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Connecting

February 12, 2014



Colleagues,

Yesterday's item on a radio journalist's wild times with the Beatles when they landed on U.S. soil 50 years ago brought this delightful recollection from retired Denver Chief of Bureau **Joe McGowan**:

The piece about the Beatles at 50 reminded me of my experience in India with the Beatles. They had been in Manila to give a concert on July 5, 1966. Somehow Imelda Marcos thought they were going to come to the presidential palace and give a private performance for her and her lady friends. When the Beatles did not show up, someone from Imelda's office called the Beatles at their hotel and asked when they were coming. The Beatles said in no uncertain terms that nothing like that had been arranged and they were resting for their performance that night. Word got out that the Beatles had snubbed Mrs. Marcos and the Beatles were told to leave the Philippines. They had huge amounts of suitcases, musical apparatus and the like. No one in the hotel would help them get the stuff down to the street where they had hired a truck. The Beatles had to load



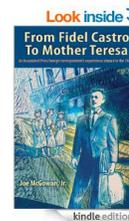
The Beatles return to London from New Delhi after their 1966 tour of Germany, Japan and the Philippines.

everything themselves.

I was COB in New Delhi and I got a cable from 50 Rock that the Beatles had decided to fly to India to meditate at the Ashram of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. So, the night of July 6 I was at New Delhi's Palam international airport. The Beatles arrived to screams from hundreds of young Indian girls. They quickly got into limousines and headed to the Oberoi Intercontinental Hotel without a word to the news media.

I called AP in New York and dictated the following lead: "The Beatles, fresh from a Hard Day's Night in the Philippines, arrived in India tonight to spend a few days meditating." I thought it was a great lead. But it never saw the light of day. Some grunt in New York rewrote it to a commonplace lead about the Beatles arriving amid screaming Indian girls.

The next morning I was camped outside the Oberoi with all the rest of the news media. At one point the AP office driver pushed through the crowd to my side and whispered that he had learned the Beatles would be exiting through a ramp from the underground parking area. We slipped slowly away from the media crowd, got in the AP car, and sure enough, an aging Cadillac limo rushed up the ramp and down the street. We gave chase, violating all known speed rules. Finally we were out in a rural area on a hot dusty road. The temp was well over 100 degrees. The Beatles' limo stopped and Paul McCartney and George Harrison got out and shouted at me to leave them alone. I told them they were big news because of the Manila problem and I was just doing my job. I said if they would give me an interview, I would leave them alone.



Retired AP Chief of Bureau Joe McGowan recalls his experiences as a foreign correspondent in the 1960s

So McCartney explained the entire episode, apologizing to Mrs. Marcos and saying they just wanted to rest a few days and do some meditating. I had my story and had it exclusively.

This episode is recounted in my book [From Fidel Castro to Mother Teresa](#)

Connecting welcomes three new members

Dudley, our canine mascot, welcomes newest Connecting member [Richard Saltus](#), AP Atlanta 1970-72, Los Angeles 1972-78, now senior science writer/editor in the department of communications at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston.



The Connecting mailbox is open...

Paul Stevens is off for a couple weeks. Send tips,

story links, photos, ideas to apconnecting@yahoo.com.

Stories of interest...

AP intercepts Greenwald's "The Intercept" on Day One with drone scoop

Santiago Lyon: Castro's son "not happy" about photo alterations

AP: The talk of the town no one seemed to want to talk about

Foody joins AP's Atlanta bureau

Survey: U.S. press freedom tumbles under Obama to 46th in world, behind Romania

(shared by Doug Tucker)

How NJ's largest paper did U-turn on Chris Christie (shared by Bob Daugherty)

Challenge for new journalism models: replacing the civic benefits of the newspaper

Getting bullish on the future of journalism in the public interest

Sirota: old media outlets "collude" with politicians to block startups

New York Times' photo composite illustrates Olympian's winning halfpipe run

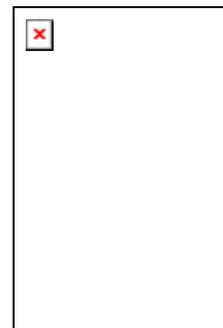
Ex-CIA analyst: Snowden could have blood on his hands

New York conference to examine divide between media, government over national security

Tom Brokaw being treated for multiple myeloma

Carl Bernstein joins CNN

Vatican journalist recalls "panic" at getting big scoop -- Benedict XVI's resignation



After military, next biggest user of drones could be journalists

Will Google Glass change journalism?

IRE study: investigative reporters see work mostly symbolic, little impact on policy

Who creates those silly, salacious stories "recommended" at news sites?

Dow Jones, union differ on obligation to report for work in bad weather

IndyStar staffers read your mean comments (Daugherty)

For journalism students in Sochi, covering Olympics is "(expletive) epic"

Daily Texan "pro-abortion" headline stirs reader anger

University of Wisconsin offers new award for journalism ethics

Florida International J-School seeks "innovator in residence"

Mizzou J-School to open "documentary journalism" program

Bloomberg commits \$10 million to Pan-African journalism

Are publishers overselling social traffic at the expense of search?

Four headlines that will restore your flagging faith in the future of journalism

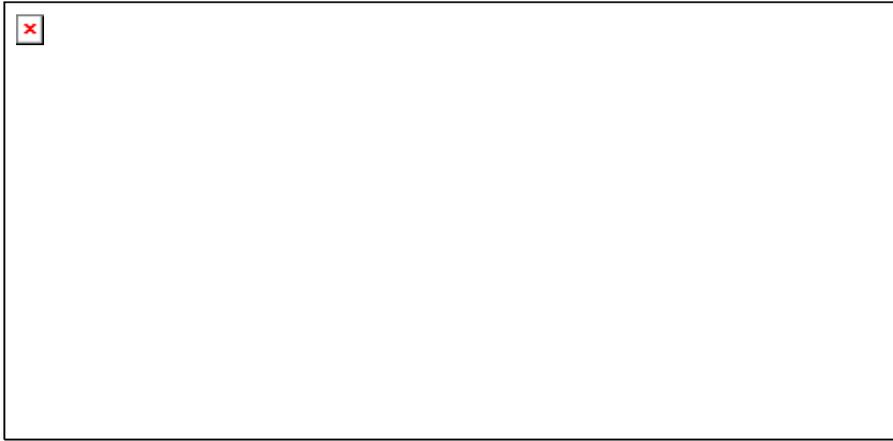
Clint Cooper named editorial page editor of Chattanooga Free Press

Journalist kidnapped in Veracruz found dead

Former journalist Postelnicu missing off Florida coast after plane he was piloting disappears

Star Tribune gets headline of the day honors

(Daugherty)



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