
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:44 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - June 11, 2014

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Connecting

June 11, 2014

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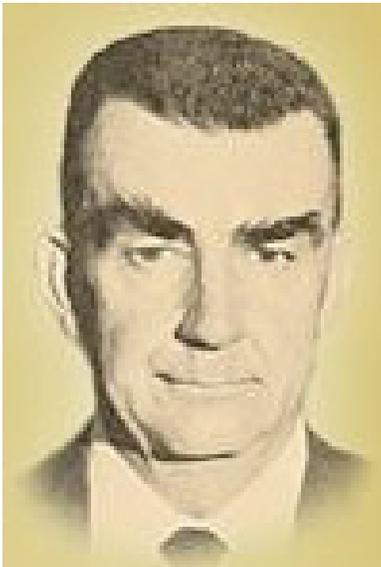
Dear AP President...

Colleagues,

Remember the days when at the successful conclusion of your probationary period, you were asked by your bureau chief to write an autobiographical letter directly to the president of The Associated Press?

It was a great tradition, in my view, that continued for many years until it eventually faded away.

When I passed my nine-month probation in Albany, back in 1974, Chief of Bureau **Ed Staats** asked me to write President and General Manager **Wes Gallagher**, telling him about myself, my thoughts about the AP and my career ambitions.



Gallagher must have wondered who the heck was this wordy new guy Ed Staats hired who wrote four pages, single spaced. But within a week, I received a one-page letter from Gallagher that addressed my points, including one on scheduling to which he said, "In time, as you move up the ladder, you perhaps will look at the situation in a different light."

Ed recalled that his bureau chief in Dallas, **Bill Barnard**, was not all that impressed with his letter. Ed said, "He chewed me out for not sharing it with him before I mailed it off to **Frank Starzel**. I don't remember much of what I wrote, and haven't come across it in modern times. But it was part of the lore of being a new employee. Staffers talked about those letters frequently and had counsel for new employees on what to say, etc. I was not cynical about it at the time, and always felt that it was a positive effort by the AP to get a better handle on what new employees had on their minds."

Connecting colleague **Margy McCay**, a Human Resources executive from 1983 until 2004, said she assisted in responses to such letters for AP presidents **Keith Fuller** and **Lou Boccardi** but does not recall when AP stopped doing them. "There was no policy change that ended the practice; I think it just petered out when bureau chiefs stopped requiring/submitting them," she recalled.

She said she never wrote one herself when her probationary period ended in Des Moines "because my probation was subsumed by my gazillion temporary assignments." Margy, who was married to AP executive **Wick Temple** at the

time of Wick's death in 2003, said she remembers "reading Wick's and Wick's father's letters, and they were full of talent, hope and ambition."

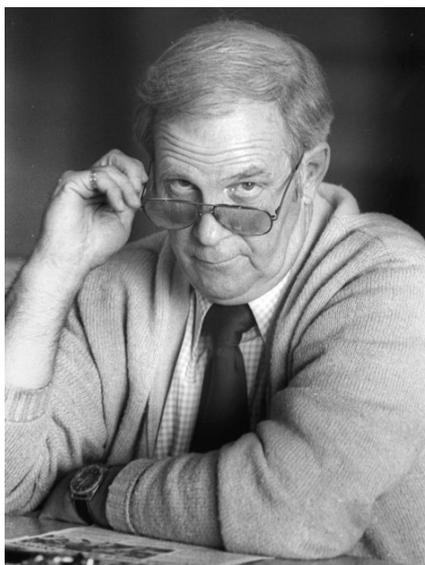
Connecting invites you to share your own experiences if you wrote a letter to the AP president at the end of your probation. Was it a good experience? Did you hear back? Send them along to me and I will share with your colleagues.

Jim Hayes, a mentor to many, dies at 88

[Andy Lippman](#) shared the obituary of **Jim Hayes** from the Tribune of San Luis Obispo. Hayes died Tuesday at his home at the age of 88.

Hayes had been longtime professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and served as a writing coach at the AP Los Angeles, LA Times and several other papers. He was also mentor to many AP staffers throughout the country.

"Jim was a mentor to many, and a friend to generations of people who benefited from his sometimes crusty, but always nurturing way of helping journalists all over the country to get better," said Andy, former AP chief of bureau in Los Angeles. "He was someone that I cared for as a friend and as a mentor."



Click [here](#) for the obituary.

Funeral arrangements were pending. If you would like to share a remembrance of Jim, send it to Connecting.

Connecting mailbox

Remembering the Indianapolis bureau

[Karol Stonger](#) - I joined directly from IU J-school in 1964, about the same time as Rachel Eberle from Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods. COB Bill Richardson was our leader. Among those on staff were previously mentioned Walt Tabak and Margaret Hull.

Marty Anderson, a bachelor with a fringe of red hair, was a lifer, and a very jolly one who embraced the late-night shifts. While some of us went for

drinks after work, he must have gone straight home because he amassed enough money for a seven-figure bequest to IU J School.

I don't know if Dale Burgess worked anywhere before, but we were lucky to have him as news editor. Good at what he did, seldom lost his temper and employed dry wit. He called our tri-state round-up for an afternoon radio split "lint from the nation's navel."

In 1967, I was transferred to New York and ultimately became a national sportswriter. Rachel moved to LA and retired as regional broadcast editor. Bob Daugherty moved on to bigger the picture in DC, and George Zucker, Indy radio editor, to several COB posts, retiring from Philadelphia.

Proximity to Star and News was a truly cooperative endeavor. We shared pages ripped from five-carbon books which were picked up with regularity from spikes long ago banned by OSHA as dangerous. We either shouted out or raced to manned desk of the hour if we had a bulletin or something big coming up.

[Steve Graham](#) - The Indianapolis story revived some memories. I was something of an Indianapolis old, old-timer rather than some of the relative newbies quoted in Connecting.

As I remember it:

I got shipped to Indianapolis when the Helena, Mont. bureau lost a staffer. One day in February, 1977, on my day off, I got a call from the bureau telling me I needed to head off to an apartment building where a gunman was holding a hostage.

See:

<http://archive.indystar.com/article/99999999/NEWS06/80519047/RetroIndy-Tony-Kiritsis-very-angry-man>

I turned on the television and watched the drama unfold as I dressed and was racing for the door when the phone rang and it was Howard Graves offering me the news editor job in Portland, Ore.

I said yes and thanked him profusely but asked if I could call him back because I had to cover a story. He seemed to think I wasn't sufficiently interested, so I all but screamed "there's an idiot holding a hostage and he might blow the guy's head off! any minute"

I arrived at the apartment complex and joined a herd of other reporters all standing by in the commons area of the building where Tony the 'K' (as I called him) was holed up in an upstairs apartment with his shotgun wired to the victim's neck.

In today's world, of course, the police would never let us get so close.

Nobody had mobile phones in 1977, naturally, and there was no phone in the commons area. Two nice, elderly ladies let everybody use the phone in their apartment so there was a long queue for the phone. When I got to the phone, I called my contact at Indiana Bell and she said they could install a phone solely for the AP within an hour or two, if we paid for it. I called the bureau and was told that AP didn't have the money for such things.

Nothing happened the first night but the next day, when I was working the desk, the police announced that they were giving in to the kidnapper's demands and would grant him amnesty. I checked with my police contact and asked if they were serious.

He told me "of course not,"

Since there was a life at stake, I called the General Desk to ask whether I should withhold that comment and was told "no."

Before that part of the story went out, the crisis was over when Tony the 'K' marched his captive into the commons room and released him in front of the reportorial horde, only to be tackled and handcuffed by the cops.

Unfortunately, our photographer, Chuck Robinson, didn't have the best angle and the Pulitzer went to UPI. That wasn't the end of the story, however. The UPI staff photographer claimed the photo as his own, but John Blair, the UPI stringer who actually shot it, proved otherwise by the notches filed into the frame around the film. The stringer got the prize and the UPI staffer got the sack.

... and I got to Oregon.

AP Juneau correspondent, Juneau Empire sports editor wed

Becky Bohrer, AP's Juneau correspondent, and **Klas Stolpe**, sports editor for the Juneau Empire, were married near LeConte Glacier outside Petersburg, Alaska, on June 3, 2014. The couple was married on the F/V Windham Bay, with the captain of the fishing vessel, Ladd Norheim, a friend of the couple, serving as the marriage commissioner. Click [here](#) for the story.

Connecting colleague [John Kuglin](#) observes:

Sounds like quite the wedding. Becky was hired as our first Billings correspondent, when I was Helena COB, after working in Iowa, and in the Dakotas for Tena (Haraldson). Becky, working in a position shared with former Denver COB Pete Mattiace, whose territory included Wyoming, did an amazing job covering eastern Montana and northern Wyoming, usually driving thousands of miles a month. She is the only reporter I've met who actually enjoyed covering forest fires, many in such remote places that we had to buy her a small SAT phone. I've never met a



reporter who was so persistent. When George W. Bush was to fly from the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City several years ago, to Jackson, Wyo., we sent Becky from Billings to write color. She got snowbound way into central Wyoming, backtracked to Billings, drove 150 miles to Bozeman, down to West Yellowstone, made it across one big pass, but couldn't get back over the mountains to Jackson after they closed the pass between eastern Idaho and Jackson. The next morning they reopened the pass, and Becky finally made it to Jackson.

Other stories of interest

['Media Mutiny' After Reporters Face Intense Restrictions At Hillary Book Signing](#)

Reporters who showed up to cover the first signing of Hillary Clinton's book tour in Manhattan on Tuesday faced strict restrictions that led to what one veteran correspondent called a "media mutiny."

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[Method Journalism: 2014's most talked-about media startups aren't distinguished by the what, but the how](#)

With the launch of new site after new site in 2014, it's been a fascinating time to watch digital media try to figure itself out. Amid the turmoil of disruption, buffeted by tech companies' control over information distribution, but aware

of new fields of possibility, the past few years were filled with defending legacy brands.

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The 10 most corrupt states in the U.S.

A new study from researchers at the University of Hong Kong and the University of Indiana estimates that corruption on the state level is costing Americans in the 10 most corrupt states an average of \$1,308 per year, or 5.2% of those states' average expenditures per year.

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Around the world, media outlets and journalists are using chat apps to spread the news

If you had followed BBC News India on WhatsApp on May 16, the day election results were announced after over a month of voting, you would have seen news updates in a variety of formats. In the early morning hours, there were alerts from vote counting, including screenshots of charts from the Election Commission:

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Boston Globe wants to make political-junkie-style coverage accessible

On Friday, The Boston Globe launched Capital, a new section on politics that comes out Fridays in print and updates regularly online. That means more coverage of politics, politicians and policy for readers. So how is this different from how the Globe now covers politics? "For starters, there'll be more of it," Boston Globe Editor Brian McGrory told Poynter.

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Washington Post 'Post Everything' editor apologizes for headline

The Washington Post's Post Everything editor Adam Kushner apologized on Tuesday for a headline on a piece about how one way to stop violence against women is to get married that lit up the internet on Tuesday afternoon not along after the paper found itself in hot water over a controversial George Will column.

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Courier-Journal Metro editor's departure first in a series of editorial layoffs today (Mark Mittelstadt)

In what is still a breaking-story, it looks like this morning's layoff of Courier-Journal Metro editor Mike Trautmann was the first of several today. Trautmann announced his departure just after noon with a Tweet.

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[Study says Fox News may 'harden conservative views' of its audience](#)

A Public Religion Research Institute/Brookings Institute study of Americans' views on immigration reform finds that people's media choices have a strong effect on their beliefs.

Paul Stevens
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