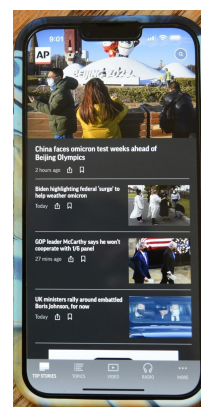


SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)[View as Webpage](#)

Connecting

May 4, 2023

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype[Top AP News](#)[Top AP Photos](#)[AP Merchandise](#)[Connecting Archive](#)[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

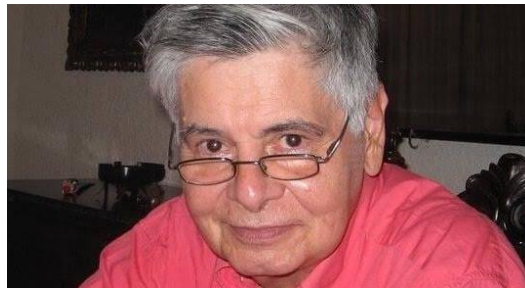
Good Thursday morning on this May 4, 2023,

Never get hired on April Fools' Day – at least that's one lesson you'll learn in reading the birthday profile of **Patricia Casillo** in today's Connecting.

At least not if your bosses have a sense of humor – as you'll read in her delightful Q-and-A that leads today's issue. Patricia first worked in Treasury Assessments, starting when headquarters was located at 50 Rockefeller Plaza, and recently entered her 27th year with the AP as a member of the Global Customer Operations – Revenue team.

For World Press Freedom Day, NBC News' Andrea Mitchell spoke Wednesday to Ukrainian Associated Press journalists who are determined to record the devastation from Russia's war, as reporters are being targeted around the world. Click [here](#) to view her report carried on NBC Nightly News. This year marked the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day. (Shared by Peggy Walsh, Scott Charton)

Services for **Jose Harold Olmos Mercado** – award-winning Bolivian journalist who led AP operations in Venezuela and Brazil - will be held **Saturday , May 6, at 18:30 (Bolivian time)**. The transmission will be live from the Sagrado Corazón de María Chapel (Calle Tucumán y Calle La Plata 7 y 8 Este Equipetrol). The link will be available from 18:15 (Bolivian time) for those who want to go ahead and join. To join Zoom Meeting, the link is :



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84186244675?pwd=dDdvaFV1RWhNZk8xTTFRIRZbGIGQT09>

Or if you have the APP:

Meeting ID : 841 8624 4675

Password : 797426

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live today to its fullest.

Paul

Connecting birthday profile:
Patricia Casillo

**What are you doing these days?**

Pre-, during and post-pandemic, Exercise, I turned one of my bedrooms into my gym/office.

How did you get your first job with the AP?

My past job was working for a banking institution. I remember I stepped one day into this bank and asked if they were hiring. I was interviewed on a Friday, and Monday, Dec. 8, 1980, I was hired. (The day of John Lennon's death). I worked mainly with my customers, as a teller first, promoted to sales representative and then manager of sales representatives. After 17 years with this institution, I was looking to further

advance and teach myself something different, something new. So, I decided to retire and as they once said, hit the pavement going on interviews.

In 1996 I went to an employee agency in midtown Manhattan to pursue the same background but more internally. The agency would find something in those lines for me to go on interviews. The first interview was with a London Brokerage Firm, I had banking experience so it was a good fit, however, he couldn't get through to that office when he called.

Then the second; Associated Press.

Who hired you?

Jenny Sanchez-McAnulty interviewed me for the administrative position (then called secretary). I would be hired by AP for 18 months, with the exception if Jenny came back, I would no longer work with John Liotta, but they would transfer me to another department. I was hired by John Liotta. After my interview with Jenny, I then sat with Mr. Liotta (so formal, right?), to go over my position and what this would entail. Since I had banking experience, it turned out to be a great asset for me with what I would be doing in my new position. I was hired and started; April 1, 1996 (YES - APRIL FOOLS' DAY).



Since you were hired on April Fools' Day, do you recall any pranks or jokes being played?

Fast forward 18 months later. GOD, it went by so quickly! The person I took over for, Jenny, went straight into John's office. John then called me too and both told me very seriously that the time was up. I, of course, was saddened to hear as I started to be very fond working with so many great people within and outside of my department. But I understood since I knew from the beginning this one day might happen. As they went on and on, I started really looking at John's face when I recalled those words 18 months prior, you're hired and begin on April 1st (April Fools' Day"). John tried so hard to keep this going, but when I started to see, (it's his giveaway), one of his eyebrows kept going up and then his smile, I knew, I was being pranked. I remember as if it was yesterday, I told John, "Sorry John, you're not very good at lying!"

The three of us at that point couldn't contain ourselves anymore, we were all laughing so hard. Then they shouted, "APRIL FOOLS' DAY", OH and, Welcome to AP! Another time, Anthony Beyrouy (he worked for the billing department), hid my lunch. I was so upset cause by the time I got it back, it was cold (hamburger with fries).



What were your first days like?

One my first day, boy-oh-boy, I did more than secretarial duties. I learned to process their steps setting up potential new customers with the service that was sold to the newspaper. It was so much more than a secretary! I actually internally said, God, what am I getting myself into here, but I gave it a try. It was a considerably lengthy process. Back in those days, yes, we used our computers but once the sale of the product was made, the sales representative, (aka chief of bureau) and customer agreed upon, there was a lot of back and forth with emails, proposal rates, trial services, lastly agreements, I used my typewriter to enter the assessment notice, implementing the product with the rate to charge the newspaper. Then I would send this form to the billing department and by sending, I mean I walked it over to that department. (We were very close by within departments.)

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each? And tell about your jobs post AP?

I loved working with John Liotta and Don Deibler and through the years I learned a lot. I stayed in this department where I am at present. Within this department, as I mentioned at the beginning in my interview, now called Administrative, I did so much more. I worked accounts receivables, ensuring accuracy and efficiencies in operations, processing and monitoring incoming payments and securing revenue by verifying and posting checks. I then later learned and did PHH vehicles, the setup of getting our IT drivers with their vans as well as setting up management with their cars. They had to submit their miles to process their taxes. Besides learning the process of newspapers, I also became involved with colleges, and our subscribers. I was then promoted to do assessments for LatAm, Latin America. Speaking Spanish, being born in Argentina and having parents from Argentina and Italy, I never lost my first language. Having this ability helped in enabling/navigating with the international side of assessments, also helping my colleagues in Spanish countries and a little Portuguese from Brazil.



From left: Don Deibler, Patricia Casillo, John Liotta.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

I can honestly say John Liotta and Don Deibler both played a significant role. John would show me and teach me the process of something new and Don Deibler, working side by side with him, any time I was stuck on something, he was my go-to, my mentor, as both so experienced, both had the patience of saints! I learned so much from them, and even though I am in the same department, the experience of learning so much "just within the same department" makes me very proud! Then in 2009 Don retired and in 2017 John followed, taking the role to the present, Kerry Huggard. Then sadly this year we lost Don Deibler.

Would you do it all over again - or what would you change?

I can honestly say the outcome is rewarding. Change. . . maybe with the exception of learning as much as I do in this department, I would've changed the trajectory of going on interviews/positions for other interests within AP. I can honestly say in my 27 years, working with everyone throughout my career, I learned I work with the most amazing and innovative and experienced coworkers.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I've gotten a lot into Home Improvement. But everything to do only in my home. I've put floors down, i.e., bathroom, bedroom, I refinish furniture and paint them, living room furniture. Currently, I'm working on the furniture in my bedroom.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made? Do you have a bucket list?

Going to Argentina and seeing my relatives. It's been quite a few years - much too much time has gone by but hoping this year I can realize this dream. My everlasting bucket list and will be a dream come true, going to Santorini, Greece.

Names of your family members and what they do?

My mother Rosa, worked in the fashion industry with wedding dresses. My father, Francisco, was a Jeweler by trade. He did beautiful work! My sister Beatriz worked in home aide. Sadly, they're no longer with me.

Patricia Casillo's email – PCasillo@ap.org

Miriam Silverman nominated for Tony

[Andy Lippman](#) – Miriam Silverman received a Tony nomination Tuesday for "Best Featured Actress in a Play" for her role in "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window."

Miriam is the daughter of former AP Managing Editor **[Mike Silverman](#)**.

After a sellout run at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, producers brought the revival of Lorraine Hansberry's 1964 play to Broadway. Silverman was described in the New York Times as being the "starchy sister" of veteran actress Rachel Brosnahan.

The awards ceremony will be held June 11.

Dictators I have covered



[Tom Fenton](#) - In reflecting on this week's Russian bombing of civilians in Ukraine, it occurred that dictators, like Putin, follow nearly identical game plans. Job 1 is get into power – whether by bloody coup or opposition acquiescence. Job 2 is to consolidate power by eliminating or controlling opposition. And, finally, they hang onto power as long as they can while enjoying the spoils with a few trusted friends.

In 15 years as a foreign correspondent with The Associated Press, I studied some dictators (like Cuba's Batista and Fidel Castro), attended press conferences with others (like Chile's Pinochet and Central American generals), visited one-on-one with a few (like Panama's Noriega), and got to know one on a more personal basis -- Nicaragua's Anastasio Somoza, who called wife Ellie a "Mexican rose.") 'After Somoza fled Nicaragua for exile in Paraguay, I caught up with him at his home in Asuncion. A couple of days after our visit he died when his Mercedes was clobbered by an RPG. But I digress.

Of the dictators that I am familiar with there was one that did not fit the usual mold. That would be the late Gen. Omar Torrijos of Panama. What follows is a collection of anecdotes from (fading) memory and colleagues; so, take it for what it is worth. But let's start with Torrijos' background, which is relevant. He was raised by school teachers but grew up with dirt poor farmers scratching a living out of small plots in Panama. He was educated and smart but more at home with campesinos than politicians or government bureaucrats.

Torrijos was humble, approachable and he had a terrific sense of humor, a quality lacking in most dictators.

Torrijos was never brutal with enemies and seemed to tolerate critics. It seems like the worst he ever did to control opponents was to find them education-related jobs in a distant province. He expanded social services, instituted agrarian reform, recognized labor unions and provided people of African descent larger roles in government. Africans were brought to Panama to build the canal but were still treated as second-class citizens 80 years later. Of course, not everyone liked Torrijos, especially wealthy Panamians who feared his populist approach.

Asked why he would visit communist Fidel Castro in Cuba with the canal treaties looming, Torrijos replied, "It's like driving a car, except you signal left and turn right."

During my time in Panama I did not get to know Torrijos but in two years there I never heard any suggestion he was lining his pockets. Some of his antics were legend.

For example, when he held town hall meetings in the provinces, which he relished, an opening line was, "Dime lo malo porque el bueno ya lo se." (Tell me the bad because the good I already know.)

His loyal subjects did not hold back. When one particularly unruly town hall meeting got out of hand, he bellowed for order saying, "Wait a minute. Who's the dictator here!"

Asked at a press conference what he planned to do with the U.S. Jungle Warfare School in Panama once his country got possession, Torrijos replied, "Turn it into a daycare center!"

Another thing that set Torrijos apart: his circle was bigger than just a handful of sycophants like Putin. Two of Torrijos' favorites were authors, Nobel winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Graham Green, the late British writer whose books included (surprise) "Getting to Know the General."

Torrijos wanted Green invited to the ceremonies in Washington where he and Jimmy Carter were to sign the Panama Canal Treaty. When the U.S. tried to limit the White House ceremony to officials from each country, Torrijos made Green a Panamanian citizen and advisor, enabling him to attend.

And when the Bayano Dam and its hydroelectric generating system in far east Panama was inaugurated, Torrijos stood for a while on the dam with his senior staff, began to walk down the face of the dam toward the water, broke into a downhill run and dove headfirst into the new lake, uniform, pistol and all. His senior staff followed suit.

Alas, it did not end well for Torrijos, who died in a plane crash at age 52. I was called out of Chile to report on his funeral and the aftermath, and I can attest that the entire country seemed genuinely sorrowful and distressed by his death. Believe me, there was no celebration to mark the end of a dictatorship. Torrijos is now a folk hero for laying the groundwork for Panama's takeover of the canal and zone.

No official source has ever said Torrijos was assassinated. And, certainly, it could have been an accident because he liked taking chances. For example, he used to fly into remote Panamanian airstrips at night with townfolk holding flashlights for runway lights. And when his turbo prop Twin Otter went down east of Panama City in 1981, there was speculation Col. Manuel Noriega, who eventually succeeded Torrijos, might have been behind it.

You may recall that Noriega amassed a fortune in drug and arms smuggling before being overthrown and brought to trial in the United States in 1989. He was convicted and served 17 years and was then extradited to France on other charges and asked to explain where the \$3.6 million he had in French banks came from. When the French were finished with him, he was extradited to Panama and sentenced to 60 years for

crimes including murder. He died following brain surgery in 2017 – just another dictator from the usual mold.

Requiem for the Newsroom

Norm Abelson - It was in the hustle and bustle of an Associated Press newsroom some 70 years ago that I learned the trade as a reporter.

My education got underway one day as I nervously climbed the stairs in the old Boston Globe building and started down the hall, I could hear the unfamiliar sounds of clicking teletypes, bells ringing, voices yelling, one atop another. It was my first day as an AP employee, as the bottom-of-the-barrel swing-shift copy boy. Unlike my fellow copy boys, who had either a journalism degree or previous news experience, I was as green as grass. I had never before even been in a newsroom.

It was a turn of fate that brought me, a college dropout working at an ice-making plant, to that day. My dad had stopped for a drink at a bar on his way home one night. The guy next to him turned out to be AP editor Tom Horgan. Dad told him he had an undirected son who seemed to like writing. Tom set up an appointment with the traffic manager, Nick Nicholson, and I was on my way.

The job specs themselves were mundane – tearing copy, coffee runs, delivering photos to train stations and the airport. One night week I was assigned to the AP photo department, helping with developing chores. Many staffers generously took the time to educate me – some quietly, others more loudly.

But beyond that, there was something else working. It was the atmosphere of the newsroom itself. It was alive with words, words yelled, tapped out on old upright typewriters, repeated on teletype machines. Words incoming on telephones (the old kind attached to your ears so both hands were free).

Since my job had different hours each day, I learned the newsroom's different cadences. The day shift had the feel of new life; the night shift quieter, more orderly; the overnight felt like being in a sort of dream world.

In the hundreds of days and nights I spent in what became a second home - until I moved on to my first AP writing assignment - its sights and sounds became not only familiar, but also somehow a necessary part of my learning experience. It's not too much to say I grew up in that newsroom.

-0-

Bill Kaczor - Back in 1990, I interviewed Ray Oldenburg, a University of West Florida sociology professor, who wrote a book called "The Great Good Place." He told me Americans even then were missing out on an essential part of life due to the decline of such "great good places" as neighborhood taverns, coffeehouses, general stores, barber shops and even Laundromats. Today, he could have added newsrooms to the list. "These kinds of places used to be the grass-roots democratic cells," he told me.

"People found out their common problems and discovered their common strengths. ... If people are atomized, if they don't get together ... they become docile employees and voracious consumers. ... You've got to find contentment somewhere."

I, like many of us, found contentment in newsrooms. It started for me in a Chicago public high school. Our newspaper office was about a quarter the size of a standard classroom, but it had big desks, typewriters and a telephone. During free periods, newspaper staffers were allowed to "work" in the office often without adult supervision. We sometimes used that unbridled freedom to make crank phone calls, often to the yearbook office next door.

My contentment continued in college, where I made a lot of friends and met my future wife in the student newspaper's newsroom. It was a dank, cramped, cavern-like place in the basement of Pemberton Hall, a women's dormitory, at Eastern Illinois University. On Saturday mornings we would decamp to a secondary newsroom at the downtown print shop, where we would do layouts, write headlines, proofread galleys and sometimes help the printers handset those headlines. We later made the trek in midweek after going to twice-weekly publication. Now, the Journalism Department has an entire building to itself.

I moved up to nicer digs at newspapers in Charleston and Mattoon, Illinois, and then Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola, Florida. Then it was on to Tallahassee with Gannett News Service, where our two-person bureau shared a spacious suite with the Tampa Tribune on the top (third) floor of the old Florida Press Center. It was down to a cramped bureau, however, in the basement of the same building upon being hired by AP. That was an improvement, though, over the previous AP bureau in the sub-basement of the Old Florida Capitol, where it helped if you stood less than six feet tall.

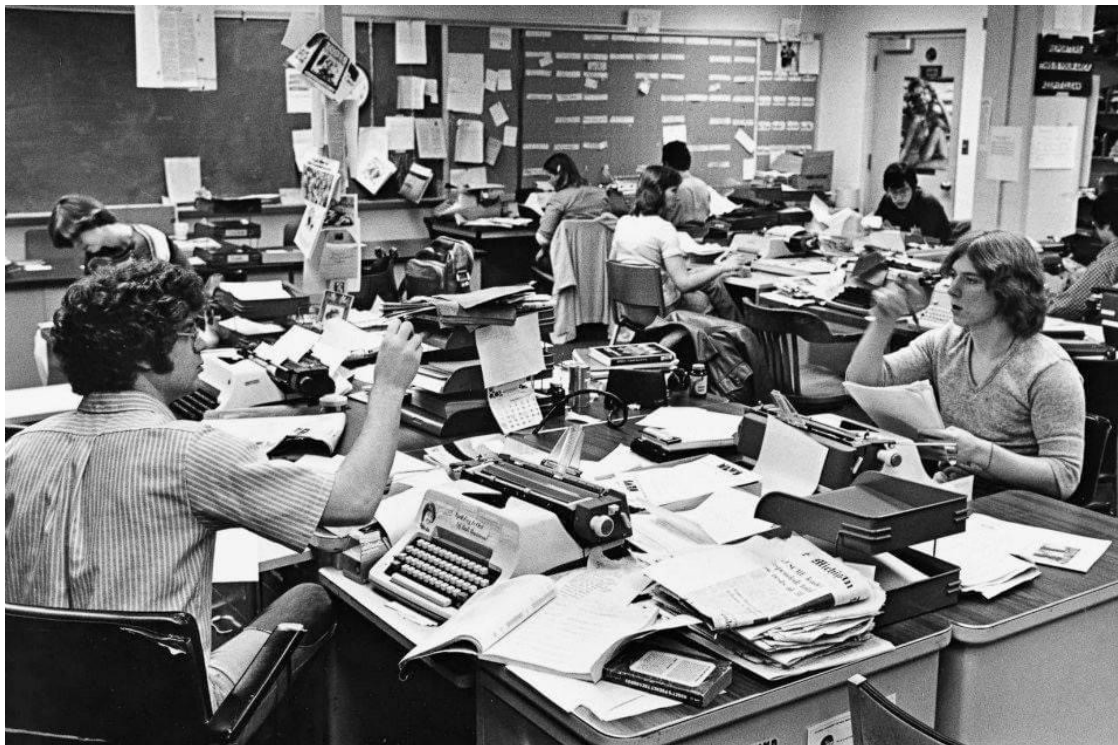
I was back in familiar territory in a corner of a newspaper newsroom as AP correspondent in Pensacola. The Pensacola News Journal bosses, however, took a dim view of the clicking and clacking of my teletypes. They already had sequestered their own machines in a separate room. The first solution was to build boxes around my teletypes. Then they gave me my own rather spacious office across the hall from the photo lab, but I made frequent forays to the newsroom to keep up with the latest local happenings. After a couple of years, it was decided the News Journal needed my office for advertising, so I was moved to a tiny former telephone operators' room at the front of the building. The best thing about it was that I didn't have to leave my chair to reach anything. Finally, I was moved back to my former office after half of it was lopped off. Ironically, the News Journal building that once covered a full city block is gone, replaced by a condo and retail complex. The newspaper now operates out of staffers' homes and a tiny rented office.

Back in Tallahassee where I periodically returned for legislative sessions and other fill-in duty and where I permanently relocated for my final few years, Correspondent Brent Kallestad played a key role in helping design a new Florida Press Center with a spacious AP bureau, this time on the top (also third) floor. On one visit, Kallestad led me on a precarious tour of the partly completed building to preview his brainchild. At one time nine or 10 staffers including three TV people, a technician and photographer filled the bureau with plenty of room to spare. Kallestad, of course, made sure he had a glass-enclosed office for himself adjacent to the newsroom. The bureau became a gathering spot for the entire Tallahassee press corps as other reporters stopped by to

exchange pleasantries. Politicians and other news sources also would pop in. It helped that we sold snacks and soft drinks to visitors until an unamused Miami bureau chief shut down our little enterprise.

Yes, the newsroom was a Great Good Place. It will be missed.

-0-



[Jim Reindl](#) - Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I'll let this shot of the Central Michigan LIFE newsroom circa about '75 speak for me. I guess an appropriate caption would be "Asst. News Editors Steve Spaulding (left) and Jim Reindl (right) demonstrate typical serious, job-focused newsroom behavior throwing paper wads at each other."

Our Honor Flight gathering



Jeff Wong, Lt.Col. USMC, and Dennis Anderson, Army veteran, both Los Angeles AP alumni, with Anthony Kitson, Battle of Britain child evacuee, 20 plus years in Southeast Asia with Army and Department of Army.

Dennis Anderson - Jeff Wong and I met at the Associated Press Los Angeles Bureau shortly after he graduated from USC, excelling in his journalism studies and editing at the Daily Trojan.

It was the 1990s and I was Night Supervisor. Jeff was ready and able to take on the night. The old phrase “He hit the ground running” was accurate. He was a capable and resourceful reporter in Los Angeles through Rodney King uprising, earthquakes and O.J. Simpson trials.

Near the turn of century, I left to be editor at an APME newspaper, the Antelope Valley Press. A couple of weeks after 9/11 Jeff left for Marine Corps OCS after an Internet startup and a stint at Variety.

Jeff is a lieutenant colonel now, recently a USMC Reserve battalion commander. We missed each other but crisscrossed each other’s paths across Iraq during the invasion phase when he was a lieutenant leading infantry, and I was an embedded journalist

with the California National Guard. We stayed in touch through the years and Jeff was always friend to my son Garrett, another Marine infantry grunt who grew up around the Los Angeles bureau and served, like Jeff, multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last week I was in Washington D.C. traveling with my Korean War Era veteran friend Anthony Kitson who turned 90 the day we flew in as part of the Honor Flight program.

Anthony was born in London and was seven years old when the Battle of Britain held sway during the Blitz. A reluctant immigrant with his war bride mother, he joined the U.S. Army as soon as he could. He spent the next 20-plus years in Southeast Asia with the Department of the Army as a frequent flyer on Air America.

Honor Flights is a national nonprofit that flies older veterans at no cost to Washington D.C. on a two-day visit of all armed forces and war memorials, WWII, Vietnam and Korea, and Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

At the Marine Corps Memorial outside Arlington there is a decent display that tells the story of AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal and how he got the "Flag Raisers" photo on Iwo Jima.

Lt. Col. Jeff Wong broke away from his many responsibilities to share an hour with Mr. Kitson and me in the Crystal City Marriott hotel bar. We swapped memories and yarns, three veterans, two from the AP Los Angeles Bureau.

Celebrating 'Poetry Day'

[Ken Herman](#) - I recently celebrated Poetry Day with a phone call to my longtime friend and former AP photographer David Breslauer, now a Park City, Utah, resident.

Poetry Day derives from a long-ago bureau tradition at the AP Austin Bureau in the Texas Capitol. It was a small office with a correspondent, three newsmen, a photog and, during legislative sessions, an additional newsmen.

For many, many years, the venerable Garth Jones was the correspondent in charge and the estimable and unpredictable Ted Powers was the staff photog. When I arrived at the bureau in 1979 Garth and Ted were, to my younger eyes at the time, older gentlemen. And they had their long-established traditions, including daily lunch at Austin's Headliners Club, a venerable establishment that, to this day, serves beverages at lunch.

The Austin Bureau had an annual May 1 tradition that evolved into what I now call Poetry Day. Every May 1, right after a lunch that included beverages, this dialogue would ensue:

Garth: Ted, would there be a poem that one might deem appropriate for this particular day on the calendar?

Ted: Why yes, Garth I believe there would be.

(Quick diversion here. Except for this weather-related poem on this day, neither Garth nor Ted exhibited any particular affinity for poetry. I'm pretty sure most of the poems Ted knew took place in Nantucket. And now back to our annual May 1 dialogue.)

Garth: And what would that poem be?

Ted: Hooray, hooray. The first of May. Outdoor (vulgar term for generally enjoyable interpersonal activity) starts today.

And that was the poem, in its entirety. Year after year after year. It was a simpler time.

Garth and Ted have long since passed on. And after his retirement, Ted was replaced in the bureau by the aforementioned David Breslauer. And because traditions are important, David and I have kept Poetry Day alive. I called him on this recent May 1 and we celebrated it by remembering Garth and Ted and that heartwarming poem.

And now, improbably, a Poetry Day footnote involving James Taylor. Yes, that James Taylor, he of the sweet and tender ballads.

Some years ago, my wife Sharon and I were at a Taylor concert here in Austin. And the time came for him to sing "First of May," a light and lilting ode to spring's dawning. But first, by way of introduction, Taylor told a very personal family story. Seems his father had a tradition involving a poem he'd recite every May 1. (Slow down. You're getting ahead of me here.)

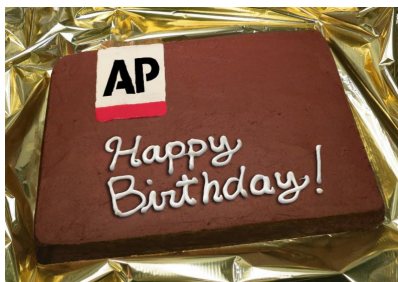
I looked at Sharon. She looked at me. No way, we thought simultaneously.

Yes way.

"Hooray, hooray. The first of May," Taylor began.

And now you know the rest of the poem.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Patricia Casillo](#)

Stories of interest

Since his ouster, embarrassing reports on Carlson pile up (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — A week after Fox News fired star host Tucker Carlson — for reasons that remain unexplained — he has been the subject of a handful of embarrassing stories about some of his private messages and statements while at the network.

The latest was in The New York Times on Wednesday, reporting on a text message that had been redacted as part of a recent defamation case targeting the network. In it, Carlson declared that a group of Trump supporters beating a protester was “not how white men fight.”

The sentiment was not out of character for Carlson, who has promoted the view that whites are being “replaced” by people of color. But the Times suggested the timing was crucial, as members of Fox’s board found out about the message as part of documents uncovered in the defamation lawsuit filed by Dominion Voting Systems, shortly before a trial was to begin last month.

The newspaper said the discovery “contributed to a chain of events” that led to Carlson being fired April 24, less than a week after Fox agreed to pay Dominion nearly \$800 million to settle the case.

Three times in the past week, the anti-Fox watchdog Media Matters for America has released “hot mic” moments of Carlson speaking while on Fox sets, material that was never included on broadcasts.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

NY Times Beats Trump Suit Over Pulitzer Report on His Taxes (Bloomberg)

By Erik Larson

(Bloomberg) -- A judge dismissed Donald Trump’s \$100 million lawsuit against the New York Times and its reporters over an award-winning 2018 expose on his taxes.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Robert Reed threw out the case in a ruling Wednesday that also ordered the former president to pay the news outlet’s attorneys fees and costs.

“Courts have long recognized that reporters are entitled to engage in legal and ordinary newsgathering activities without fear of tort liability — as these actions are at the very corner of protected First Amendment activity,” Reed said in his ruling.

The 2018 Times report, which won a Pulitzer Prize, detailed how Trump's real estate business claimed suspiciously low valuations on properties to minimize tax liability and also revealed that his inheritance from his father was worth more than \$400 million, contrary to his frequent assertion that he only received a small loan of around \$1 million.

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

-0-

Opinion Guess what, White House correspondents: Biden's joke was on you (Washington Post)

By Jim Geraghty
Contributing columnist

President Biden began his jokes at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner on Saturday by quipping, "In a lot of ways, this dinner sums up my first two years in office. I'll talk for 10 minutes, take zero questions and cheerfully walk away." The audience laughed.

Why were you laughing, reporters? The president was joking about how easily he can avoid interacting with you, and how little consequence there is for his refusing to answer your questions. You're the butt of the joke, White House correspondents!

Biden was minimally accessible during the 2020 election season — the "basement campaign," purportedly to avoid the risk of catching covid-19 — and now he barely interacts with the press as president.

It is already May, and Biden hasn't held a solo news conference in 2023; he has held two joint news conferences so far this year with foreign heads of state. Biden did just five solo news conferences in 2022.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

The Rise and Fall of the Press Camera (PetaPixel)



By **JONATHAN JACOBY**

If you were an aspiring photojournalist during most of the 19th and early 20th centuries, then your dream machine was likely not a Hasselblad, a Rolleiflex, a Leica, or any of the other vintage film cameras commonly cited as the most desirable collectibles nowadays.

No, the tool of choice among the *crème de la crème* of professional journalists was what's called a press camera.

These were incredibly tough, purpose-built machines tailor-made for the needs of reporters – including those working in dangerous environments, such as war photographers. For a significant period of photography history, press cameras remained among the most fully-featured and expensive gear that any shutterbug could dream of.

Let's back up a bit. What actually is a press camera, black-on-white? And what made these engineering wonders disappear from the face of modern photography?

That is going to be our subject for today. In this article, we'll take a deep dive into the fascinating story of the press camera, from its birth and fame all the way to its fall into relative obscurity.

The Origins and Rise of the Press Camera

Even during the infancy of photography as a medium, some manufacturers already thought of the potential in marketing a camera that is compact enough to be hand-held.

Cameras of the late 19th century were usually made of wood with brass shutters and lenses. These materials can be tough and resilient yet remarkably lightweight, especially compared to steel. This actually made "compact" cameras quite feasible to build and cheap to sell, and many examples of such designs survive to this day.

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

Today in History - May 4, 2023



Today is Thursday, May 4, the 124th day of 2023. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

On this date:

In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal from the French.

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

In 1945, during World War II, German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark and northwest Germany agreed to surrender.

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1998, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) was given four life sentences plus 30 years by a federal judge in Sacramento, California, under a plea agreement that spared him the death penalty.

In 2001, Bonny Lee Bakley, wife of actor Robert Blake, was shot to death as she sat in a car near a restaurant in Los Angeles. (Blake, accused of Bakley's murder, was acquitted in a criminal trial but found liable by a civil jury and ordered to pay damages.)

In 2006, a federal judge sentenced Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) to life in prison for his role in the 9/11 attacks, telling the convicted terrorist, "You will die with a whimper."

In 2011, President Barack Obama said he had decided not to release death photos of Osama bin Laden because their graphic nature could incite violence and create national security risks. Officials told The Associated Press that the Navy SEALs who'd stormed bin Laden's compound in Pakistan shot and killed him after they saw him appear to lunge for a weapon.

In 2020, New York state reported more than 1,700 previously undisclosed coronavirus deaths at nursing homes and adult care facilities. Struggling fashion brand J.Crew became the first major retailer to file for bankruptcy protection since the start of the pandemic. Former Miami Dolphins coach Don Shula died at 90; he'd won more games than any other NFL coach.

Ten years ago: National Rifle Association leaders told members during a meeting in Houston that the fight against gun control legislation was far from over, and vowed that none in the organization would ever have to surrender their weapons. A limousine taking nine women to a bachelorette party erupted in flames on the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge over San Francisco Bay, killing five of the passengers, including the bride-to-be. Orb powered to a 2 1/2-length victory on a sloppy track to win the Kentucky Derby. Floyd Mayweather came back from a year's absence to win a unanimous 12-round decision over Robert Guerrero in their welterweight title fight in Las Vegas.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump suggested that his newly-hired attorney Rudy Giuliani needed to "get his facts straight" about the hush money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 election; Giuliani had earlier said that Trump knew about the payment to Daniels made by his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, and that Trump had paid Cohen back. The Connecticut Supreme Court overturned the murder conviction of Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel in the 1975 bludgeoning death of a girl in Greenwich, finding that Skakel's trial attorney had failed to present evidence of an alibi. (The U.S. Supreme Court later left in place the Connecticut high court ruling.) Los Angeles Angels slugger Albert Pujols got his 3,000th hit, reaching the mark with a broken-bat single against the Seattle Mariners.

One year ago: Complaining that the West was "stuffing Ukraine with weapons," Russia pounded railroad stations and other supply-line points across the country, as the European Union moved to further punish Moscow for the war by proposing a ban on oil imports, a crucial source of revenue. Heavy fighting also raged at the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol. Donald Trump Jr., oldest son of former President Donald Trump, met

with the congressional committee investigating the 2021 riot at the U.S. Capitol. Comedian Dave Chappelle was tackled during a performance at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. Security guards chased and overpowered the attacker.

Today's Birthdays: Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 93. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 86. Pulitzer Prize-winning political commentator George Will is 82. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia Davison (The Angels) is 79. Actor Richard Jenkins is 76. Country singer Stella Parton is 74. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 73. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 72. Singer-actor Pia Zadora is 71. R&B singer Oleta Adams is 70. Violinist Soozie Tyrell (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 66. Country singer Randy Travis is 64. Actor Mary McDonough is 62. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 56. Actor Will Arnett is 53. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 51. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 51. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 48. Sports reporter Erin Andrews is 45. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 44. Actor Ruth Negga is 42. Rapper/singer Jidenna is 38. Actor Alexander Gould is 29. Country singer RaeLynn is 29. Actor Amara (uh-MAH'-ruh) Miller is 23. Actor Brooklynn Prince (Film: "The Florida Project") is 13.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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!

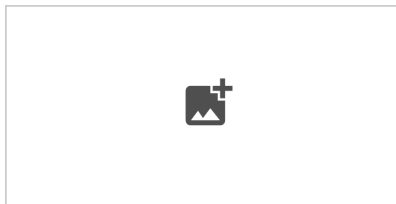


Here are some suggestions:

- **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



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

[Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com](mailto:unsubscribe_stevenspl@live.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!