

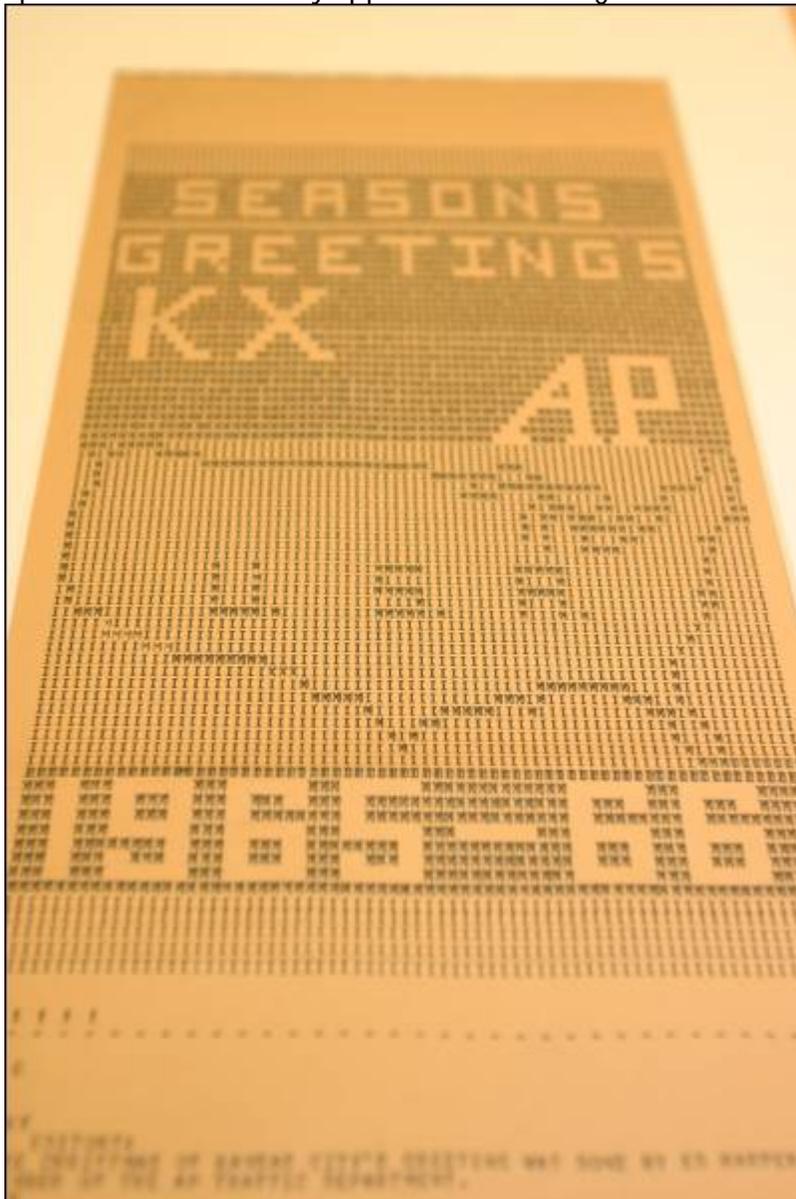
## Green, Scott

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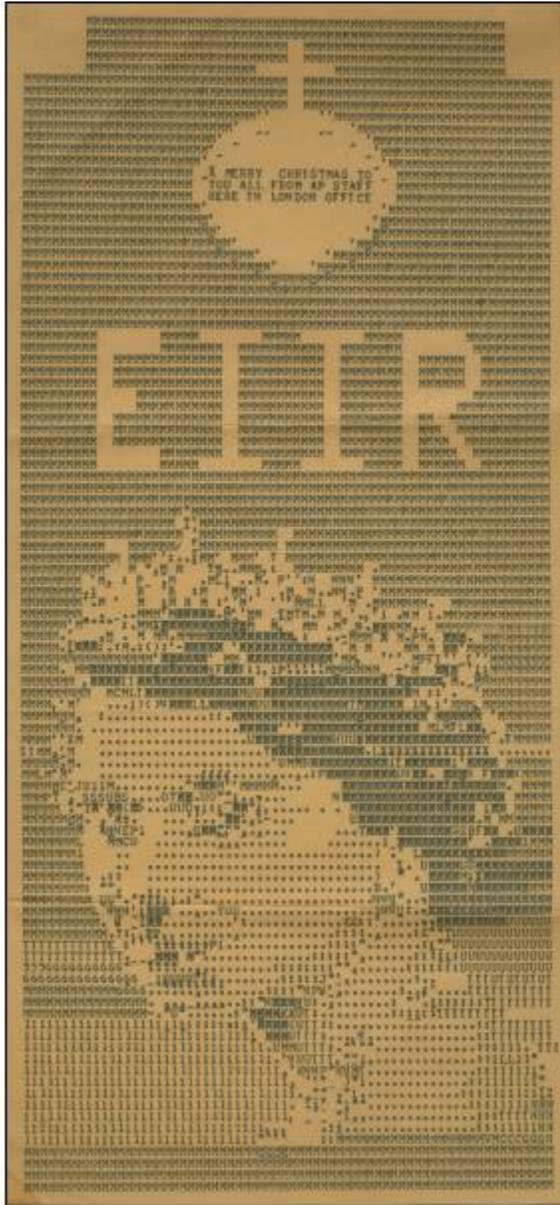
**From:** Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 24, 2013 8:00 AM  
**To:** 'Paul and Linda Stevens'  
**Subject:** CONNECTING: Teletype Christmas greetings; Earthrise; Vietnam book; Suderman hired; Snowden; Iraq risks; Vatican journalist; Native advertising; Moore honored; Apology of day

Colleagues,

For those of us "long of tooth" enough to recall working in a newsroom on Christmas eve, the attached Teletype art brings back memories of the wonderful Teletype artwork that came through the wires in the late night and wee hours of Christmas morning while the rest of the world slept. I had not worked a Christmas Eve overnight until my first AP job in Albany and when the first artwork came across, I called for our overnight tech to come check the printer for what initially appeared to be bad garble. Then I looked a bit closer...



Thanks to **Valerie Komor** of Corporate Archives for sharing with Connecting two examples of AP's Christmas Teletype Art collection, most of which were donations from **Ralph Pelletiere**. These examples were created in the Kansas City and London AP bureaus. (I asked Valerie the meaning of EIRR on the London artwork. "Elizabeth Regina II" was her reply. Regina is Latin for Queen, and EIRR is Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Cypher. Now you know!



A bit more history:

***Set Your Printers to Single Space:  
Holiday Teletype Greetings, A Vanished AP Tradition***

*From the late 1940s through the 1970s, Christmas Eve was one of the busiest times of the year for the countless teletype machines located in AP bureaus and member offices around the world. However, the incessant activity of the teletype machine was not due to breaking news, but rather to the holiday greetings that numerous bureaus would send out each year. This exhibit showcases a number of teletype greetings in the collections of the Corporate Archives.*

*Rudimentary teletype greetings composed of simple patterns such as Christmas trees were sent out on the wires as far back as the 1920s. The more intricate greetings that are on display here began to circulate on AP's wires in 1947 when Meyer Hill, an AP teletype operator in Baltimore, sent out a teletype greeting of a Madonna and Child that caused a sensation. Hill's teletype art was based upon the design of a relay teletype operator who worked for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. This man, Joseph Newman, had been inspired, in turn, by a crochet pattern he noticed in a newspaper.*

*These festive images were the creations of teletype operators who would punch out their designs on teletype tape in advance of December 24<sup>th</sup>. On Christmas Eve or during the days leading up to Christmas, the perforated tape would be transmitted around the globe. Operators spent large number of hours of their free time plotting out these complex images on graph or teletype paper. The punching of the tape was also very time consuming and could take up to six hours. A teletype greeting 30 inches long required about 325 feet of punched tape. The fruits of these labors were enjoyed by staffers in far-flung bureaus and were often reprinted on the front pages of newspapers and in AP World. The custom of teletype greetings lasted until the advent of CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) editing terminals in the mid-1970s that gradually led to the end of the teletype era and of teletype operators. Even after the advent of CRT monitors, some teletype designs that had been punched out on tape were read into the electronic system and retransmitted.*

*Transmission of teletype greetings waited until the flow of news slowed to a trickle. Usually by 10 PM on Christmas Eve, the domestic wires, cable between New York and London, and radio-teletype between Tokyo and New York were busy broadcasting holiday greetings. Occasionally, the sending of teletype art would be broken off if a news story had to be transmitted. While several hundred if not thousands of these greetings*

were created in their heyday, only a few original have survived. Hopefully the teletype art on display will summon up a time when teletypes out renderings of winter scenes, the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben, and Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper."

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**From the Connecting mailbox:**

**Peggy Walsh:** "Dear Paul: There's an item I'd like to see in Connecting - a BIG thanks to you for your work and kindness in "connecting" those of us who have lost touch with old (and I mean that in the nicest sense) colleagues. You're a special son, husband, father and friend."

Thanks for this, Peggy, and thanks to all of you who have contributed to Connecting over the past year. Especially my friend, fellow (Fort) Dodge (Iowa) Boy and wing man, **Mark Mittelstadt**, who produces Connecting during my absence and is a regular contributor.

**Jim Lagier**, writing on Facebook while last night watching Monday Night Football: "I am watching the last game at Candlestick Park with the 49ers. I will never forget the World Series of 1989 at Candlestick and the earthquake with **Peggy Walsh** as San Francisco bureau chief. The lights went out in the bureau . She was told by New York to put a flashlight in her teeth ..let her tell the story on this historical night in San Francisco."

Peggy adds: Just talking about this. I'd been watching the game. We had no lights, no computers, only phones and I was on the phone with New York trying to tell me how to fiddle with the electrical box so that I could do some kind of bypass. I had a flashlight in my mouth and a screwdriver in my hand poking in the electrical box. When I laughingly (?) asked what I should do if the lights came back on, the voice said, "Drop the screwdriver." One of many good stories from that night.

Another loyal Connecting contributor, **Bob Daugherty**, caps off this Christmas Eve edition by sharing stunning NASA footage of the first "Earthrise."

[http://socialreader.com/?chid=41419&utm\\_content=win20131222-1919&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=toppicks&utm\\_campaign=cl20131222&email=robertd127%40gmail.com#me/content/Lv4Pf](http://socialreader.com/?chid=41419&utm_content=win20131222-1919&utm_medium=email&utm_source=toppicks&utm_campaign=cl20131222&email=robertd127%40gmail.com#me/content/Lv4Pf)

Paul

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**Slideshows, videos & stories: 'Vietnam: The Real War,' a photo history by AP** (Paul Colford)

[http://storify.com/AP\\_CorpComm/ap-journalism-and-photojournalism-on-display](http://storify.com/AP_CorpComm/ap-journalism-and-photojournalism-on-display)

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**AP hires Alan Suderman as Virginia statehouse reporter**

<http://www.ap.org/Content/AP-In-The-News/2013/AP-hires-Alan-Suderman-as-Va-Statehouse-Reporter>

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### **Edward Snowden, after months of NSA revelations, says his mission's accomplished**

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/edward-snowden-after-months-of-nsa-revelations-says-his-missions-accomplished/2013/12/23/49fc36de-6c1c-11e3-a523-fe73f0ff6b8d\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/edward-snowden-after-months-of-nsa-revelations-says-his-missions-accomplished/2013/12/23/49fc36de-6c1c-11e3-a523-fe73f0ff6b8d_story.html)

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### **As Violence Rises, Journalists in Iraq Face Renewed Risks**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/24/world/middleeast/as-violence-rises-iraqi-journalists-face-renewed-risks.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/24/world/middleeast/as-violence-rises-iraqi-journalists-face-renewed-risks.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

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### **Vatican journalist with front pew view of momentous year for papacy**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/22/vatican-correspondent-papacy-pope-benedict-francis-giovanna-chirri>

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### **How Native Advertising Will Change in 2014**

<http://www.adweek.com/news/advertising-branding/how-native-advertising-will-change-2014-154589>

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### **El Paso Times Editor Robert Moore Honored By National Press Foundation**

<http://www.digitalfirstmedia.com/el-paso-times-editor-robert-moore-honored-national-press-foundation/>

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### **Apology of the Day: The foreign minister is \*not\* on trial at Gitmo (Bob Daugherty)**

<http://jimromenesko.com/2013/12/23/apology-of-the-day-the-foreign-minister-is-not-at-gitmo/>