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Connecting

April 30, 2014



Colleagues,

Earleen Fisher, who spent years reporting for the AP in the Mideast, then was bureau chief in New Delhi and later chief of Middle East Services, was among six inducted into the 2014 class of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame.

Four of her AP colleagues were on hand in Bloomington, Indiana, to honor Earleen - UN Correspondent **Edie Lederer**, Chicago CoB **George Garties**, Indianapolis newsman **Tom Davies** and former AP newsman **Jim Polk**. Polk was inducted into the Indiana Hall in 1994. He worked for AP in Indianapolis, Wisconsin and Washington, and in 1974 won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of Watergate for the late Washington Star.



This photo shows, from left: Edie Lederer, George Garties, Earleen Fisher and Tom Davies.

Though she began her career 20 years after fellow inductee **Ruth Chin**, Earleen also found a way to crack the glass ceiling through Hoosier basketball. While working for the AP in Indianapolis after college, Fisher wrote a feature about how school consolidation was

changing the state basketball tournament. The story won a sports writing prize from the Indianapolis Press Club, which at that time did not allow women as members. When her name was announced, Fisher said she heard someone whisper, "It's a girl." She said that was just one of the many times her presence - and gender - surprised people.

For example, in the early 1970s through the '80s, she filed stories with datelines such as Beirut, Tel Aviv, Nicosia, Dhaka and Kabul. Later, she was the New Delhi bureau chief, then chief of Middle Eastern Services, directing a staff of more than 100 journalists covering 16 countries.

At the induction ceremony last Saturday, Fisher talked about the changes she's seen in technology and newsgathering. "Today, we are inundated with the images, but can't say for sure what day they were taken, where they were taken, who is in the photos," she said. "We still need the person to tell you something is true, we need the journalist to interpret the story."

Click [here](#) for further information on the inductees and the ceremony.

News of the AP

Boston Globe, Associated Press among 'Best Of Show' winners in National Headliner Awards

The Boston Globe, The Associated Press, Baltimore's WBAL radio and CBS Sports have won top honors as "best of show" winners in the 80th National Headliner Awards.

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AP, Morgan Spurlock's Warrior Poets enter into development deal

The Associated Press and Morgan Spurlock's production company, Warrior Poets, have entered into a development deal offering Warrior Poets unlimited access to the extensive resources of AP and its broadcast, digital and mobile assets. This agreement allows Warrior Poets to tap into AP's vast library of award-winning, global content to develop new scripted and unscripted projects across multiple platforms including film, television and digital. (Shared by Paul Colford)

AND

'Super Size Me' Filmmaker Morgan Spurlock Inks Development Deal With AP

The filmmaker who made "**Super Size Me**" has teamed up with one of the world's largest news agencies. **Morgan Spurlock** and the **Associated Press** announced an agreement Tuesday that gives his production company, **Warrior Poets**, access to AP stories for adaptation into scripted and unscripted television shows, movies and digital series. Warrior Poets and AP will share any profits that result from potential productions, but no money changed hands when the partnership formed. Spurlock says, "They come from the news world and we come from the doc world. Neither of us have two nickels to rub together, so we said, let's put our nickels together." (Shared by Marcus Eliason)

AND

Potential for editorial compromise?

Spotted on FRAPPE (Facebook page for Former + Retired Associated Press People Extraordinaire) from former AP film critic **Christy Lemire**, who now co-hosts an online movie review show, "What the Flick?!" :

"Hi, all. Wondering what you guys think about this. I know if I were still the AP's film critic, I'd feel really uncomfortable having to review one of his movies based on this relationship."

Connecting would welcome your thoughts on the question she poses.

In my own AP career experiences, on the news and administrative/revenue building sides, I never witnessed a compromise of editorial ethics for a member - in my early days, members were the AP's revenue source - based on business dealings or later, for a commercial customer such as Warrior Poets.

When a member once threatened cancellation if we did a certain story involving the owner of the newspaper, I will never forget an irate **Walter Mears**, executive editor at the time, letting me know to tell them where they could go. Politely, of course. We covered the story and that paper remains a member to this day.

You have experiences to share? Send along to me.

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APME surveys members on handling website comments from public

A survey on how news outlets handle website comments from the public has been sent to Associated Press Media Editors by Gary Graham of The Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Washington, chairman of APME's Sounding Board. It's APME's latest effort to spotlight a news industry issue by gauging the views of journalists directly involved. Graham notes:

For example, are names required with public comments at your website? How are comments monitored by your outlet? What value do you place on such feedback? Are online comments likely to remain a fixture at your website?

Editors are asked to complete the survey by Friday, May 9, and results will appear in APME publications. (Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

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An amazing photo of Air Force One

Washington Post's The Fix: President Obama ended his eight-day 20,903-mile Asia Trip on Tuesday, jetting back to the U.S. via a re-fueling stop at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. It was during that stop that the Associated Press' **Carolyn Kaster** snapped this awesome photo of the underbelly of Air Force One. We reached out to Kaster to talk about how she got the shot -- but haven't heard back yet. We'll update this post with her thoughts if/when we get them. Here is the photo. (Shared by Brian Horton)



Where in the West is Bob Meyers?

Connecting colleague [Robert Meyers](#) has launched his cross-country biking trip from California to Georgia. He checked in Tuesday with Connecting and reported:

Will leave Brawley for a place near the Colorado River. Did circuit from the beach at Oceanside (where this photo taken) on Friday. Sunday all day climbing up to Volcan Mountain at Julian where it was a chilly 40 degrees. Down the mountain to the largest state park in the U.S. - Anza Borrego desert park. Through the Borrega Valley to Salton City. Then a long push down to Brawley for the night. Using "warm showers" a network and smart phone app that connects touring cyclists with people willing to host.



And late Tuesday night:

Tuesday woke in Brawley and headed out 78 past alfalfa fields being harvested and a cattle feed lot with solar panels shading black and white jerseys. Full ditches flowing. Climb past missile range dry desert and the chocolate mtns with steady wind from the side and front. Climbing the Imperial sand dunes was like being sprayed with sand and grit from a power washer - it hurt. In a low spot, a truck plowed it off the road. I stopped at the Glamis store for Gatorade and met Stephen of Stephen's Adventure page on Facebook

walking for 11 months from Tampa heading to San Diego and then Seattle. Had a rig with a cooler on a handcart, then big backpack and extended handles over his shoulders. Also George and Nellie riding to San Antonio. 66 hard miles into the wind to the post mistress of Palos Verdes rustic home at Coco Ranch warned of scorpions and rattlesnakes bright stars. Arizona tomorrow.

Link to Robert's trip blog: <http://www.spokespeak.tumblr.com/>

You make the call

Here is a tough call for editors - to storify or not, a suicide, one done in a public manner, murder-suicide, risk of running the story leading to copycats...and more. All issues commented upon by readers in posts at the end of this story in Syracuse.com.

What are your thoughts?

[The love that led a couple to stand in front of a train](#)

Earl and Mary Myatt met at a party when they were 17. "It was one of those instant loves," said their son, Brad Myatt, 30. His parents were married for 42 years. Their marriage and lives ended Sunday when they stood in the path of a CSX train in the Oneida County town of Verona. They were both 59.

Welcome to Connecting

Dwayne Desaulniers - Dwayne lives in Montclair, New Jersey, and is the owner and president of the Express Employment Professionals office in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Seeking to spend more time in and make stronger contributions to his community, Dwayne and his wife Susan opened their business in the fall of 2013. Their practice is focused on helping small and medium sized firms in the community hire, manage and develop their workforce. Prior to Express, Dwayne's career was in journalism and technology. He worked as a journalist for broadcasters in Canada and the US and as an executive for The Canadian Press (200-2005), The Associated Press (2005-2012) and the health website WebMD.

Maria Pallais - With the AP in New York City late 70s-early 80s, first at the Latin American desk and later transferred to the New York City desk. I am now a working journalist based in Washington, as bureau chief for Telesur.

David Scott - newly named political editor for the AP who currently oversees the AP's Central Region report.

Stories of interest

[TMZ official: No comment on whether we paid for Sterling audio](#)

Ever since TMZ posted on Friday night its story about the recorded racist remarks of Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling to V. Stiviano, news outlets had taken to calling those comments "alleged." That's an important bit of caution, given how easy it is for people to alter, fabricate and otherwise doctor audio - or anything that bubbles up on the Internet.

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[L.A. Council backs ban of Donald Sterling, asks Times to yank his ads](#)

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[Does TMZ's Clippers scoop mean pop websites can stand as equals with traditional news outlets?](#)

The story is ubiquitous, perhaps as it should be. On every news website, on every television station, in every morning paper. If you didn't know who Donald Sterling was before this weekend, you certainly know who he is now. As a fan and follower of the NBA, I did, and I also knew about his checkered past. But at the same time, I count myself among those who were caught off guard by the egregious racial comments attributed to him that have become the biggest story of the current news cycle.

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[How 10 news organizations look at issues of online engagement](#)

How do you measure success in the digital sphere? How should news organizations interact with their audience? What's the best way to personalize content for individual users? These were among the topics discussed over the course of two days in February as representatives from 10 different news organizations gathered around a conference table in Austin to discuss the challenges (and opportunities) wrought by the Internet.

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[In small towns with local investment, print journalism is thriving](#)

MARYVILLE, Mo. - Newspapers aren't dead yet. Far from it in this town of 12,000 nestled among the rolling hills of northwestern Missouri, where the daily paper has returned to local ownership for the first time in decades and where a competing weekly continues to thrive. In what's been called a David and Goliath strategy, Phil Cobb, who previously worked as the general manager of The Maryville Daily Forum, bought the paper in December at what he called "a bargain basement price" from GateHouse Media as the company was going through Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

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[Ratings Slip at MSNBC as Jet Coverage Lifts CNN](#)

April proved a cruel month for MSNBC, with the news channel hitting some of its lowest ratings in seven years, and its prominent morning show, "Morning Joe," falling to third place in the cable news competition.

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[John Oliver: The Al Jazeera America of comedy news?](#)

If "The Daily Show" is MSNBC and "The Colbert Report" is Fox, then "Last Week Tonight With John Oliver," which debuted Sunday night on HBO is ... Al Jazeera America.

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[Q&A: Clark Medal winner Matthew Gentzkow says the Internet hasn't changed news as much as we think](#)

The Clark Medal is one of the most prestigious awards in all of academia, awarded to the "American economist under the age of forty who is judged to have made the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge." (Names you might know among previous winners: Paul Krugman, Milton Friedman, Joseph Stiglitz, Steven Levitt, and Larry Summers.) This year's honor went to Matthew Gentzkow of the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. Gentzkow is a pioneer in the field of media economics; his work, often co-authored with Chicago Booth's Jesse Shapiro, takes advantage of previously unavailable data on audience, content, and media impact. Austan Goolsbee, also a Chicago Booth professor, commented on Gentzkow's work in The New York Times:

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[They want their print TV guide, dammit!](#) (Bob Daugherty)

A newspaper carrier recently seemed surprised that people still subscribe to their local paper's TV guide. Well, meet one of those subscribers - a very

unhappy one because she's complained to the Louisville Courier-Journal repeatedly about not getting her TV listings delivered.

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[Salt Lake Tribune shuts down comments on infant murder story](#) (Bill Beecham)

Salt Lake Tribune Digital Director Kevin Winters Morriss took an unusual measure Monday. In consultation with Editor and Publisher Terry Orme and myself, Morriss shut down comments on the sltrib.com story about a Pleasant Grove woman alleged to have murdered six infants she gave birth to from 1996 to 2006.

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Then, and now...

Back in 1971, the introduction of the CRT (cathode ray tubes) to AP bureaus warranted a story and photo, and here is Indianapolis newsman Steve Herman - a new Connecting member - featured at the keyboard. Lots of familiar equipment, familiar to those of us of a certain age, that is, in the background.

(NA-1) INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Oct. 7 - THE NEW AP - Steve Herman, Associated Press newsmen in Indianapolis, uses the cathode ray tube machine (CRT) here Thursday. The CRT is part of a complex, modern communications system utilizing a computerized regional center in Columbus, Ohio. The computerized system began use here today. (AP WIREPHOTO) (CAR/51700/stf) 1971



Contrast this with the computer system in place today, as shown in the attached from the London bureau:



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