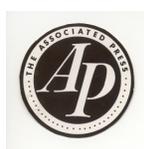

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 9:25 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - July 16, 2014

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

July 16, 2014

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



Colleagues,

Here are some stories of interest.

Mark Mittelstadt takes the Connecting reins for the next five days while Linda and I journey to Colorado so please send any contributions for the newsletter to him at his email address: markmitt71@yahoo.com

Thanks,

Paul

-0-

A twist on The American Newsroom

Columbia Journalism Review once had - may still have - an intriguing feature called "The American Newsroom" that shares a picture of a newsroom in each issue.

So why not the same for those of us on Connecting - even though for most of us in retirement, that newsroom is more often a spare bedroom, a nook in the basement or in my case, a formal living room that I have converted into my own work space, which I



share with my wife Linda. All that is missing is my beloved AP Model 15 Teletype, which is destined to remain in the basement. This photo shows where my work on Connecting and other matters takes place. Nothing out of the ordinary, but it works for me.

So how about sharing a photo with your Connecting of your own work space - exotic or ordinary - and if you want to be pictured in it, all the better. Send along to Mark or me.

In the rise of race beats, echoes of history

Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran may owe the Congressional Black Caucus for helping him beat back a tea party challenger in his state's primary last month, but journalists have the Associated Press' **Jesse Holland** to thank for breaking the news last month in the first place.



As a race and ethnicity reporter at the AP, the tale of mostly Democratic black voters helping a Republican incumbent keep his job is just the kind of story Holland was hired to uncover. If the AP didn't have someone specifically watching for these type of stories, then the Cochran affair might not have gotten covered,

Holland said.

He broke the story not by relying on local reporters closely following the behavior of black voters in the GOP primary, because no other reporters were actually doing that. Several had noticed advertisements in two of the state's black newspapers, but no one knew who was behind them. "I picked up the phone and called the black newspaper and asked who placed the ad," Holland said. "I'm not sure why no one else thought to do that."

Click [here](#) for the rest of the story.

Connecting mailbox

Pranks: Group portrait of the House of Representatives

[Doug Pizac](#) - During one of my internships at National Geographic in the early '70s, I assisted in the taking of a group portrait of the House of Representatives.

We came in after the session ended late one night to start setting up. It was mainly lit with two 10,000-watt strobes and some 1,600-watt units as fills. The big strobes were custom built by NGS and used several army foot lockers to house the capacitors. Standing within 20 feet of the flash would result in third-degree burns they were that powerful. Once the lights were set we shot 8x10 Ektacolor transparency sheet film, took it back to NGS to process, evaluate, make a lighting change, made another test shot, process, evaluate, make a change, etc. until everything was correct. It took all night.

The next morning Congress had to formally vote to suspend work to have their picture taken. We shot the portrait using an 8x10 view camera with a 4x5 backup. It took one minute between shots for the big strobes to recycle. After a half dozen shots we were done and Congress resumed work. Back at NGS we processed the sheet film and it looked gorgeous. This really showed me what quality work could be.

Because it looked so good, I and a lab person decided to pull a prank on the team leader. We slipped an 8x10 10-green color corrective gel behind a transparency in its sleeve, called him over with serious looks on our faces and said something went wrong. He looked at the photo on the light table and nearly dropped his cigar from his mouth. This was really bad.

However, being the veteran pro he was as soon as he picked up the sleeve he knew it felt too heavy and immediately realized we had rigged the sleeve with the CC filter. His near heart attack turned to laughter.

Stories of interest

[Why we love stories about 'coming home'](#)

Roy Peter Clark: Journalists are suckers for homecoming stories, which is part of the reason the LeBron James story has gained such traction. The essay he wrote for Sports Illustrated with Lee Jenkins is titled "I'm Coming Home," which is also its final sentence.

I've written about the power of the short sentence. It has the ring of gospel truth. Even if there are money and control and competitive issues involved for James, the dominant narrative is that the King, who once lost his way, has now returned... home.



Or has he? What about it, Thomas Wolfe? What about it, Kareem Abdul Jabbar: "LeBron can't go home again. At least not the home he once knew. They may be grateful and joyful, but they are also wiser. Like the betrayed spouse, they will have to wait and see, they will have to be wooed, they will have to be convinced that his sincerity, to quote Porgy and Bess, ain't a sometime thing."

-0-

Jill Abramson: "I'm Not Ashamed of Getting Fired"

When Jill Abramson was appointed the first female executive editor of The New York Times, it was a big deal. When she was fired only two and a half years into the gig for her "brusque management style," it was an even bigger deal, making headlines across the globe. In her first magazine interview since, she talks about how to get ahead ... and fight your way back.

-0-

A Photographic Muse Beyond the Ruins

To visit Pine Bluff, Ark., for the first time is to know it suffers from a broken heart.

Main Street, jilted by fickle industries with more attractive suitors, is a hologram of itself - rows of two and three-story buildings, empty, faded, barely alive.

William Widmer was stunned to see it. Not that he hadn't witnessed his share of dying downtowns. A freelance photojournalist based in New Orleans, he travels all over the South and beyond on assignments. Business districts done in by Walmarts are old news, part of the landscape, like lost barns on the prairie. But there was something about this town (Pop. 47,000) with a schoolyard nickname - "Stank City," for the rotten egg fumes the paper mills belch out - that grabbed Mr. Widmer's attention.

-0-

Kara Swisher Is Silicon Valley's Most Feared and Well-Liked Journalist. How Does That Work?

The technology journalist Kara Swisher likes to call herself Sherlock Homo, but on a spring evening in Austin, where she'd come for the SXSW Interactive conference, she wasn't following any particular trail of clues. Padding through the crowd on the second floor of Perry's Steakhouse, where a venture-capital firm and a money-management firm were throwing a party, she'd chatted briefly with Steve Case, founder of AOL, who greeted her with the wary intimacy one might show a pit bull of uncertain loyalty. (Swisher's two books about AOL chronicled first its pioneering success and then its disastrous merger with Time Warner.) It wasn't until she ran into an investor named Tony Conrad that she scented blood.

Swisher layers charm and aggression to truth-serum effect. When Conrad tried to embrace her, Swisher squirmed out of his grasp, saying, "I just don't like being touched by you"; proceeded to flatter him as "a scene-maker" and "very good venture capitalist"; then, for good measure, threw in: "He also dresses like a lesbian, but it's okay." (This is a go-to Swisher barb; she told Twitter CEO Dick Costolo he dresses "like Ellen.") Conrad, who was wearing a quilted vest, appeared to take minimal umbrage. "It's my biking gear, man," he said. A few minutes later, unbidden, he was proudly spilling the lucrative specs of his investment in the 3-D-printing company MakerBot. "Oh my God," Swisher said.

-0-

PBS Leads News and Documentary Emmy Nominees

PBS leads the way with 43 News and Documentary Emmy nominations. CBS News follows close behind with 42. Announced earlier today, the 35th annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards will be presented Tuesday, September 30 at the Frederick P. Rose Hall in the Time Warner Center. ABC News picks up 19 nominations, HBO grabs 15, NBC has 13 and CNN is up for 9 awards.

-0-

Jim Brady's Philly gamble: Third time's a charm?

Jim Brady's escapades in digital news have been fraught.

As executive editor of The Washington Post's website in the mid-aughts, he dragged the venerable Beltway broadsheet into the digital age kicking and screaming, with prescient convictions about things like comments and blogs that initially encountered stiff skepticism from the paper's ink-stained old guard.

-0-

Tribune Co. to spin off papers Aug. 4

The Tribune Co. confirmed Tuesday that it will spin off its newspaper division, Tribune Publishing, on Aug. 4, setting the stage for a possible acquisition.

The spinoff will separate the Tribune newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times and The Chicago Tribune, into their own publicly traded company, trading under the symbol TPUB on the New York Stock Exchange. Tribune Co. will retain 1.5 percent of the shares.

-0-

NPR downgrades and disables its ombudsman

"NPR is far stronger than this short-sighted and half-assed decision suggests. It has nothing to fear from an empowered ombudsman." #

-0-

Manual retweets are self-promotion and Twitter embeds aren't journalism

Twitter provides an endless source of fascination for journalists. It's an ego boost, seeing ideas and quips propagated, cheered, pored over. It allows for effort-free crowdsourcing for a "trendwatch." It's a real-time mirror that can quantify who among us is the fairest. And it's the way journalists have to do business now.

-0-

Stop the World! The Typewriter Is Coming Back

Jack Limpert: My final story for The Washingtonian was a piece titled: "If Typewriters Could Talk: The Day I Found Out They No Longer Needed Me." Doing the writing was my old Royal; it lamented that after decades of loyal service it had been unceremoniously carried out of the magazine's offices, put in the backseat of a car, and taken to the old editor's basement office in a leafy suburb of Washington.

And finally...

[10 Stupid Things Journalists Hear About Their Job](#)

Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**

This email was sent to stevenspl@live.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)[™] | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215