

Green, Scott

From: Paul and Linda Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2013 9:46 AM
To: 'Paul and Linda Stevens'
Subject: CONNECTING: Christmas stories; Covering Jesus' birth; Year in media; Silence of surrender; Biggest media screw-ups; Butting heads; China test; Sharing front pages; Layout disasters

Colleagues,

Christmas is one day past, but Christmas memories continue:

Hal Buell: Here is a Christmas story from way, way back....and from where the Christmas story began.

In 1964 Pope Paul VI planned to visit the Holy Land, first Pontiff in centuries to leave Italy, hence a big story. The Holy Land and its key sites in Israel and Jordan spread over two countries that were still legally at war though hostilities had ceased. Jerusalem was a divided city, split by the line where combat had ceased. A reasonably good center fielder could pitch a baseball from our hotel in Jordanian Jerusalem to our hotel workroom in Israeli Jerusalem, but it took two days to get there via Cyprus and Beirut. That complicated the situation to the point where an AP crew had to go to the area before Christmas '63 to prepare for coverage that would begin Jan. 4 '64

Len Sealey, communications boss for Europe and the Middle East, were part of that advance team. On Christmas Eve, just 50 years ago today, we decided to attend Midnight Mass in Bethlehem.

Our driver navigated the hills and the Bible literally came alive. The moon was bright and lit the rolling landscape. The sky was white with stars. Shepherds tended their flocks in the crisp cold of the late evening. Our car's engine was the only interruption of the night's silence, the only challenge to a Christmas card experience for first time viewers Sealey and Buell.

During the ride the images never faltered until the driver finally announced that Bethlehem was just around the next turn.

Sure enough, from the gentle curve of our hillside roadway we looked down on the town. The Biblical atmosphere quickly became the 20th Century.

Central Bethlehem was jammed with tourist buses. A giant neon star dominated the scene from its anchored position atop a large building. It trailed streaks of neon tubing that bore the English language legend, Bethlehem Bar and Grill. Minutes later we made our way to the site where Christ is said to have been born. During the Mass three security guards worked over a man they said was a pick pocket.

We did not stay for the full Mass, but left early to join our driver for the ride back to Jerusalem. We wanted to beat the tourist buses that would clog the highway and erase the only memory we had of a timeless landscape.



Ferd Kaufman: The earth rise photo (Saturday's Connecting) reminded me that I was at the (astronaut Jim) Lovell's house when Santa Claus brought the mink stole from the "man in the moon." Photo to prove it moved that night. My wife and three children were with me down at NASA and witnessed Santa Claus delivering the package. We all heard Frank Borman read from the Bible on the creation. It was very meaningful to all of us at the time. Also the Lovell's are about the only couple still married. They have celebrated their 61 years together. Merry Christmas from Texas.

(The attached Dec. 24, 1968, photo by Ferd shows a reluctant Jeffery Lovell, 3, center, not the least bit impressed by a visit from Santa Claus despite the efforts of his mother, Mrs. Marilyn Lovell, at the home of the astronaut's family home near the Manned Space Craft Center in Houston. In the background is another of the Lovell children, Susan 10. The visit by Santa was part of the Christmas Eve celebration at the Lovell's while Apollo continued on its orbit of the moon.)

Ron Harrist: I can still remember sitting ALONE in the Jackson bureau as the clattering teletype punched out endless x's, o's and assorted To create Santa and steady stream of reindeer. I saved a printout until the ink faded away.

Dennis Gale: When the end-of-the-year holidays roll around, I always think of the old message wire at my AP outpost in Sioux Falls. From far and wide, journalist-artists far more creative and talented than me would turn teletype characters into Christmas and New Year works of art. The contributions flowed in from everywhere on those lonely Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve desk tricks. Fond memories.



Brian Horton had the Christmas spirit, as the attached photo shows, with his wife Marilyn Dillon at their home on Long Beach Island on the Jersey shore. Brian said they recently finished rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy. "A year ago, you would have seen the start of the gutting of the house after we had more than four feet of water in the first floor of the house. Being back is the best Christmas present we could ever ask for."



Welcome to our newest Connecting member - **Paul Shane**. Many of us recall that Paul led the training of bureau chiefs on their very first desktop computer, the Leading Edge. Paul retired in 2002 after spending 38 years with the AP in Milwaukee, Philadelphia and New York, and lives in Sun City Hilton Head where he's enjoying retirement with his wife Karen. Paul's still "with it" with computers – the attached photo of Karen and him was taken with a smartphone clamped to the cart's windshield and triggered by remote control, and he says he keeps busy repairing computers that make him enough money to be well supplied with toys and golf.

Paul

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How the Media Would Have Covered the Birth of Jesus

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2013/12/media-coverage-birth-jesus-christmas.html>

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The Year in Media: Time expires on CBS's '60 Minutes'; can news be saved? (Latrice Davis)

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/12/24/the-year-in-mediatictimeexpireson60minutescannewsbesaved.html>

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The Silence of Surrender: Erdogan's War on Independent Media (Marcus Eliason)

<http://worldaffairsjournal.org/article/silence-surrender-erdogan%E2%80%99s-war-independent-media>

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Biggest Media Screw-Ups of 2013 (John Bolt)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/24/media-screw-ups-2013-gaffes-corrections_n_4461837.html

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White House's Jay Carney and ABC News' Jon Karl butt heads in press room

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/style/white-houses-jay-carney-and-abc-news-jon-karl-butt-heads-in-press-room/2013/12/22/16ab4f1c-69b1-11e3-8b5ba77187b716a3_story.html

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Are You Qualified to Be a Journalist in China? Take the Test

http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/12/23/are-you-qualified-to-be-a-journalist-in-china-take-the-test/?_r=0

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As fewer people read newspapers, more share their front pages (Davis)

http://www.poynter.org/latest-news/top-stories/234395/as-fewer-people-read-newspapers-more-share-their-front-pages/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

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28 Newspaper And Magazine Layout Disasters

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/lukelewis/newspaper-and-magazine-layout-disasters>