barbary Coast.

In the course of writing the book, I amassed a small mountain of notes, files, photos and other materials that dealt with many other aspects of Solano County history. Writing a history column seemed like a good way to make use of all that material. There isn't any particular order or structure, subject matter or other format, other than a broad recounting of stories of people and events that circulated for years. Some of the stories are about matters of great significance while others fall under the heading of unusual and off-beat. Some columns might make you smile, others won't. It all comes under the heading of area history that ought to be remembered rather than forgotten. No need for a bookmark – just open this book randomly to find tales of tragedy, treachery and crime, along with stories of heroism, bravery and achievement. Throughout, I looked for more details and new research that would help to expand upon some of the old accounts written by earlier Vallejo-area columnists and historians. I hope that putting these columns into book form will help to preserve some of our very colorful history and perhaps encourage future story-tellers to do more research and unearth more details that will advance and improve what's written here.



How to Win at High School Tennis

How to Win at High School Tennis

From novice to state champs, tips from 500+ matches

Ned Seaton



Ned Seaton

I wrote this book for kids who want to succeed at high school tennis. I did so because I couldn't find anything that

directly addressed this particular subspecies of tennis, and when my nephew started to play and asked me some questions, I started writing and couldn't stop. I played high school tennis myself, and have had five kids play it pretty successfully, and so I thought I had something to contribute. Parents might also find it useful.

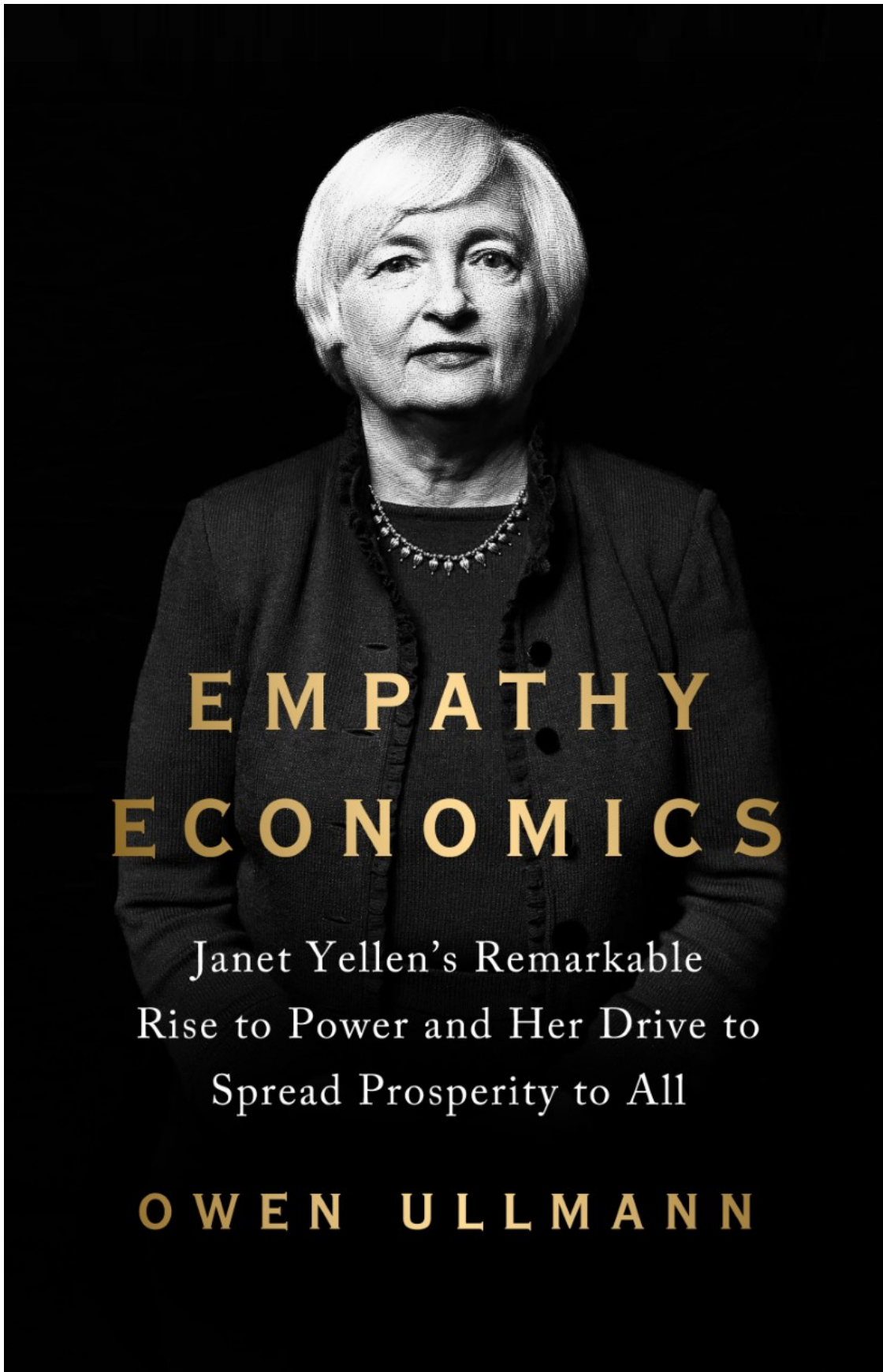
The truth is, there's a thin line between winning and losing in tennis, and often the difference comes down not to stroke mechanics but rather to mental and emotional preparation. Just to cite one example, you can't win if you try to play a match after eating an entire pepperoni pizza, or if your hands are so sweaty that the racket flies away on a serve. I try to address some of the most common pitfalls of that sort, and ways to avoid them: What if you think the coach hates you? What if you don't like your partner? How do you handle a pusher? What if you think your opponent is cheating? And so on.



I specifically believe that there's a serious shortage of instruction for juniors in how to win at doubles, and in most states you've got twice the odds of making the team if you can play doubles well. So the book gets into some tactical advice and practice tips for effective doubles.

I cop to being derivative in many ways of Brad Gilbert's "Winning Ugly" and to a certain extent "The Inner Game of Tennis" by Tim Gallwey. But even the lessons of those important books have to be applied specifically to the high school context, and that's what I tried to do.

Empathy Economics: Janet Yellen's Remarkable Rise to Power and Her Drive to Spread Prosperity to All



Owen Ullmann

When President Biden announced Janet Yellen as his choice for secretary of the

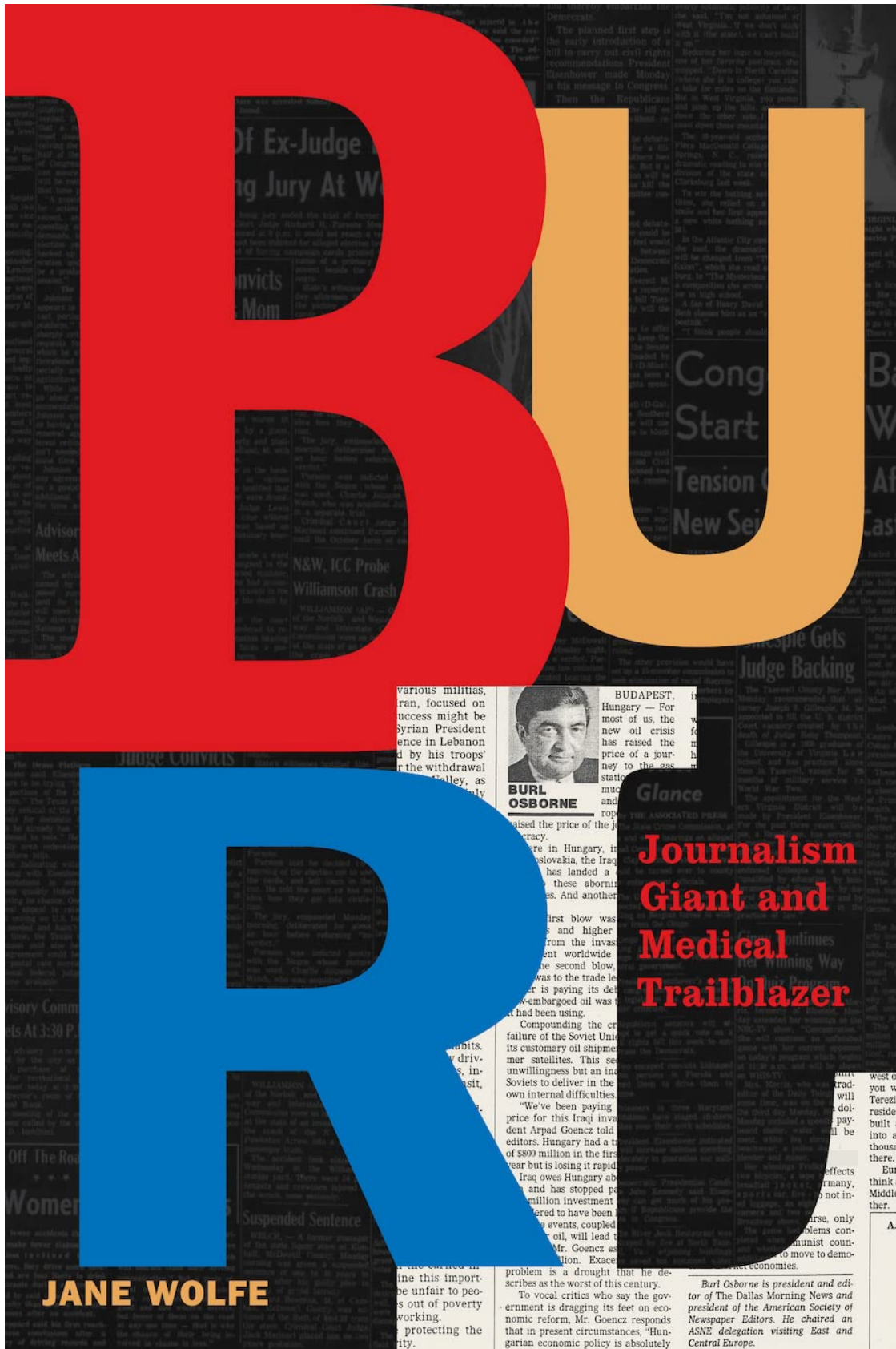
Treasury, it was the peak moment of a remarkable life. Not only is she the first woman in the more than two-century history of the office, Yellen is the first woman to head the Federal Reserve in its 109-year history, and the first person of either gender to hold all three top economic policy jobs in the United States: chair of both the Fed and the President's Council of Economic Advisors as well as Treasury secretary.

Through an intimate portrait of her, readers will glean two remarkable aspects of Yellen's approach to economics: first, her commitment to putting those on the bottom half of the economic ladder at the center of economic policy, and employing forward-looking ideas to use the power of government to create a more prosperous, productive life for everyone. And second, her ability to maintain humanity in a Washington policy world where fierce political combat casts others as either friend or enemy, never more so than in our current age of polarization. A burst of inflation in 2022 tested her values and skill in curbing it.



As Ullmann takes us through Yellen's life and work, we clearly see her brilliance and meticulous preparation. What stands out, though, is Yellen as an icon of progress—the “Ruth Bader Ginsburg of economics”—a superb-yet-different kind of player in a cold, male-dominated profession that all too often devises policies to benefit the already well-to-do. With humility and compassion as her trademarks, we see the influence of Yellen's father, a physician whose pay-what-you-can philosophy meant never turning anyone away. That compassion, rooted in her family life in Brooklyn, now extends across our entire country.

Burl: Journalism Giant and Medical Trailblazer



Jane Wolfe

“Burl: Journalism Giant and Medical Trailblazer” is the story of one man’s unlikely rise from the coal mines of Appalachia to the

pinnacle of journalism. After being diagnosed with a fatal kidney disease as a child, Burl Osborne pioneered home dialysis treatment at a time that Burl called, the “Model T” days of dialysis.” When the rudimentary dialysis became too difficult, he decided against the advice of four out of five doctors to undergo a kidney transplant. He became only the 130th person in the world to have a kidney transplant in 1966 when it was still an unproven, high-risk operation.



While managing his challenging illness, Burl distinguished himself at a young age as a writer and reporter with the Associated Press. He rose quickly through the ranks at the AP and became the second in command of the wire service in the late 1970s. Then, against the advice of his colleagues, and even the newspaper’s own doctors, he decided to “roll the dice” and sought an even greater challenge: joining *The Dallas Morning News* to lead the fight in one of America’s last great newspaper wars. His leadership in the “fight” is the stuff of legend today.

Throughout his life and career, Burl garnered respect from business and political leaders, reporters, editors and publishers from around the country. He was recognized by a host of leading journalism organizations for his ability to stay true to his principles of accuracy and fairness by all reporters and never straying from those principles even when doing so could have won him more readers and helped win the newspaper war.

The book “Burl” thrusts readers into the improbable and remarkable life of a man at the forefront of both medicine and a golden age of journalism. The author, Jane Wolfe, interviewed more than one-hundred business associates and competitors of Burl’s, as well as friends and family, and had access to his personal files, including letters, stories and medical records. This well-researched book is an easy read in part because it is written in the AP style: clear, concise and accurate.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Denne Freeman](#)

[Andale Gross](#)

Today in History – Nov. 9, 2022



Today is Wednesday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2022. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 9, 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West; joyous Germans danced atop the Berlin Wall.

On this date:

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1872, fire destroyed nearly 800 buildings in Boston.

In 1918, it was announced that Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II would abdicate; he then fled to the Netherlands.

In 1935, United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization (later renamed the Congress of Industrial Organizations).

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom or deliberate persecution that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours, leaving 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1970, former French President Charles de Gaulle died at age 79.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 2007, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) of Pakistan placed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) under house arrest for a day, and rounded up thousands of her supporters to block a mass rally against his emergency rule.

In 2011, after 46 seasons as Penn State's head football coach and a record 409 victories, Joe Paterno was fired along with the university president, Graham Spanier, over their handling of child sex abuse allegations against former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

In 2016, Democrat Hillary Clinton conceded the presidential election to Republican Donald Trump, telling supporters in New York that her defeat was "painful, and it will be for a long time." But Clinton told her faithful to accept Trump and the election results, urging them to give him "an open mind and a chance to lead."

In 2020, President Donald Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper, injecting more uncertainty to a rocky transition period as Joe Biden prepared to assume the presidency; Trump said Christopher Miller, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, would serve as acting secretary.

Ten years ago: Retired four-star Army Gen. David Petraeus abruptly resigned as CIA director after an affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, was revealed by an FBI investigation. Thousands of union bakers went on strike against Hostess Brands, Inc., to protest cuts to wages and benefits under a new contract offer. (Hostess responded by shutting down its operations and selling its assets to new owners who revived the Hostess brand.)

Five years ago: During a visit to Beijing, President Donald Trump criticized what he called a "very one-sided and unfair" trade relationship between the U.S. and China, but said he didn't blame China for having taken advantage of the U.S. Actor John Hillerman, best known for his supporting role on the TV series "Magnum, P.I.," died at the age of 84 at his home in Houston.

One year ago: A federal judge rejected former President Donald Trump's request to block the release of documents to the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. The Oklahoma Supreme Court overturned a \$465 million opioid ruling against drugmaker Johnson & Johnson. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service struck down a Trump-era rule that would have opened millions of acres of forest in Oregon, Washington and California to potential logging. Max Cleland, who lost three limbs to a hand grenade in Vietnam and later became a groundbreaking Veterans Administration chief and U.S. senator from, died at his Atlanta home at 79. Brian Williams, who anchored NBC's "Nightly News" before losing that job in 2015 for making false claims about his wartime experiences, announced that he was leaving the network after 28 years.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog is 91. Movie director Bille August is 74. Actor Robert David Hall is 74. Actor Lou Ferrigno is 71. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 70. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 63. Rock musician Dee Plakas (L7) is 62. Actor Ion Overman is 53. Rapper Pepa (Salt-N-Pepa) is 58. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 52. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS'-kee) is 52. Actor Jason

Antoon is 51. Actor Eric Dane is 50. Singer Nick Lachey (98 Degrees) is 49. Country musician Barry Knox (Parmalee) is 45. R&B singer Sisqo (Dru Hill) is 44. Country singer Corey Smith is 43. Country singer Chris Lane is 38. Actor Emily Tyra is 35. Actor Nikki Blonsky is 34. Actor-model Analeigh (AH'-nuh-lee) Tipton is 34.

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:

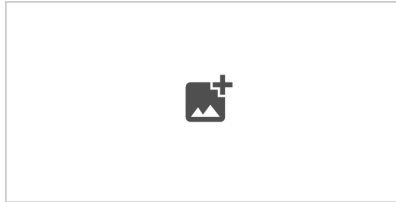
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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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