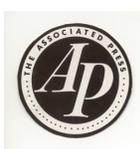


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 9:34 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - May 22, 2014

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Connecting

May 22, 2014

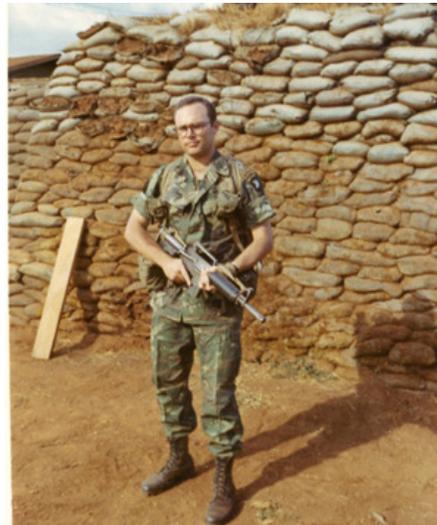
Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



Colleagues,

An item in Connecting last week on photographer Art Greenspon being honored by the Army's 327th Infantry Regiment for his 1968 Vietnam combat photograph, "Help From Above," stirred strong memories in former AP Kansas City and Topeka newsman [Dick Lipsey](#), who joined the AP after a 20-year career in the Army.

Dick was a member of the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, three years later as the war was finally winding down. After Vietnam, he stayed in the Army and served in Alaska and Washington, D.C., among other places. He earned a master's degree in Soviet Studies and after retiring from the Army got a master's in journalism at the University of Kansas before joining the AP in Kansas City where he spent 18 years and helped cover two sessions at the Kansas Legislature with



Correspondent Lew Ferguson.

Dick shares these memories with his Connecting colleagues:

Stirring memories of Vietnam

I went to Vietnam in 1971 and requested the 101st Airborne because a company commander I respected had served with the 101st and recommended it. I was a newbie but was assigned as recon platoon leader in the 1-327th. I don't know why. I had been a recon platoon leader in the 3rd Armored Division in Germany, but there were other lieutenants in the 1-327 with experience in country and mech units were much different from light infantry.

When the 101st Airborne stood down, many of us were reassigned elsewhere to finish our year. I was sent to Military Region II headquarters in Pleiku as commander of the 272nd Military Police, an under-strength company that performed routine MP duties in the Pleiku area, VIP security for MR II HQ, and convoy escort duty. I was an infantry lieutenant and the only officer in the company (but I had been a graduate student in police administration before enlisting).

As a recon platoon leader, I had four teams of six or seven men each, plus a platoon sergeant (a 20-year-old "shake-and-bake" staff sergeant, meaning an NCO academy graduate) and a couple of others in a small platoon headquarters. Three of the teams also had a Kit Carson scout, who was an NVA or VC defector. We operated out of a small firebase away from the main base camp (Camp Eagle then) and usually had two teams in the field (operating separately) and two on the firebase at any time. The teams in the field would be dropped off in a remote area by helicopter and then try to see without being seen. If we saw anyone, the battalion might send a quick-reaction force or might tell us to stay where we were and observe.

One technique was to drop us in while extracting a company, and we would watch to see whether any of the enemy came in to scavenge the area where our unit had been. The teams traveled very lightly and stayed out for only three or four days, unlike the line companies that typically were in the field for three or four weeks at a time. The teams generally had one M-60 machine gun, one grenade launcher, and otherwise just M-16s.

I alternated going out with one team and then another. Our battalion commander (lieutenant colonel) went out with one of the teams once, which was great for morale, as you can imagine. The platoon was all volunteers, and the previous commander had a Special Forces background

and had trained them very well. It also had pretty good morale, which wasn't always the case in those days. Anyone with an attitude problem was shipped back to a line company. Unusually, one man was from Jamaica and another was from Ireland. They both joined the American Army because there was a war on.

In the AP, I was in Kansas City (night reporter on the 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift) when the Gulf War started. All I recall is that the PAOs at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, etc. weren't talking and referred us to Department of the Army for comment. I had been with the KC bureau for about four months by the time the war started and had written a story on a Fort Riley tank battalion training for deployment. I think my military background helped, and I usually wore a small combat infantry badge tie-clasp that sometimes helped break the ice. The military PAOs turned over a lot and were hard to keep up with, but both Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth had civilians in the PAO office who were experienced and usually helpful.



This photo with John Paul Vann was taken on January 11 or 12, 1972, when Secretary of the Army Robert Froehlke visited the MRII headquarters. (I found a letter to my wife in which I wrote that he was there overnight. Visitors were usually in an out the same day.) I think it was taken

at a Montagnard village in the area. Lt. Col. Falkenstein, the provost marshal, is in the center of the picture, holding a small crossbow that the Montagnards sold for souvenirs. I have one also, along with two machetes that I got there. Froehlke is in the center with his back to the camera, in uniform but no head gear.

My MP company helped provide security for VIP visitors, usually in the form of jeeps with M-60 machine guns that drove in front of and behind the VIP sedans when they were going from the airfield to HQ and anywhere else they went.

There was also a POW camp near Pleiku that I think was run by the Vietnamese. We took some visitors there, and I know that Admiral McCain (CINCPAC commander) went there when he visited. We knew that his son was a POW in the north. General Westmoreland also visited when I was there, and part of my contribution to the war effort was driving back to HQ in a gun jeep at high speed to retrieve his field jacket before his

plane left.

Harvey Breuscher, former AP Madison correspondent, dies at age of 89

[Neal Ulevich](#) shares the news of the death of **Harvey Breuscher**, former Madison AP correspondent and his first boss in the AP.



Neal wrote, "How fortunate it was for a neophyte such as myself to have him as boss, teacher and friend. He had every human quality that a journalist might respect, admire and aspire to."

Click [here](#) for his obituary.

News of the AP

AP names Jill Colvin to politics post in New Jersey

Jill Colvin, a government and politics reporter in New York who covered the administration of former Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the campaign to succeed him, has been appointed to a new position of New Jersey-based political writer for The Associated Press. The appointment was announced Tuesday by Karen Testa, the AP's editor for the East region of the U.S., and Larry Rosenthal, editor for Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Click [here](#) for the story.

Connecting mailbox

[Jim Bagby](#) - retired Kansas City broadcast editor, writing on his memories of Teletype operators:

Ah, the punchers. Best to stay on their good side, because their union instructions were to take the top story/item in their box and get it out. Whatever we brought to the punching bank was supposed to go to the

bottom of the box. Sometimes you could trade a favor or wheedle your "very important" item to the top of the stack. But if you were crossways with a puncher, and he or she happened to be the only one duty - which could happen on an overnight trick - you might suddenly hear, "Sorry, I'm on a 10 - see my supervisor if you don't like it." Yep, those were the days. Generally, they were cooperative and very efficient. Now, if they were working a double, or heaven forbid a triple, some could punch in their sleep - but that's another story. What great memories from the early '70s at the Star building!

[Brent Kallestad](#) - on memories of retired sports writer Hal Bock:

I had the pleasure of working with Hal Bock on a handful of assignments during my full-time sports writing days in Minneapolis in the mid-70s and on many occasions via phone during my many years covering Florida State and it was always a pleasure. A talented colleague and gentleman.

[Richard Pyle](#), on the death of the Times' Arthur Gelb:

The death of NYT editor emeritus Arthur Gelb reminded me of the fast-approaching 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion on June 6. Gelb is quoted (by me) in the AP history, "Breaking News" as describing how the NY Times used the AP bulletin after it couldn't find anyone in WDC to confirm the report, which first came from the German side. Gelb told me that at the time he was a copy boy with one week on the job.

Stories of interest

[AP Report: 11 killed at Ukraine checkpoint](#)

AP journalists have seen 11 dead bodies at a Ukrainian military checkpoint. Witnesses said that pro-Russian insurgents attacked the checkpoint in the village of Blahodatne in the eastern Donetsk region on Thursday

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[Why The New York Times Newsroom is in Trouble](#)

All the fuss around NYT's fired executive editor cannot distract our attention from a more important issue. The New York Times real problem, like the majority of newspapers around the world, is that they are trying to become multimedia news organizations but the "print" army still rules the show.

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Reuters 'left the little guys to take the rap,' editor of Thai publication says (Bob Daugherty)

At one point, the relationship between Reuters and the English-language Thai news site Phuketwan was pretty good, Phuketwan Editor Alan Morison said in a phone call with Poynter. Reuters had hired Phuketwan reporter Chutima Sidasathian twice to help with what became a series of reports on the Rohingya, a Muslim minority group from Myanmar. The reports showed, among other things, that Thai authorities delivered Rohingya refugees to human traffickers; the series eventually won a Pulitzer.

-0-

Jill Abramson: Remembering Arthur Gelb

Arthur Gelb was a master builder, the Robert Moses of newspapering. His eyes danced when he told stories about dreaming up the multi-sectioned New York Times. His daring creativity helped save the newspaper at an earlier secular choke point that was every bit as life-threatening as the transition from print to digital happening now.

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PBS shouldn't 'get in the way of reporters or photographers covering news,' ombudsman says

A PBS staffer was "clearly wrong" to try to stop a reporter from photographing hotel security detain a protester at PBS' annual meeting last week, PBS Ombudsman Michael Getler writes. PBS distributes news programs, and "many people understandably view it as a news and public affairs network, and so PBS needs to continue doing that and not get in the way of reporters or photographers covering news," he writes.

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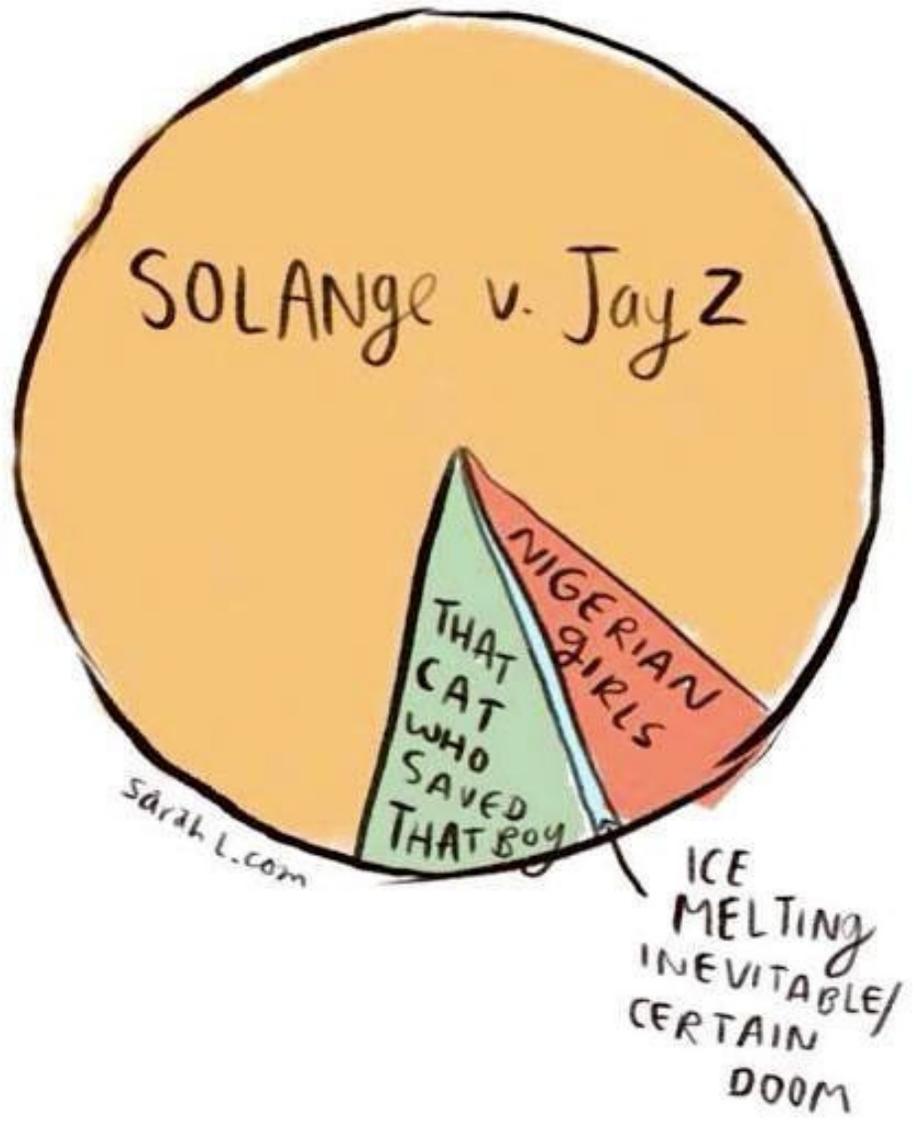
Media can't attend Philadelphia Inquirer auction

Next Tuesday, the owners of The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News and Philly.com will meet in a courtroom to determine which of them will get to keep the properties. The auction will be closed to the public and representatives of the media, David Sell reports in the Inquirer.

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And...spotted by Mark Mittelstadt in the Daily Kos:

BIG STORIES THIS WEEK



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stevenspl@live.com

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