

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

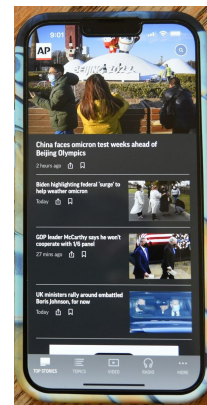
[View as Webpage](#)



Connecting

Sept. 7, 2023

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



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP Photos](#)
[AP Merchandise](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)
[AP Newsletters](#)
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Sept. 7, 2023,

Fifty years ago in Hanoi, on Jan. 27, 1973, America's combat role in Vietnam ended with the Paris Peace accords signed by national security adviser Henry Kissinger and representatives of North Vietnam. They led to the immediate release of nearly 600 American prisoners of war.

Three months earlier as public pressure had been growing on the Nixon Administration to end the conflict and bring the prisoners of war home, AP special correspondent **Peter Arnett** was invited to exclusively cover the journey of a high-level American antiwar delegation intent on traveling to Hanoi seeking peace despite official US government disapproval that it might upset crucial peace negotiations.

Our colleague Peter's story that follows features photographs he made at the time and are from his own collection.

Were you involved in coverage of the return of American POWs? How long ago does that seem now? Share your story if so.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

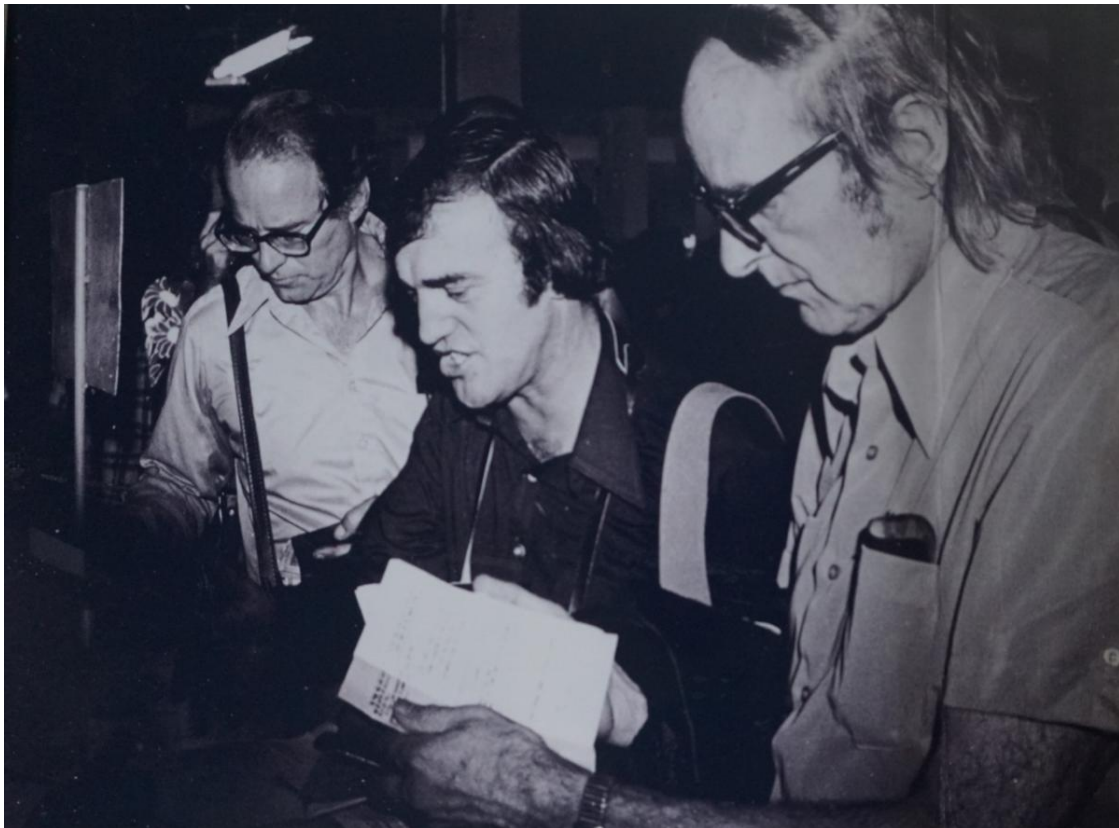
My 14 days in wartime Hanoi with a POW mother, the wife of another, and 4 famous anti-war protesters



After flying across the pacific to Thailand, peace delegation members wait at Bangkok airport for a flight to Vientiane, Laos, en route to North Vietnam. Third from left is Cora Weiss, a prominent leader of the anti-Vietnam war movement and the organizer of the trip. Beside her are the two American women invited to witness the planned release of their POW family members. At Weiss's left is Minnie Lee Gartley whose son Navy Lt Mark Gartley was four years in captivity. To Weiss's left is Olga Charles, wife of Navy Lt Norris Charles, 10 months in captivity. At far right is delegation member Richard Falk, a prominent academic war critic. At far left is AP reporter Peter Arnett who was given exclusive coverage of the journey.

Peter Arnett - I was spending a few days in Paris during an early September 1972 weekend, returning home to New York after several months covering North Vietnam's Easter Offensive that crashed across South Vietnam in yet another eruption of brutal fighting even as most American soldiers were on their way home. I was in my room sleeping in the Clarridges Hotel that overlooked the Champs Elysee when a 4 a.m. phone call from the AP foreign desk supervisor gave me urgent instructions to telephone AP General Manager Wes Gallagher. I knew my brief vacation was over because our executives rarely allowed themselves to be disturbed over the weekend. Gallagher got straight to the point: "Do you want to go to Hanoi?"

I breathed in sharply. Despite the hour I felt the familiar surge. Hanoi was the stubborn hub of a war effort that had defied the most powerful nation on earth for a decade. Few westerners had ever visited. It was still a mystery. Gallagher explained that three American prisoners of war were to be released in Hanoi to an American antiwar delegation as a goodwill gesture, and I had been invited to join the group as the sole journalist. Clearly the communists were making a public gesture to influence the peace talks. He told me to get home immediately, talk with the sponsors and then report to him. He said he had grave reservations about the project and the people involved, that the State Department was critical, fearful that a private initiative might threaten the peace project. I left Paris on the first TWA flight, realizing that if the trip came off, I would be an eyewitness to the beginning of the end of the war. Though the US government was suspicious of the venture, the release of American prisoners of war would be seen as evidence that the North Vietnamese would be willing to compromise on the central issue of the peace negotiations, the fate of the many American POWs.

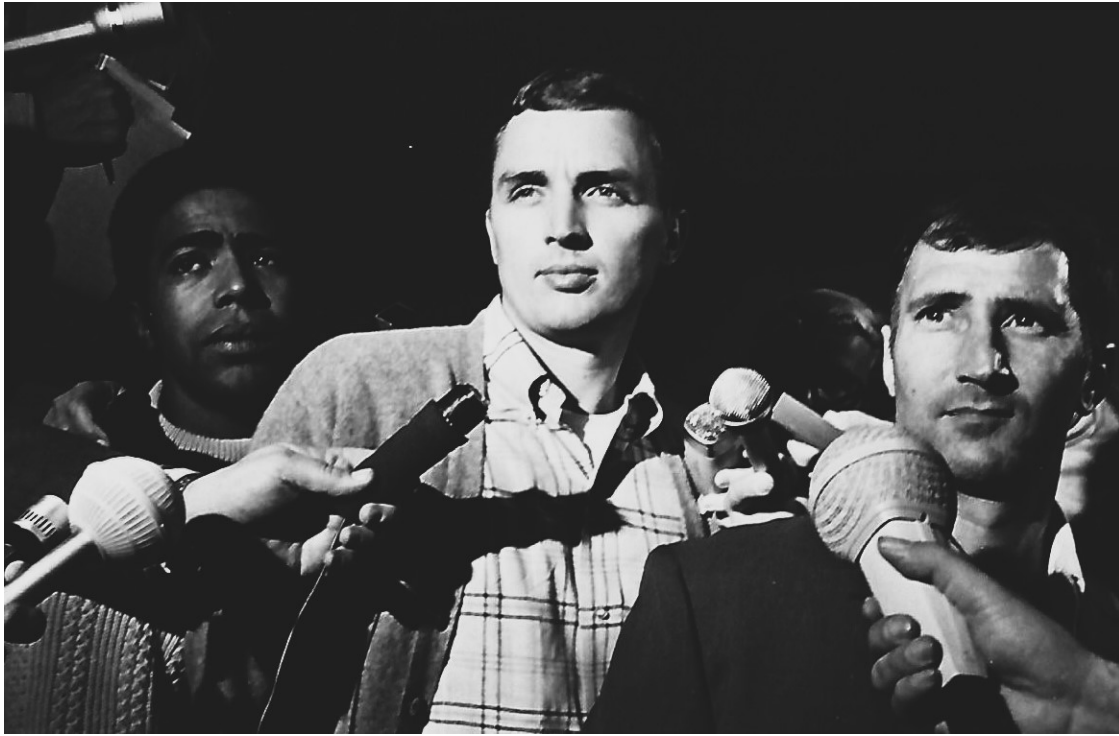


Peter Arnett (center) helps peace delegation members figure out arrival paperwork at Laos's Vientiane Airport. David Dellinger (right) is a prominent antiwar activist and one

of the Chicago Seven pacifists involved in a famous trial following the contentious 1968 Democratic convention. At left, the Rev William Sloan Coffin, who was formerly Chaplain at Yale University, and a leader in the civil rights and the peace movements of the 1960s and 70s. Later in the day the delegation boarded the regular International Control Commission flight on the final leg of the journey to Hanoi's Gia Lam airport, the aircraft climbing over the purple hills of Laos and across the bomb-pitted river valleys of North Vietnam to its destination. Unlike Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport with its sprawling complex of hangars and maintenance buildings, Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport was in stark contrast, modest and rural, with the ICC aircraft the only one on the ground.

I arrived back in New York in mid-afternoon and took a taxi to Waldo Avenue, Riverdale, and the family home of antiwar activist Cora Weiss, who with other activists would make the journey to Hanoi. Two members of the delegation, peace activist David Dellinger and Yale University chaplain William Sloane Coffin, were national figures. The mother of one POW and the wife of another would also travel. Cora thrashed out a set of ground rules that would allow me to function professionally without violating their privacy. She said, "Well, I mean I don't want you talking to the CIA, and I don't want you endangering any future prisoner exchanges, do I? I don't expect your political sympathy for our case, but I would expect your personal sympathy for what we are doing." I asked her what stories I could expect to write, and she responded, "An accurate and full account of the journey."

By now I was desperate to go. I tried to persuade Cora that I was both professional and amiable. After two hours of conversation, I seemed to have convinced her. But she insisted on one more requirement, a meeting with David Dellinger. He turned up that evening at my family apartment at a high-rise on East 87th Street, and because of his activist reputation I expected a confrontation. But he accepted a cold beer and I found he was a gentle man with a wry sense of humor. He had just come off a long antiwar fast. We had a short conversation. He said he felt that accurate honest coverage by an independent newsman would be in the best interests of everyone on the trip and he agreed I should go. Next day Wes Gallagher gave his OK, counseling me to be cautious about how I acted and what I wrote. Both Anthony Lewis of the New York Times and Jane Fonda had incurred storms of criticism on their visits to Hanoi earlier in the year. Wes looked at me from under furrowed brows: "Peter, it's your reputation and mine on the line this time."



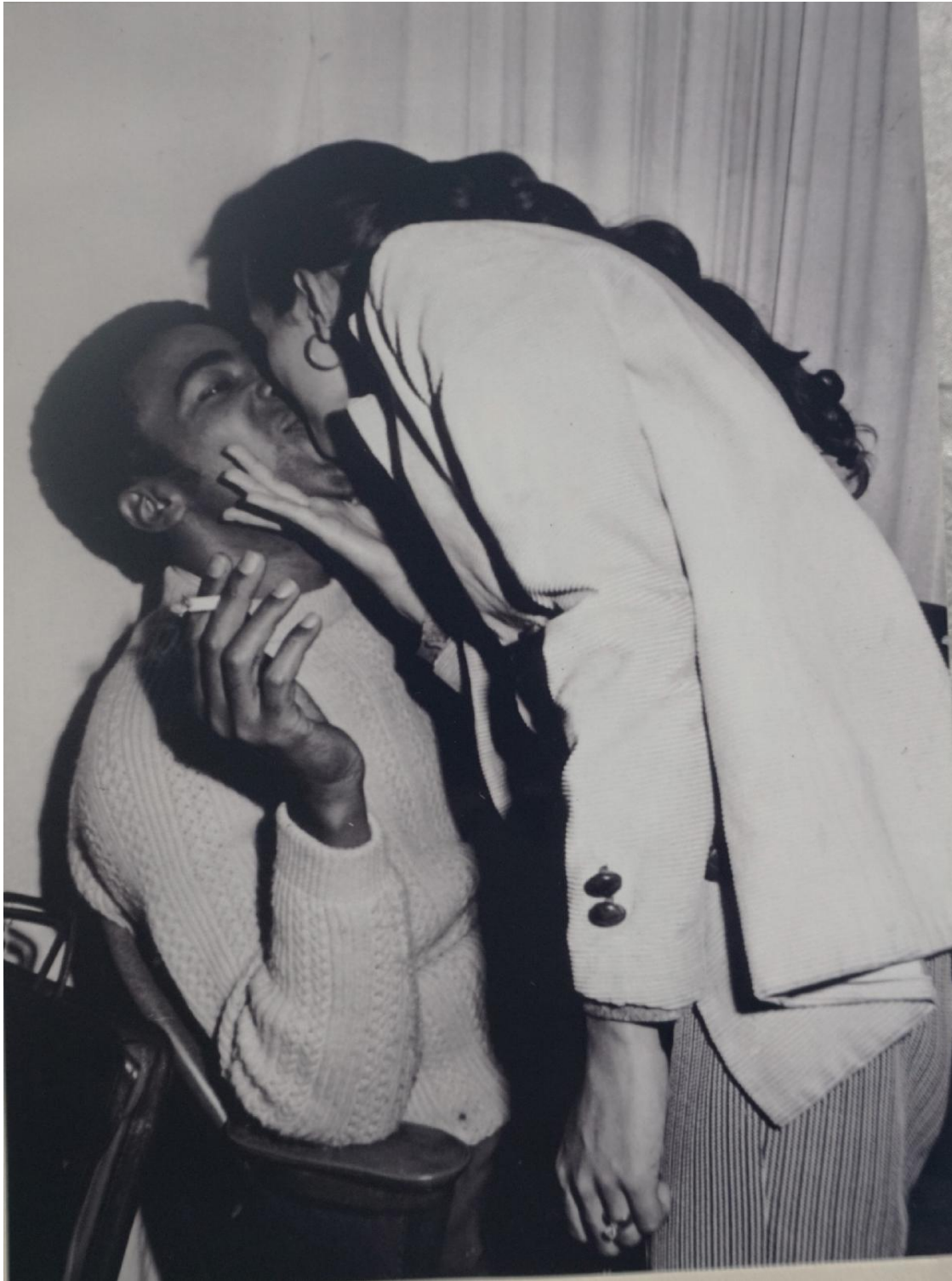
In the late afternoon of September 17, 1972, in the glare of blinding Klieg lighting in a Hanoi military encampment crowded with reporters and television cameras from communist news organizations, three American pilots were released into the care of a visiting US peace delegation. The event was produced to gain the maximum propaganda, fittingly enough for the first event of its kind in an American war that had already lasted seven years. Navy Lt Mark Gartley (center), Navy Lt Norris Charles (far left) and Air Force Major Edward Elias (far right) were dressed in newly made suits. Confronted by the sea of microphones and cameras, they spoke appreciatively of their captors and hoped that their release would soon lead to peace. The tall blonde Gartley was soon embraced by his mother Minnie. Olga Charles happily kissed her husband, Norris. Major Elias was expecting his wife or father to greet him but was disappointed. In reading his mail the next day he learned how controversial the trip had become and that his family had not traveled because of Defense Department objections.

At Hanoi airport when the plane doors opened, I dashed from the aircraft to the modest terminal building and began typing a news bulletin about our arrival on my portable typewriter. I had noticed Richard Dudman of the St. Louis Post Dispatch about to leave and figured he could be my courier. Vietnamese officials and security men gathered around me in surprise as I typed and made a half-hearted attempt to prevent me handing dispatch to Dudman, insisting they read it first, but the ICC plane was about to leave and Dudman placed it in his jacket pocket and boarded for the return flight to Vientiane.

Sheltered in a sandbagged bunker at the airport from a distant bombing raid, Cora Weiss upbraided me politely, explaining that now I was officially part of the delegation, and we were required to follow procedures. I agreed to be more considerate, but I felt that in my determination to be a reporter first and an emissary second, I had won the first round.

Security men ordered us into roadside shelters twice in the two-hour drive into Hanoi because of distant American air strikes, and there were two more alerts on that first afternoon after we checked into the Hoa Binh Hotel, once one of Hanoi's Grand colonial buildings but now a victim of wartime neglect. Olga Charles' flowery silk dress was soiled and crumpled from the dirt of the shelters when she arrived at the hotel, and she was about to step into a bath a little later when the alert sirens sent her in her bathrobe down a labyrinth of back rooms and corridors to a concrete basement room for shelter. As we sat there, she said, "I was silly enough to think that Washington would stop bombing while we were here."

I was assigned a young woman named Lien as an escort when I left the hotel for a walk around the city. She complained to me of getting too little to eat. She blamed the American bombings for cutting supplies from the countryside. The hardships made her look older than her years, and when I asked if she had a boyfriend and if she wanted to get married, she said no to both questions. She said she was practicing the three delays as were many young people: delay love, delay marriage, delay babies until the war was over."



Olga Charles and her POW husband Lt. Norris Charles have an intimate moment together at Hanoi's Hao Binh Hotel where they were housed with two other American POWs in a unique prisoner release in September 1972, arranged by a visiting American peace delegation. Lt. Norris, age 27, was an F4 pilot from Attack Carrier Airwing 15, who was shot down over North Vietnam on December 30, 1971, and was imprisoned during the nine months prior to his release. His wife Olga defied US Defense Department advice that her presence on the delegation might impair peace negotiations.

Hanoi, the enemy capital, seemed an apparition from the past. The grand old French colonial buildings were tidy but faded. In the little shops in the densely populated quarters, paint was peeling off the walls and the timbers were rotting. An old French tram clanked along as bicycles meandered by. The automobiles honking in the streets were relics from Soviet Union car lots.

As I walked around Hanoi's dusty streets I thought of Saigon, where I had been just a week before, a city that wore the veneer of a desert vacation boom town with flashy motorcycles, sporty cars, perfume, hair spray and sharp differences on the streets between the rich and the poor. The barmaid at Hanoi's Hoa Binh hotel had told me that she owned just one white blouse and one pair of black trousers, "and I wash them each night to wear the next day." I thought of the maids I employed in Saigon who wore silk ao-dai dresses and carried beaded handbags.

While his fellow POWs were closeted with their loved ones in bedroom suites, Air Force Major Edward Elias, was required to bunk with me. The 34-year-old officer was shot down over North Vietnam while flying a reconnaissance mission on April 20, 1972. I think he was unsettled having a news correspondent pounding out news stories in his room late into the night, but he kept his concerns to himself. After a few days Major Elias became more talkative. He'd spent "a few days wandering around the countryside" prior to his capture. He told me about prison life and how he compared his dreams with his buddies. He said, "For the first few months in captivity no one dreamed at all. In the third month they began to dream of food. After the fourth month they dreamed of sex."



Minnie Gartley endeavors to negotiate bomb damage at Hanoi's Bach Mai hospital as she and her POW son Lt. Mark Gartley and the two other released American POWs are taken on a tour of areas in the city Vietnamese officials claimed were "indiscriminately attacked" by US aircraft. More than 20,000 tons of ordnance were dropped on military and industrial areas in Hanoi and the port of Haiphong by US planes during the war. President Lyndon Johnson and later Richard Nixon wanted to shock North Vietnam into ending its support of the Vietcong.

Communications from war-torn Hanoi to the outside world were limited to a few hours a day, to Paris and Hong Kong. My long dispatches tended to accumulate at the

post and telegraph office and when I complained about the delay, my guide Miss Lien told me, "Firstly, you send far too much. And secondly this is an agricultural society not an industrial one so don't expect marvels from us." But there were other factors in the delay. A few days after our arrival I had my first run-in with North Vietnamese censors when an official I knew as Mr. Lieu waved me to a table at the corner of the Hoa Binh lobby. He was holding three copies of stories I had filed. Normally Mr. Lieu wore a broad smile and spoke Vietnamese but now he was grim-faced and used broken but identifiable English, in short staccato bursts.

"Mr. Arnett," he began, "you know you are perfectly free to write anything you wish about the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. However, in this message there are some references that disturb us greatly," and so began an hour-long haggle over the dispatches which, he insisted put too much emphasis on the negative. "You have suggested that we forced the pilots to make statements condemning the damage," he said. I saw that was an interpretation he put on my reference to constant presence of government photographers and radio reporters and queries from people who said they were bombing victims who asked questions like, "What do you say about this destruction by your imperialistic government."

I finally narrowed down Mr. Lieu's area of concern to two passages in my dispatches. In one I had written that local officials seemed to be pushing the questioning too far and were upsetting the American women. In the other I quoted Lt. Mark Gartley; he felt that the North Vietnamese were disappointed that he did not publicly condemn the war. I finally agreed to delete the reference to "pushing", because Mr. Lieu interpreted this to mean literally as forcing. But I insisted that Lt Gartley's quote remain.

Mr. Lieu was apparently satisfied with his small victory and shook my hand and said the dispatches would be telegraphed to the Paris bureau of the AP immediately. Similar negotiations surrounded all the stories I wrote but the North Vietnamese did not insist on any changes that would have compromised professional standards.



Olga Charles and her released POW husband Lt. Norris Charles cautiously pick their way through bomb damage at the St Joseph's Cathedral in downtown Hanoi. These daily escorted tours were closely covered by communist news organizations.

While in Hanoi we lived with the fear of bombing felt by the residents every day. I could see fear tearing at the heart of the city with the first squawks of the loudspeaker system hanging from the main street intersections. People would look urgently for a shelter as they listened to the voice proclaiming, "American planes 70 kilometers out." Soon afterwards the announcement, "American planes 50 kilometers out." Then the sirens wailed when the attacking aircraft were within 40 kilometers.

People searched out individual bunkers built like cisterns along every street, or were pushed by wardens into larger, roomier shelters beside Reunification Lake in the heart of the city. Then a quiet would settle over the city, a silence as people waited to see how close the bombers would come. I noticed a large billboard in the main city square with a map of South Vietnam emblazoned with red victory stars over the battle zones in the south, and I realized with a start that a similar map decorated Saigon's Lam Son Square with claimed victories in the same places.



Air Force Major Edward Elias (center) and other released POWs, at an evening stop in the countryside on a trip organized by Hanoi officials, watch two Vietnamese women pulling a cart full of supplies. Because of the constant bombing during the day, most commerce in North Vietnam and repairs to bomb damaged infrastructure were conducted at night.

On one of our field trips we traveled the path Jane Fonda and former U.S. Attorney General Ramsay Clarke had taken earlier in the year, driving south to Nam Dinh City and the Phat Diem Cathedral, both heavily bombed by American planes. As we bumped along narrow highways in the dark hours before dawn, all the cliches about communist Vietnam's "ant power" and the unique adaptability of the people to adversity came alive before our eyes. Where bombs had caused direct hits on railway cars or on the track paralleling the road, we could see dark shapes of people hammering at twisted wreckage. Others carried filler material and dumped it in the bomb craters. As dawn came and we passed through the road junction of Phy Ly, we saw that the dark shapes were women. They weren't even using buckets; they were carrying mud in their bare hands to fill the craters. When the old Russian Volga sedan we were traveling in bogged down at one point, women swarmed out of the mud and gathered around us, laughing and pointing and pushing us along our way.



Lt. Mark Gartley and his mother Minnie to his right, and another released POW Lt. Norris Charles and his wife Olga (top) with Vietnamese guides and drivers, seek shelter in shrubbery off the road as American planes begin attacking a military installation several miles away.

Major Elias rode alongside me, and it was an education to see the countryside through his eyes, an experienced American pilot who had flown reconnaissance over North Vietnam regularly. "See those grave mounds over there?"

"Elias asked as we waited for a ferry to cross a river where the bridge had been destroyed. I saw a bucolic scene with cows grazing on the gently rolling land. "They're anti-aircraft pits with the muzzles down." Elisa said. "Let a plane come over and they'll stick up their snouts and blast away." And these things are difficult to spot in pictures. It would take an expert and a very lucky photo interpreter to see them." As we sped into the rising sun Elias's head turned left and right. "See that flak site? They're 85s. There's another, half a dozen .50 calibers." To me they all looked like banana trees.



Minnie Gartley and Olga Charles, traveling with released American POWs south of Hanoi, shelter in a cave in the hills above Nam Dinh as American war planes launch a

succession of airstrikes against the strategic North Vietnamese city.

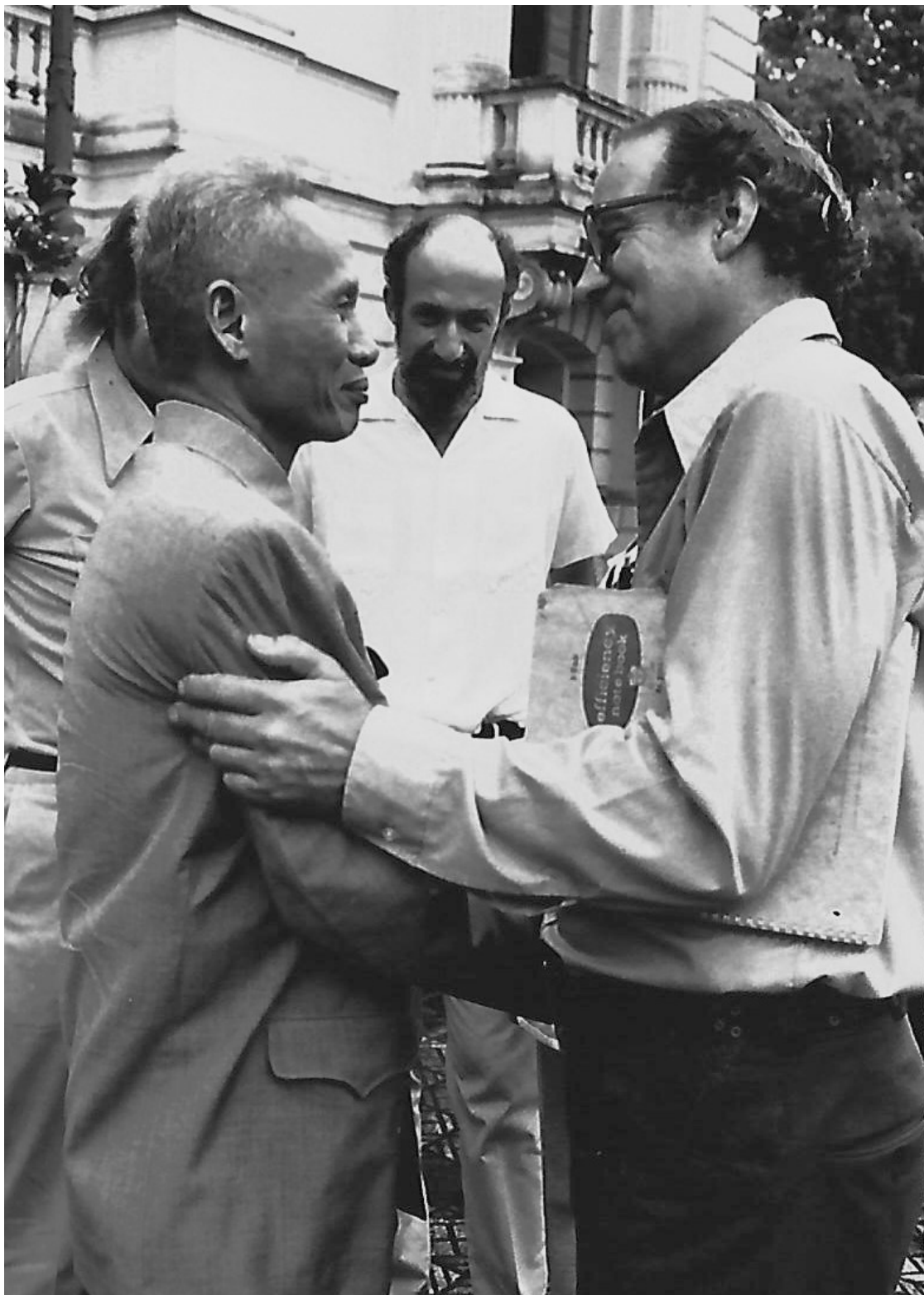
What was startling to the pilots was the extent of North Vietnam's visible supply chain, manifest evidence that the years of American bombing had failed in its goal. From the time we left Hanoi at four 'clock in the morning, until our return at eight 'clock the next night we repeatedly encountered vehicle convoys, rows of stacked ammunition along the roadsides, and piles of full gasoline drums.

During day light hours we passed scores of transportation trucks casually parked under trees. They look vulnerable but Norris Charles told me, "We could never see those things from the air and the moment someone comes down to get a better look, blam, blam, blam." Mark recalled flying over the area in previous years. "It had seemed uninhabited, but it was actually teeming with life." Elias remarked that it was technology against ideology, "I wonder how far technology can go because the Vietnamese habitually beat it." he said.



North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Vam Dong walks with US peace activist Cora Weiss into his official residence near Ho Chi Minh's tomb with other peace delegation members climbing the steps behind them. William Sloane coffin is at far left then David Dellinger and Richard Falk. The delegation had a formal meeting with the Premier, and then walked around the residence gardens with him in animated discussion.

I discussed with Cora Weiss the irony that she and her party trusted the North Vietnamese views on the war more than their own government. Cora responded that America's policies were opposed to world peace and that the future of Vietnamese should be entirely in the hands of the Vietnamese. She said, "America has no right being here and total withdrawal from the war effort is the only solution."



William Sloane Coffin (right) has a warm farewell with Premier Dong as Richard Falk (center) awaits his turn. Peter Arnett described Coffin as a boisterous, energetic traveling companion who believed the American antiwar movement enjoyed unique entree to the North Vietnamese. Coffin told him, " We are closer to them than either the Russians or the Chinese because we want the war to end, and they know it."



Peter Arnett noted the cordiality between members of the antiwar group and the Vietnamese leader. Caught in the spirit of the moment, Premier Dong even clasped Arnett's hand and praised his reporting from the war front, although he could not have seen much of it.

Before we left Hanoi we were summoned hurriedly to a downtown government building and into a bare room set up with rows of chairs and with bottles of local beer and glasses on the large coffee table. Seven Americans came in with their hands outstretched and faces beaming. They bear-hugged us and shouted greetings. They were a few of the more than 400 American pilots to be held in Hanoi and they all said they wanted to go home. They could hardly contain their feelings, and talk spilled out -- letters from their families, prison life, criticisms of the war. They were all willing to attack their government's policies. I had no idea how many other prisoners felt the same way or the constraints they were under. The conversation flowed on. The beer glasses clinked, and you could almost forget that these men were prisoners until you realized that even though you could touch them across the table the gulf was immeasurable. We would leave that room and climb on a plane for home. They were hostages to peace negotiations that neither side was willing to conclude. A North Vietnamese official soon stood up and announced our plane was departing. The prisoners drained their glasses and were gone.



Released POW Air Force Major Edward Elias (left) and Navy Lt Mark Gartley (right) relax in a VIP room in Moscow airport en route back home to the United States following their release in Hanoi mid-September.

The journey back home with the freed pilots was, in a political sense, as perilous as the flights that had originally got them captured. Cora Weiss was aware that the U.S. Defense Department would lay claim to the released POWs as quickly as possible, but the peace delegation wanted to retain custody until their return to New York with maximum arrival publicity.

The evasive route home first passed through Beijing, and the Chinese made clear the group was not entirely welcome, placing everyone in a bus and driving to a modest hotel for an overnight stay. We were told not to leave our rooms, and guards were placed in the corridors to enforce the restriction. But to the delegation, Beijing was cool to Washington, distant from the Pentagon, and thus safe.

The next overnight stay was in Moscow where, Cora Weiss learned, a delegation of American Embassy officials would meet the plane and demand the pilots turn themselves over. The pilots heard from delegation member Richard Falk, an academic legal expert, that refusing a direct order to report to the US Embassy was not a military offense.

Arriving at Moscow we found crowds of journalists mobbing our aircraft. We all were able to gather in the airport's Scandinavian airline office where a US embassy official explained that he had been instructed to offer the soldiers a comfortable ride home on a US Air Force aircraft and it would be in their interests to take it. Olga Charles

looked towards her husband and clenched her teeth and slowly shook her head as though her husband might be tempted to accept the offer, but he stayed firm. The two other POWs also declined the invitation. Inside the little room the tensions began to melt away and Cora Weiss broke into a broad smile and exclaimed warmly, "I'm just so proud of you guys, you came through," and she shook hands all around.

We flew back to New York on an SAS aircraft, and a large crowd of welcomers had assembled to greet us. By this time, I was exhausted. I handed my story off to an AP reporter as I cleared immigration. As I made my way through the crowd, I felt a hand at my shoulder; a photographer was looking at me and then saw the New York press card around my neck. A colleague called to him, "He's not one of them, is he?" and the photographer responded. "Nah, he's one of the good guys. He's one of us," and I knew I was back home in New York.

Page 6 - SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER - Mon., Oct. 2, 1972

Covering Release of POW Pilots

How Hanoi Kept Tab on a U.S. Reporter

Special correspondent Peter Arnett returned to Hanoi, France, after covering 10 days in Hanoi covering the release of the three American prisoners of war. Here the Pulitzer Prize reporter discusses what it is like to work as a foreign correspondent in North Vietnam.

By Peter Arnett
AP Special Correspondent

The North Vietnamese officials I knew as Mr. Lieu saved me by a tab on the course of the Hoa Binh Hotel lobby. He was clucking in his hand the three copies of a news dispatch I had filed eight hours earlier.

Normally, Mr. Lieu had worn a broad smile and spoke only Vietnamese. Now he was grim-faced and spoke broken but identifiable English in short, staccato bursts.

"Mr. Arnett," he began, "you know you are perfectly free to write anything you wish about the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. However, in this message there are some references which disturb us greatly . . ."

And so began a hour-long tugging over yet another news dispatch from Hanoi, North Vietnam, during the 10 days I was there covering the release of three American pilots.

From the beginning of the visit, North Vietnamese officials made no secret of their

desire to get maximum publicity from the pilots' release. They had added the point emotional ingredient of bringing an American mother and an American wife to Hanoi to receive them.

Seek Impact

After the release ceremony and family reunion in People's Army headquarters on the second evening of our visit, the Vietnamese-Liaison officer between the families and the army said to me, "Do you think this event will have any real impact on American public opinion?"

As the week unfolded it was apparent to me that Hanoi was seeking impact on two levels. Firstly, the North Vietnamese wanted to show the American public that the nearly 400 prisoners were well treated, and that the release of all of them was tactically near — just end the war.

Secondly, the pilots and their families would be a vehicle to further dramatize bombing damage against urban centers, churches and civilians, and for this purpose they were taken along the route followed by Jane Fonda and Ramsey Clark.

It was this second aspect that Mr. Lieu wanted to discuss with me in the lobby of the Hoa Binh Hotel. He felt that my dispatch, a 1,500-word account of a two-day



PETER ARNETT
Watched closely

field trip by the pilots and their relatives south of Hanoi, put too much emphasis on the negative.

"You have suggested that we forced the pilots to make statements condemning the damage," he said. I had mentioned in the report the constant presence of government photographers and radio reporters, and the loaded questions from province officials and people who said they were civilian bombing victims, questions like, "What do you say about this destruction by your imperialistic government?"

Concerns

I finally agreed down his area of concern of two passages in my dispatch. In one I had written that local officials seemed to be pushing the questioning too far and were upsetting the American women, the other was a quote from Navy pilot Lt. Mark Garsley that he felt the North Vietnamese were disappointed when he did not publicly condemn the war.

I finally agreed to delete the reference to publish, one reason being that Mr. Lieu interpreted this literally as meaning forcing; another reason being that the content of the story made my comment irrelevant — the pushing was obvious. But I insisted that the Garsley quote remain.

supervision. I was accompanied by an interpreter at a table at all times, except after the fifth day in the city when I was allowed occasionally to walk alone a block or so in the cable office.

As the first American news service reporter to cover a running news story in North Vietnam since the French left in the mid-1950s, I knew I perceived and severely tested Vietnamese officials. They gathered around me in surprise when on arriving in Hanoi from Vietnamese Laos, I immediately pulled out my portable typewriter and wrote a rapid dispatch to hand to another newsmen lying out to the free world.

Not Unnoticed

With communications to the outside world limited to a few hours of transmissions daily in Paris and Hong Kong, my long dispatches tended to accumulate at the post office. A combination of discussion and cable problems delayed an interview either for three days. When I complained of these delays one of the interpreters who continually hovered around us commented, "Firstly, you send far too much. Secondly, this is an agricultural society not an industrial one so don't expect speed."

I discovered that my 10

years of covering the war from South Vietnam had no passed unnoticed in Hanoi. I was aware that Hanoi newspapers had for years carried selective stories of mine, particularly those critical of the Saigon government. Every official we met from previous visits to Prime Minister Pham Van Dong commented on my war reporting, by few asked my comments on the war.

And most officials seemed very surprised that I had left the South Vietnam battlefield only one week prior to arriving in Hanoi. Some junior officials presumed that because I was with the antiwar delegation I must be antiwar. However, the colleagues of the delegation, Cora Weiss and David DeLinger of the Committee for American Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, understood I was there to cover the story objectively just as I would an event in Saigon or the United States.

With Deliberation

My immediate news concerns in Hanoi was with the pilots and their families. I also accompanied the delegation of antiwar activists to on - the - record interviews with Premier Pham Van Dong, a senior newspaper editor, and seven U.S. pilots still held in the North.

Of wider interests to me was North Vietnam as the country that had defied the United States for years, and continued to wage violent war despite the most massive and persistent bombing campaigns in history. In this area strict security measures were enforced on me. I did not get the opportunity to visit or talk with any military personnel. Interviews with people living in the countryside were strictly supervised.

I was not permitted to photograph anything from inside a moving automobile, obviously because roadblocks were lined with trucks and ammunition and other supplies. Bridges, ferries and railway lines were also forbidden photo subjects, but they did let me snap a picture of Minnie Lee Garsley crouching on a railway track taking a photograph of a buffalo.

While I insisted on sending my news dispatches to the pilots, and the interviews through the Hanoi Post and Telegraph Office, I have saved my analytical and impressionistic reports until my return to the United States.

I decided I didn't have the patience to argue the finer points of a free press with Mr. Lieu, particularly in a dispatch such as this one that he might have taken personally.

'Ant Power' of North Viets Described

A New Search for the Abominable Snowman

—From Page 1 and very lucky PI photos interpret to see them." As we sped into the rising sun, Lieu's head twisted. Yet the North Vietnamese move out from the cities and use these back roads. Lasers

of track each night on the way south. But all those bombs raining on North Vietnam are destroyed, there have been so many victims," said Premier Dong. "I fear that a city will be

editor said. We presumed the supplies came down the highway from China to the north. I got the impression that as

BANGKOK — (UPI) — A group of young American scientists has set out on a 12-month expedition into the

ing for the Yeti and believe they are needed for a report that is its most likely habitat. McNulty is co-leader of

Connecting mailbox

Jimmy Buffett / Bob Graham



From left: Jimmy Buffett, Governor Bob Graham (candidate for Senate), former AP Ken Klein, press secretary Graham for Senate)



From Left: Jimmy Buffett, Ron Book, Steve Zack, Ken Klein, Bob Graham (then governor).

Ken Klein - Backstage @ Coconut Grove Playhouse, preparing for Buffett benefit concert (for 1986 Graham for Senate campaign).

We re-wrote Margaritaville to Miamiville.

Governor Graham and Buffett performed re-written versions of Margaritaville at:

- * Florida Press skits in Tallahassee (as noted by David Powell, Bill Kaczor)
- * Coconut Grove Playhouse (1986)
- * Florida State University homecoming after the 1986 Senate election (Graham defeated Senator Paula Hawkins)

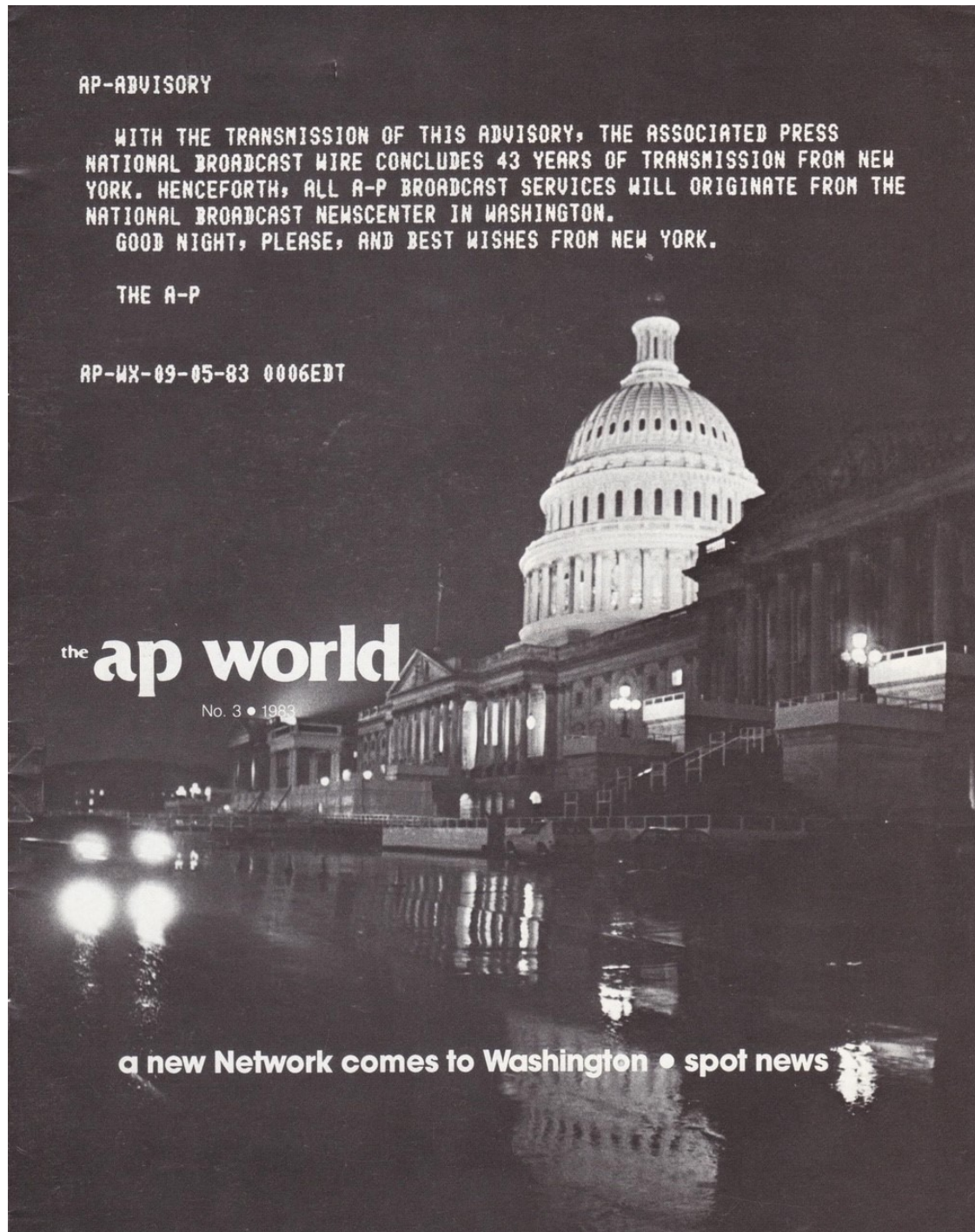
Who can identify this room in White House?



Bill Hendrick - it was my only time ever in the White House, for a news conference by President Ford on riots over court-ordered busing in Louisville. I can recall being gassed covering demonstrations, but have never remembered what room this is in the White House. The blue room? Where? I don't remember. I'm the dumb dude in

sunglasses front row w/tape recorder who forgot to take off my shades. A beer to anyone who can identify the room...

40 years ago – move of AP broadcast to Washington



[Lee Perryman](#) - Tuesday marked the 40th anniversary of the move of AP's broadcast wire and staff from New York City to Washington, D.C. This is the cover of AP World magazine, Issue 3, 1983, featuring the transition and consolidation with the AP Radio network.

On Anderson Cooper and dealing with loss

[Joe Galu](#) - Late in her life, Martha Graham debuted a ballet about a woman whose young child had died. She did not consider the dance to be complete and left the stage ordering her staff to block any would-be visitors. Another woman with controlled hysteria begged her way into Martha Graham and said that one of her children had died young and unexpectedly, but that she had a husband and other children to take care of and never allowed herself the time and space to grieve. But she said Martha Graham's dance had enabled her to grieve and thanked Graham passionately. Graham was gracious but relieved when she left. We all grieve differently.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Steve Paul](#)

[Doug Tucker](#)

[Glenn White](#)

Stories of interest

What is media criticism for? (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

Last week, Will Bunch, a columnist at the Philadelphia Inquirer, published a piece under the headline, "Journalism fails miserably at explaining what is really happening to America." He made the case that the US is facing a pivotal, dangerous moment—with the Republican Party in thrall to Donald Trump and veering toward fascism—and yet too many members of the media are covering the election through the prism of the horserace and other outdated norms of professional politics, with any deviation from these norms blamed not on Republican authoritarianism but on an amorphous "tribalism" plaguing both sides equally. "We need the media to see 2024 not as a

traditional election, but as an effort to mobilize a mass movement that would undo democracy," Bunch wrote. "We need to understand that if the next 15 months remain the worst-covered election in U.S. history, it might also be the last."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

UM journalism course looks to cut through the B.S.

(MissoulaCurrent)

Raequel Roberts

(UM News Service) Of the 1,681 courses taught this fall at the University of Montana, JRNL 102Y definitely grabs attention. Not so much for its catalog title, of course, but for its name: Calling Bullshit.

An online course, Calling Bullshit examines why it's so easy to spread misinformation and untruths and why it's so hard to combat it, while exploring what citizens can do to become better consumers and producers of factual information.

"The name is definitely provocative, but the class is not about the cussword," said course instructor Professor Lee Banville, director of UM's School of Journalism. "It's about Information literacy. People need to be both better sharers of information and better consumers of information."

Because the subject is indeed serious, Banville chose a more appropriately earnest title when he launched the course in 2021. News Literacy, however, generated about as much excitement from students as one might expect.

"We had about 20 students in the class because, let's face it, the title was boring," Banville said. "Calling it B.S., we had 40 students this summer and 102 are enrolled this fall."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

-0-

CBS News correspondent on covering natural disasters with empathy: 'Take a breath and remember to listen' (Journalism Institute, National Press Club)

By Bara Vaida, Director of Training

Journalists have covered one natural disaster after the other this summer — from deadly wildfires to destructive hurricanes. Climate change means these types of stories will happen more and more often, so how should reporters be thinking about their coverage?

CBS News correspondent Jonathan Vigliotti spoke with the Institute about how he brings empathy to his reporting, gains the trust of people in unfamiliar communities where he is working, and how he weaves climate change into his reporting.

What are your top three tips for covering a natural disaster like the Maui wildfires with empathy?

Vigliotti: Approach victims with care. Listen more, talk less. And forget the deadline.

When I'm launched on an assignment like the wildfire in Lahaina, the first thing I think about when I arrive in a community is, "This is someone's home."

Reporting with empathy begins with first respecting this visitor status, and then when someone decides to share their story, take a breath and remember to listen. And listening takes time. If there's a deadline looming, I'll wait until I'm done filing a report to start a conversation. I can't think of anything more hurtful to a survivor, and the heart of a story, than cutting someone off.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

-0-

SPJ congratulates photojournalists in historic settlement with NYPD (Editor and Publisher)

Press Release | Society of Professional Journalists

The Society of Professional Journalists congratulates five renowned photojournalists in partnership with the National Press Photographers Association for achieving a historic settlement with the New York City Police Department.

Today, the settlement resolved a federal lawsuit brought three years ago by Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, in partnership with NPPA and noted civil rights attorney Wylie Stecklow, on behalf of Amr Alfiky, Diana Zeyneb Alhindawi, Mel D. Cole, Jae Donnelly and Adam Gray who were assaulted and/or arrested in New York while covering the racial justice protests of 2020, following the death of George Floyd.

"This is a remarkable settlement for police versus press in New York City," said SPJ National President Claire Regan. "We congratulate our colleagues at NPPA for pursuing this noble cause with perseverance and success, and express hope that the message will reverberate across the country."

The settlement promises to transform police conduct and training while reinforcing the First Amendment protections accorded to both journalists and the public. The NYPD is now obligated to implement policies and training to ensure that members of the press are free from the threat of wrongful arrest and harassment. Additionally, for the first time ever, the NYPD formally acknowledges that the press has a clearly established First Amendment right to record police activity in public spaces.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

The Final Word

Where Did the QWERTY Keyboard Come From?

(Smithsonian.org)



Sholes and Glidden gussied up an early model with floral ornaments, in imitation of sewing machines. Alamy

Nick Yetto

History Correspondent

In 1866, Christopher Latham Sholes, a Wisconsin newspaper publisher and former state senator, co-invented an automated machine to number coupons and tickets—a task previously done by hand. When Sholes unveiled his device to a fellow inventor, Carlos Glidden, Glidden had an idea, exclaiming: “Why can’t you make a machine that will print letters as well as figures?” Sholes shared Glidden’s enthusiasm, as did S.W. Soule, a Milwaukee printer, so the three of them set up shop on State Street by the Milwaukee River and began work on what would become the world’s first commercially successful “Type Writer”—though Soule didn’t stick around for long.

Sholes and Glidden’s first prototype had a semi-sequential keyboard layout, with all letters uppercase and the capital “I” doing double duty as a “1”:

3 5 7 9 N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

2 4 6 8 . A B C D E F G H I J K L M

There's some dispute over how and why Sholes and Glidden arrived at the QWERTY layout. Some historians have argued that it solved a jamming problem by spacing out the most common letters in English; others, particularly more recent historians, hold that it was designed specifically to help telegraphists avoid common errors when transcribing Morse code. Regardless, after around 30 test models, Sholes and Glidden settled on QWERTY—and changed the world.

The Sholes and Glidden typewriter came to market in 1874, manufactured by E. Remington & Sons, which was then expanding its offerings after a lucrative spell manufacturing firearms for the Union. Sold as the "Remington No. 1," it became the first commercially successful typewriter and influenced nearly every subsequent successful design. Now, even non-publishers could exchange chicken-scratch penmanship and sloppy inkwells for precise, easy-to-read type, speeding business, legal, medical and personal communications.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes, Claude Erbsen.

Today in History - Sept. 7, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 7, the 250th day of 2023. There are 115 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 7, 1940, Nazi Germany began its eight-month blitz of Britain during World War II with the first air attack on London.

On this date:

In 1901, the Peace of Beijing ended the Boxer Rebellion in China.

In 1943, a fire at the Gulf Hotel, a rooming house in Houston, claimed 55 lives.

In 1968, feminists protested outside the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1977, the Panama Canal treaties, calling for the U.S. to eventually turn over control of the waterway to Panama, were signed in Washington by President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos.

In 1986, Bishop Desmond Tutu was installed as the first Black clergyman to lead the Anglican Church in southern Africa.

In 1996, rapper Tupac Shakur was shot and mortally wounded on the Las Vegas Strip; he died six days later.

In 2005, police and soldiers went house to house in New Orleans to try to coax the last stubborn holdouts into leaving the city shattered by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2007, Osama bin Laden appeared in a video for the first time in three years, telling Americans they should convert to Islam if they wanted the war in Iraq to end.

In 2008, troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were placed in government conservatorship.

In 2013, Tokyo was awarded the 2020 Summer Olympics, defeating Istanbul in the final round of secret voting by the International Olympic Committee.

In 2015, Hillary Clinton, interviewed by The Associated Press during a campaign swing through Iowa, said she did not need to apologize for using a private email account and server while at the State Department because "what I did was allowed."

In 2019, President Donald Trump said he had canceled a secret weekend meeting at Camp David with Taliban and Afghan leaders, just days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, after a bombing in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

In 2020, India's increasing coronavirus caseload made the Asian giant the world's second-worst-hit country behind the United States.

In 2022, Myles Sanderson, the 32-year-old suspect in stabbings that killed 11 people and injured 18 in Saskatchewan, Canada three days earlier, was arrested and died in a hospital after showing medical distress.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Sonny Rollins is 93. Singer Gloria Gaynor is 80. Singer Alfa Anderson (Chic) is 77. Actor Susan Blakely is 75. Rock musician Dennis Thompson (MC5) is 75. Actor Julie Kavner is 73. Rock singer Chrissie Hynde (The Pretenders) is 72. Rock musician Benmont Tench (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 70. Actor Corbin Bernsen is 69. Actor Michael Emerson is 69. Pianist Michael Feinstein is 67. Singer/songwriter Diane Warren is 67. Singer Margot Chapman is 66. Actor J. Smith-Cameron is 66. Actor W. Earl Brown is 60. Actor Toby Jones is 57. Actor-comedian Leslie Jones (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 56. Model-actor Angie Everhart is 54. Actor

Diane Farr is 54. Actor Monique Gabriela Curnen is 53. Actor Tom Everett Scott is 53. Rock musician Chad Sexton (311) is 53. Actor Shannon Elizabeth is 50. Actor Oliver Hudson is 47. Actor Devon Sawa (SAH'-wuh) is 45. Actor JD Pardo is 44. Actor Benjamin Hollingsworth (TV: "Code Black") is 39. Actor Alyssa Diaz (TV: "Ray Donovan"; "Zoo") is 38. Singer-musician Wes Willis (Rush of Fools) is 37. Actor Evan Rachel Wood is 36. Actor Ian Chen (TV: "Fresh Off the Boat") is 17.

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 Central Region 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.

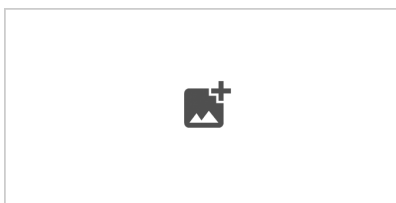
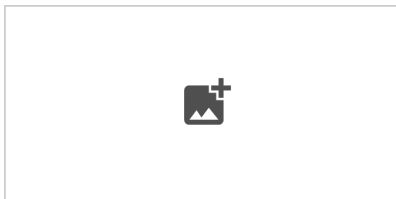
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **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](#)

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!