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**From:** stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 12:40 PM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** CONNECTING - March 11, 2014

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# Connecting

March 11, 2014



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## A special 50 Rock moment



The remembrance in Monday's Connecting by **Mark Mittelstadt** of AP's former headquarters building at 50 Rockefeller Plaza in New York evoked many memories from his Connecting colleagues, but perhaps none quite so

poignant as the day in December 1991 when **Terry Anderson** returned home after six years, nine months of captivity and was greeted by his AP family. In the photo above, taken by **Richard Harbus**, Terry gets a big hug from deputy AP International editor **Nick Tatro**.

**Sibby Christensen** wrote to say, "One of the great moments at 50 Rock had to be when Terry Anderson, just released from seven years as a hostage in Lebanon, arrived at the building by motorcade, complete with sirens and motorcycle police escorts. Wearing two-inch campaign buttons featuring Terry's photo, dozens of us were waiting out front to welcome him home."

**Lou Boccardi**, AP's president and general manager at that time, provides these memories:

"We had just driven into midtown from Kennedy Airport along highways closed to other traffic. (The rolling police closings continued even as we moved along Manhattan streets to 50 Rock). When we got there, we found a tumultuous scene....AP staff out front, in the lobby and onlookers at windows in buildings all around the plaza, cheering as our car pulled to a stop. There had been a brief welcoming ceremony at the airport, including brief remarks by then Mayor David Dinkins and me. Then off to the office. The fourth floor newsroom erupted when Terry strode on to it.

"As we rode in the limo along the Van Wyck Expressway from the airport into the city, Terry turned to me at one point and expressed surprise at how few cars he was seeing. "Terry, they've closed the highway for you," I explained. Later, when the welcome at 50 Rock was over, we took him, Madeleine and daughter Sulome, then 6, down into the bowels of the building where a car awaited to take the family to a reunion at the Long Island hotel where we had arranged for them to stay.

"Unforgettable moments for me, Larry Heinzerling, Jim Donna, the late Carolyn Wellward Turolla, Don Mell, the Ludingtons from Nicosia and so, so many others within AP. I can't name them all but they meant so much to the effort."

**See further remembrances of 50 Rock below.**

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### **Dick Pettys honored by Georgia Senate**

An AP statehouse reporter was honored in Atlanta on Monday, and AP writer **Kate Brumback** filed this story for the wire:

ATLANTA (AP) -- The Georgia state Senate on Monday honored a former Associated Press reporter who covered politics for decades with a portrait

that will be hung outside the Capitol press offices.

**Dick Pettys** died in October 2012 at age 66. The portrait painted by Dick Yarbrough, a political columnist, was unveiled in the Senate chamber. The Senate press gallery is also to be named after Pettys.

Pettys' wife, Stephanie, and other family members were on hand and one his three sons said the portrait perfectly conveyed a familiar expression in his father's eyes.

"The portrait also captures what a good and kind soul my father was," Beaux Pettys said. "He could ask you the tough questions and you knew there was no personal, partisan or ulterior motive."



An insider with a reputation for evenhanded reporting, Pettys had the ear of everyone from governors and House speakers to low-level clerks and was respected by Democrats and Republicans alike. To the statehouse press corps, Pettys became known as "the dean," who over the course of 35 years developed a vast institutional memory and mentored countless political reporters.

Sen. Steve Thompson, D-Marietta, said he was among the many politicians who knew they would be treated fairly by Pettys, even if they didn't always like or agree with what he wrote.

"I truly loved him as a good friend," Thompson said. "You could always count on a fair shake."

Pettys began working for the AP at the Capitol in 1970, covering the waning days of the administration of Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox, the state's last segregationist governor.

When Jimmy Carter ran for the White House in 1976, the AP assigned Pettys to travel with his campaign. His news stories helped introduce Americans to the peanut farmer who would become president. Decades later, in November 2002, Pettys was breaking the news that Georgians had elected Sonny Perdue their first Republican governor since Reconstruction.

Pettys retired from AP in 2005, but spent several more years writing on Georgia politics for the website InsiderAdvantage Georgia.

## **AP IN THE NEWS:**

### **RTDNF to honor The Associated Press**

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### **AP reveals tales of torture in China**

Beijing-based AP reporter **Gillian Wong** was interviewed Sunday evening:

On BBC World Service's "Newshour" (starting at 23:25 in podcast) Click [here](#)  
And on NPR's weekend "All Things Considered". Click [here](#)

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### **SXSW: Instagramming the News**

(Thanks to shares by Paul Colford)

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### **Connecting mailbox - 50 Rock**

Here are more responses to the profile Monday of AP's former headquarters at 50 Rockefeller Plaza:

**Ted Anthony:** Speaking of 50 Rock, Melissa and I got engaged just outside there after getting to know each other at the Nagano Olympics. She was working in Sports at the time, and I was a national writer. I took her out of the AP offices under some vague pretense of pizza or frozen yogurt, sat her on the ledge overlooking the ice rink/restaurant and started to pull out the ring. A Rock Center security guard came up and said, "Hey! She can't sit up there." I turned around, flashed him the ring and said, "Can you just give us a moment?" He didn't smile. But he said, "Two minutes." By then she had said yes. We have great memories of working together at 50 Rock before we moved to China in July 2001.

**George Bria:** My 50 Rock story: the Christmas tree lighting was a big thing, but if you were manning the slot on the cable desk, known as the hot corner, you got up to look out the window at your peril. After I retired, I got a Christmas card featuring the lighted tree and this message from the late Jim Watson, then manning the slot: "Hey, George, here's what it looks like."

**Dave Tomlin:** Just to clarify and correct a minor point in Mark Mittelstadt's excellent 10 year reminiscence on 50 Rock, it wasn't thick walls and ceilings that prompted the search for new space. It was the rent, which was threatening to nearly double at a time when we badly needed to reduce fixed

expense. There were plenty of other sound reasons why 50 Rock was no longer right for AP. LDB and others in the high command at that time would have to speak for themselves. But my sense was that if the rent could have been held steady or reduced, we'd have palliated or tolerated the other problems.

Some of the biggest were that our digital and television operations were isolated off campus at a time when "convergence" was a powerful buzzword, 50 Rock floor plates were far too small and oddly shaped for efficient design of the open newsroom plan we wanted, there wasn't enough space or electrical power available in 50 Rock even for the operations already located there, and it would have been worse than moving to try to reconfigure 50 Rock as a modern news facility while we still occupied it. (Every department would have had to move twice.)

Jim Kennedy and I were taken by our broker to see 450 W. 33rd quite early in the space hunt. I remember asking the broker as we approached it why we were going in. "We're not ever moving into this ugly place," I said. He told me to wait and see, it was part of my "education."

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**And these photos from AP New York**, which show the assembly of the Noguchi artwork, Teletype in the front window, AP motorcycle messengers and the AP cafeteria.







### **More in the Connecting Mailbox**

[Bill Kaczor](#), new Connecting member: I joined the AP in February 1980 at Tallahassee, where I previously had been with Gannett News Service. I retired there 33 years later. I also was correspondent in Pensacola from 1984 through 2005 when I returned to Tallahassee. My Pensacola coverage included anti-abortion violence - the Christmas Day 1984 bombings of three clinics and later the murders of two doctors and a clinic escort - as well as a heavy focus on the Navy and Air Force bases in the Florida Panhandle, hurricanes and human interest features. (The military coverage included unforgettable rides in a Blue Angels F/A-18 and an Air Force F-15). For most of my years in Pensacola I returned to Tallahassee for legislative sessions as well as the 2000 presidential election recount. While based in Tallahassee I covered some college sports including bowl games in Miami, New Orleans and Tempe, Ariz., as well as the full range of state government activity with a focus on budgets, education, courts, utility regulation and the environment. I covered congressional elections statewide both in Pensacola and Tallahassee. AP also sent me to Miami at times for riot, election and hurricane coverage, Tampa for the Sunshine Skyway Bridge collapse, San Francisco for the Democratic National Convention and Louisiana for more hurricanes. In retirement, I'm back in Gulf Breeze, Fla., just outside Pensacola. My wife, Judy, teaches and advises the yearbook at Pensacola Catholic High School. I give her and the school a hand by taking sports photos. Prior to Gannett I worked for the Pensacola News Journal and Playground Daily News (now Northwest Florida Daily News) in Florida and the Mattoon Journal Gazette and Coles County Daily Times (now merged) in Illinois. I grew up mostly in Chicago, graduated from Eastern Illinois University, where I was editor of the school paper, and I

have a master's from Northwestern University. I also spent nearly four years in the Air Force as a flight simulator specialist.

[Giovanna Dell'Orto](#), also new to Connecting, on her AP and academic career: My AP assignments: Started in June 1999 in Minneapolis as newswoman, the summer in the middle of my Master's studies; stayed in Minneapolis through June 2000, when went to Rome (Italy) as an intern and got on as local; in April 2001 went to Phoenix as newswoman (mostly covering immigration/border) and stayed until Sept. 2001 (I quit to go back to pursue a Ph.D. in Minnesota -- three days before 9/11). In September of 2005, I went to Atlanta as newswoman, became immigration beat reporter and did quite a few shifts on the desks, including toward the end day supervisor. Left in September 2007 for family reasons (to go back home to Minneapolis. I am now assistant professor of journalism at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, and affiliated faculty to the Center for German and European Studies, at the University of Minnesota, where I received my Ph.D. in mass communication in 2004, with additional graduate studies in international affairs at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna Center. My research and teaching interests focus on the role of the news media, mediated discourses and national identity in international relations. I am the author of four books on journalism and international affairs: *American Journalism and International Relations: Foreign Correspondence from the Early Republic to the Digital Era* (Cambridge University Press, 2013 -- on the cover is **George Bria** at work in the Rome bureau in 1946); *Reporting at the Southern Borders: Journalism and Public Debates on Immigration in the US and EU*. (Routledge, 2013 co-edited with Vicki Birchfield); *The Hidden Power of the American Dream: Why Europe's Shaken Confidence in the United States Threatens the Future of U.S. Influence* (Praeger, 2008) and *Giving Meanings to the World: The First U.S. Foreign Correspondents, 1838-1859* (Greenwood, 2002). She is also the co-author of a book on press freedom, *Hated Ideas and the American Civil War Press* (with Hazel Dicken-Garcia; 2007). I am traveling on my next book, an oral history of The AP's foreign correspondents.

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**Valerie Komor:** **Larry Heinzerling** dropped by the Archives Monday morning bearing two folio-size albums of clippings and photographs, assembled by his father **Lynn Heinzerling** (1906-83). More albums will follow and together, they will document Heinzerling's long career.

A native of Birmingham, Ohio, Lynn Heinzerling wrote for the Cleveland Plain Dealer from 1928 to 1933, when he joined the AP in Cleveland. Five years later, he entered the foreign service at Berlin and was there when the war broke out. He helped cover the German invasions and after the U.S. entered the war, he accompanied British and American forces in Italy. **George Bria** and **Ed Kennedy** were his colleagues, among many others. He also served in Copenhagen, Madrid, Lisbon, London, Cairo, Rome, Vienna and Paris. In 1948, he was named Geneva chief of bureau and in 1957 transferred to Johannesburg as chief of bureau.



He received the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 for his coverage of the Congo crisis; **Horst Faas** was shooting pictures there at that time. In 1963, Heinzerling returned to Ohio as chief of the AP's Columbus bureau, subsequently serving as chief of Africa operations until his retirement in 1971.

The Corporate Archives is exceedingly grateful for Larry's valuable donation. Among other things, we already anticipate that Lynn's stories on the rise of the Berlin Wall will make their way into a Corporate Archives video planned for later this year, on the 25th anniversary of the fall of the wall.

**From Twitter: Dammit, AP, I wanted to see a bucket on his head!**

AP PHOTO: Oscar Pistorius covers his head with a bucket on the floor nearby as he listens to graphic testimony: <http://apne.ws/1gOXVlp>

<https://twitter.com/AP/status/443038849049313281>

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**Dudley welcomes to Connecting - Ulman**



Howard Ulman - AP Massachusetts sports writer, Boston

## Stories of interest...

Edward Snowden: 'They're setting fire to the future of the Internet'

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After Pledging Transparency, PBS Hides Details of New Deal With Billionaire Owner of NewsHour (John Lee)

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Sharyl Attkisson to leave CBS News

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Journalist Shot Dead in Afghanistan

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7 Things You Should Never Utter at Work

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'Fatal Vision' author Joe McGinniss dies at age 71

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Newsweek and 'trust us' journalism

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Women Rule profile: CNN's Arwa Damon

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Life After Patch: Former Editors Start Their Own Hyperlocal Sites

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## Miami Herald's Al Diaz Given NPPA Humanitarian Award

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## Los Angeles Register to launch April 16th

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## Cheering in the Oscars pressroom (Bob Daugherty)

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## **Best of States** (Valerie Komor)

Colleagues,

When a longtime source leaves, it can take months to build new relationships that lead to exclusives. But Los Angeles reporter **Justin Pritchard** didn't have that kind of time as federal transportation officials investigated how Asiana Airlines dealt with family members of passengers on a jet that crashed in San Francisco in 2013.

Pritchard had reported exclusively in September that federal investigators had found shortcomings in Asiana's response. Every two weeks since then, he had called his U.S. Department of Transportation source to check on the investigation's progress. When that source retired, Pritchard secured a promise from the replacement to get first word of any sanctions.

The new contact delivered, providing Pritchard first word that the DOT was imposing a fine against the airline for neglecting passengers' family members. It was the first time federal officials have concluded that an airline broke laws requiring prompt and generous assistance for the loved ones of crash victims.

Pritchard then worked out an embargo that involved sources in two countries and ensured the news would hit the wire at an optimal time \_ 10 a.m. PT and 4 a.m. in Korea. In Seoul, Business Writer Youkyung Lee arranged for an Asiana spokeswoman to set an alarm for the embargo time to provide comment. After speaking to Pritchard, the spokeswoman went back to bed, leaving other outlets to quote AP for hours.

Pritchard's reporting revealed, among other things, that anguished family members who called for information about their loved ones aboard the wrecked jet were routed into automated reservation system. It would be five days before the South Korean airline connected with the families of all 291 passengers. Because many of the passengers were from South Korea and China, the airline was the main source of information on the crisis unfolding thousands of miles away.

Pritchard's APNewsBreak dominated news coverage, notably in the key California markets of San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles. It would be hours before other media there could match it. South Korea's Yonhap News Agency also sent an alert crediting AP.

For his dogged and well-strategized efforts to ensure AP was the go-to source for first word of the penalty, Pritchard is awarded this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

## **Brian Carovillano**

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