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**From:** stevenspl@live.com on behalf of Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2014 11:04 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** CONNECTING - March 15, 2014

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# Connecting

March 15, 2014



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Colleagues,

## **What's the most embarrassing thing that happened to you in the workplace?**

Our regular Connecting colleague **Bob Daugherty**, retired State Photo Center director, suggested this would be an interesting series for Connecting, and he put his "red face" where his mouth was, volunteering to start the series. Here is his moment:

One of my most embarrassing miscues happened during the Bush-Gore debate at Wake Forest University in 2000. The debate was starting late and we were prepared to pounce on the first possible photo in order to make early deadlines. The cameras were all hard-wired to a work room off the floor. I was doing the picking and leaped at a photo that popped up in the queue and handed it off to an editor for editing and captioning. The photo was an animated picture of Bush...wearing a nice blue striped tie. The picture was sent nationally within a minute. But wait, other images started appearing and somehow Bush must have changed to a RED tie. The problem was that the same Leaf servers had been used a few days before at another debate and had not been cleaned of the old image. A kill went out promptly, but too late for the St. Louis Post Dispatch. It was on page one. Color me red, along

with the Post Dispatch.

Don't leave Bob out on a limb - send along to Connecting your own moment - I will contribute one of mine, also involving St. Louis, soon. Send your submission to [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com)

Meantime, Dudley, our Connecting greeter of new members, votes for this as one of his most embarrassing moments - a tie from owner Beth Grace:



### **Memories of Bob Thomas**

Here are a couple photos of legendary AP reporter Bob Thomas, who died Friday morning, that I thought you would enjoy.

The first is a 1946 file photo showing Bob with legendary actress Judy Garland as they watch scenes from the previous day's filming of "The Harvey Girls," during an interview.

The second shows him, at right in photo, playing poker with legendary comedians Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, center, during an interview around 1945. When Thomas began writing a Hollywood column for The AP in 1944, there were 500 journalists covering the movie scene. Fresh, newsy interviews were hard to come by, so he began writing "participation stories."





Connecting welcomes memories of Bob, and here is the first, from retired AP sports writer Doug Tucker of Kansas City:

The first two come from a pair of Midwestern AP retirees, **Lew Ferguson** and **Doug Tucker**, and their remembrances were sports-related - nothing to do with his Hollywood stardom! Lew writes: "Great story on Bob Thomas. I saw him once. I was on the AP coverage team for the 1965 World Series, Twins vs. Dodgers, and a couple of us visited the LA bureau just to see it. Thomas was there, pecking on a typewriter in a corner. I saw him, but didn't have the nerve to approach him. He already was a legend then." And Doug's memories:

"What an AP treasure he was. In 1978 when I was in Salt Lake covering the NCAA tournament, I was startled to get a call from Bob Thomas himself. He asked if he could help gather quotes from UCLA, one of the teams that had made it into the West Regional. Turned out he was a passionate fan of the Bruins and had come to Salt Lake with friends just for the tourney. I was fully aware I was talking to an AP and Hollywood legend and of course blurted out yes, of course, be glad to have you. He met me at my hotel and rode with me to the arena (I had a parking pass). Traffic was heavy and we had time to discuss many things, including as I recall the megahit Superman which had just come out (he correctly predicted many sequels) and his book on Joan Crawford. He was so very easy to talk to. Unfortunately, UCLA was upset in its first game in Salt Lake and Bob told me he was going back to LA the next morning. But he did go into the UCLA dressing room and bring me a great

many player quotes. So I guess I can honestly say the great Bob Thomas once fetched quotes for me. I wished at the time that UCLA had won so I could spend more time with this fascinating and genuinely nice man."

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### **Linda Deutsch - undeterred by surgery**

Our Connecting colleague [Linda Deutsch](#) of Los Angeles is back home, recovering from recent surgery, but the experience certainly didn't deter her sense of humor or wonderful writing style. Here's her post of a couple days ago from Facebook:

I'M BAAACK! I know there's been almost as much speculation about my absence from Facebook as there is about the disappearance of that Malaysian airliner. The strongest rumors were: A)- I was away on a top secret assignment; B)-I was basking on a tropical isle somewhere or C) I had checked in for an unplanned stay at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, hospital to the stars.

Of course, the answer was C and while I try to make light of it now that I'm home, it was not a trip I would have chosen. After weeks of recurring unexplained illnesses and abdominal pain, I was sent for a CT Scan and then dispatched quickly to my gynecologist who hurriedly arranged for surgery. I won't go into gruesome details other than to say a bunch of stuff was removed in a four-hour operation and subsequent pathology showed everything was benign.

Praise the Lord! I am supremely grateful to my doctor, Jay Goldberg, who headed the surgery team and made sure to reassure me as soon as I woke up that all appeared to be well. (It is true that as I was about to go under, I asked the anesthesiologist for propofol.) I spent five days at Cedars under the watchful eyes of a first class nursing team. But I had not been in a hospital since, as a toddler, I had my tonsils removed. I hope never to occupy one again. Even a first class hospital like Cedars is ...well, a hospital.

I was delighted to come home to my own bed and my soft sheets and pillows. Amazing the things one learns to appreciate. My dear cousins, Warren and Elaine Deutsch, got me settled in and I am now home for the duration of my recovery, estimated at six weeks. Sadly, my timing was off on this adventure and I am being forced to miss the long-anticipated, fabulous Atlanta wedding of Emily Samuels, daughter of my cousin, Amy Levine Samuels. I even bought a new gown for the black-tie affair. Sigh. Asked the other day how I felt about this whole experience, I said, "All things considered, I'd rather be in Atlanta."

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**Connecting mailbox:**

**Valerie Komor:**

In the last two weeks, the Corporate Archives has been inundated with:

47 boxes from the Sioux Falls bureau

10 boxes (an installment) from Beijing

14 boxes from Singapore; and

10 boxes from Rio.

And we are expecting 100 boxes of celebrity files from the LA bureau (whenever we find a place to put them).

In reviewing boxes brought over from off-site storage, we discovered 30 boxes of the valuable Subject Files, which we will integrate into the larger collection. And there are more to be brought over.

The Subject Files constituted one of the major file units of the General Office from about 1920 to 1980 and are organized alphabetically by subject. The files contain original wire copy, correspondence, printed materials and sometimes photographs and document the "he said/she said" behind the newsgathering process. So they are a potential boon for anyone looking to understand HOW and WHY AP covered what it did.

Who says paper is dead?



**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**

**To**

**[Larry Blasko](#)**

**[Jack Limpert](#)**

**[John Shurr](#)**

**[Colleen Newvine Tebeau](#)**

## Stories of interest

**AP's Lou Ferrara: What does it take to cover big-time sports?**

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**Nieman Week in Review: Newsweek's scoop lands with a thud, and diversity in the new news sites**

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**Bill Plante: Before politicians went to public, 'news was what we said it was'**

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**For Foreign Journalists in Beijing, It's All About Asking the Right Question**

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**Don Graham: I'm really impressed with the Washington Post right now**

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**Vice News Quickly Makes Mark With Ukraine Dispatches**

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**Photographer Uses Drone to Shoot Harlem Building Collapse, Asked to Leave by NYPD** (Bob Daugherty)

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**S.F. Chronicle social 'boot camp' changing culture, practices**

Paul Stevens  
Connecting newsletter  
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