

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 21, 2013 10:01 AM
To: 'Paul and Linda Stevens'
Subject: CONNECTING: Holiday memories; AP Mobile; Images showcase; Week in Review; Obama resolution; Take this town and shove it; Ron Fournier; Black-owned stations; Bonuses; Good-bye; Viral; Mike Allen; Storyful; Measure impact; GSA; News metric

Colleagues,

Here are some more Christmas journalism memories shared with Connecting. Keep them coming.

John Kuglin: A long, long time ago I was working for Denver COB Joe McGowan Jr. as the AP's correspondent in windswept Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. Two days before Christmas -- it was 1978 -- I drove up into the wind-swept mountains west of Cheyenne, looking for a tree for the bureau. They were too scrawny, so I bought a large *Draecena* from a florist that looked remotely like a palm tree and we decorated it for the bureau. On Christmas day, no one had invited me to dinner. My girl friend Gale (later my wife), who taught journalism at a junior college in Powell, Wyo., 420 miles from Cheyenne, was snowbound. I went to a greasy spoon diner on the outskirts of Cheyenne and had a hot turkey sandwich with all the trimmings. That evening, having nothing else to do, I went to the bureau and spent a couple of hours putting together the monthly Wyoming AP Log -- which, as Joe probably remembers, had a big bucking horse and rodeo rider logo stolen from the state on its cover. It was snowing with practically no visibility when I exited the bureau and backed my Jeep into a large and expensive outdoor light pole that belonged to the bureau's landlord, the Wyoming Education Association. The pole crumpled to the ground and loose wires were sparking on the snow. I went back into the bureau and found the right circuit breaker to disable the outside light. Meanwhile, one of the neighbors had called the police and they were waiting for me when I came out of the bureau. "You been drinking, buddy," one of them said. "NO, I said, I've been working." "On Christmas Day?" "YES." They left! The light pole cost me \$320. In the spirit of the season, I didn't put this on my AP expense account.

Marc Wilson, CEO/President of TownNews, when he was a Denver AP newsman:

Marty was the world's longest surviving liver transplant patient. After many months in the hospital, he had hoped to go home for Christmas. My fiancée (now my wife, Ginny) and I went to visit him at Colorado General Hospital on the day before Christmas Eve 1974.

"They just told me, I can't go home for Christmas," he told us. "Too much danger of infection and rejection." Marty was 16, but he looked 9 or 10. We spent about an hour at his bedside chatting with him. We saw no other visitors.

He didn't talk about music, or proms, or girls, or cars. He talked about pain medicines, anti-rejection drugs, medicines that combated the side effects of other medicines. He talked about medicines he'd taken in the past, medicines he was currently taking, and medicines he might get to experiment with in the future. The story made the *A Wire* budget, and got wide play Christmas week. Marty got thousands of get-well cards. Dr. Thomas Starzl was his surgeon and doctor. Starzl had his own AP connections. His uncle, Frank, once was general manager of the AP. His father was publisher of a weekly newspaper in Iowa. One of his early kidney transplant patients was Burl Osborn, who held many high jobs in the AP, and who became AP's chairman.

But Starzl would not talk to me, or to any members of the media. He had been “burned” by the media – called a Frankenstein because so many of his liver transplant patients died soon after surgery. I was told later that Starzl liked my story on Marty and other stories I wrote about his liver transplant program. He finally agreed to an interview, and let me accompany him and his team to Grand Junction, Colo., to “snatch” organs from a brain-dead teen-aged girl, Candy. We became friends. Years later, when I was ACOB in Dallas, a tattered old man wandered into the bureau. He said he was expected for a job interview. I called him into my office, since I did most of the job interviews. “I don’t have you down on my schedule. What’s your name.”
“Starzl.”
“Any relation to Frank Starzel?”
“My uncle.”
“So that would make you a cousin to Thomas Starzl, the surgeon?”
“No, he’s my brother.”
Turns out the job interview was with the communications department. Starzl wanted the open job as the technician who traveled east Texas servicing AP teletype equipment. I called Dr. Starzl (then at the University of Pittsburgh), and told him a man claiming to be his brother was at the AP bureau applying for a job.
“How’s he look?” Dr. Starzl asked. “I haven’t seen him in years.”
“Frankly, he looks terrible.”
“He’s been on and off skid row for years.”
Tom asked me to try to help his brother get the job. (I tried but the COC wanted no part of a skid row bum.) I called Dr. Starzl back to tell him his brother had not gotten he job.
“Marc, you need to remember one thing: My brother is the smartest one in the family.”
I learned later that Dr. Starzl flew to Dallas later that year and had dinner with his brother on New Year’s Day. His brother died a few months later. Tom found out too late to attend the funeral.

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Several of you sending out holiday cards have asked for the current address of our former AP colleague
Howard Graves:

Howard Graves
Highgate Senior Living
1600 Petroglyph Pointe Drive
Unit 227
Prescott, AZ 86301

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Connecting colleague **Steve Elliott** notes that no trip to Hollywood would be complete without visiting the Hollywood star of Bob Thomas, AP's legendary Hollywood reporter. Attached is a picture of Steve and his 7-year-old son Adam at the star. And this link to the LA Times Star database on Bob's star: <http://projects.latimes.com/hollywood/star-walk/bob-thomas/>

Paul



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AP Mobile unveils new look and features for Android

<http://www.ap.org/Content/Press-Release/2013/AP-Mobile-unveils-new-look-and-features-for-Android>

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AP to showcase images of daily life worldwide at Tokyo gallery

<http://www.ap.org/Content/Press-Release/2013/AP-to-showcase-images-of-daily-life-worldwide-at-Tokyo-gallery>

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Nieman Week in Review: A judge deals the NSA a blow, and breaking down Patch's fatal flaws

<http://www.niemanlab.org/2013/12/this-week-in-review-a-judge-deals-the-nsa-a-blow-and-breaking-down-patches-fatal-flaws/>

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Obama: New Year's resolution 'to be nicer to the White House press corps'

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/media/2013/12/obama-new-years-resolution-to-be-nicer-to-the-white-180032.html>

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Take This Town and Shove It: A White House reporter's tale of sex, booze and the briefing room (Bob Daugherty)

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2013/12/this-town-sam-youngman-shove-it-101307.html?hp=f3>

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The political columnist you must read - Ron Fournier

http://theweek.com/article/index/254161/the-best-political-column-in-washington?fb_action_ids=634492923259417&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=%5B773337529350280%5D&action_type_map=%5B%22og.likes%22%5D&action_ref_map=%5B%5D

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Report: No black-owned and operated full-power TV stations remain in U.S.

<http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/mediawire/234534/report-no-black-owned-full-power-tv-stations-remain-in-u-s/>

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Family-owned newspaper surprises staff with bonuses (Mark Mittelstadt)

<http://jimromenesko.com/2013/12/20/merry-christmas-staffers-at-family-owned-newspaper-chain-get-1386-10-checks/>

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Editor tells readers good-bye in column as he leaves for ministry (Mittelstadt)

http://m.dothaneagle.com/news/article_3bddddd-6917-11e3-a5b4-0019bb30f31a.html?mode=jqm

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The veracity of viral: the tension between traditional reporting, online reporting, content people want

<http://www.niemanlab.org/2013/12/the-veracity-of-viral/>

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Politico's Mike Allen avoids addressing questions about advertisers

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/erik-wemple/wp/2013/12/20/politicos-mike-allen-avoids-addressing-questions-about-advertisers/>

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News Corp acquires social news agency Storyful

<http://www.nextlevelofnews.com/2013/12/news-corp-acquires-social-news-agency-storyful.html>

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Eye on results: Publishers rethink how to measure impact

<http://www.knightfoundation.org/blogs/knightblog/2013/12/19/eye-results-publishers-rethink-how-measure-impact/>

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FOIA Santa comes early; Sunlight Foundation gains large batch of records from GSA

<http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/12/19/foia-santa-comes-early-to-sunlight/>

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Tomorrow's metric for news is action

<http://www.niemanlab.org/2013/12/tomorrows-metric-for-news-is-action/>