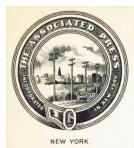

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2014 8:32 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - July 19, 2014

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Connecting

July 19, 2014

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This July 20, 1969 file photo provided by NASA shows Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong on the lunar surface.

Colleagues,

Sunday marks the 45th anniversary of when man took his first step on the moon.

It was a seminal event that, in the words of an [editor's note](#) accompanying a repeat this week of Associated Press coverage of **Neal Armstrong**'s historic step, "would cleave humans' relationship with space in two, separating the millennia in which human beings had merely served as observers, and the moment that humans became visitors to planetary bodies their ancestors could see only from a distance."

News coverage was a massive undertaking, involving thousands of reporters, photographers, editors, technicians and other staff from all over the world. "There was little sleep for the more than 3,000 news personnel at the Houston Space Center during those two historic days. Meals were hasty. Pressure was immense. Time flew," AP staffer **Richard Beene** wrote in a story about AP's coverage of the mission launch and moonwalk.

Forty-five years after it was first published, the AP made its [original report](#) available to members:

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - Two Americans landed on the moon and explored its surface for some two hours Sunday, planting the first human footprints in its dusty soil. They raised their nation's flag and talked to their President on earth 240,000 miles away.

Coinciding with the anniversary of the moon walk, AP this week released a book looking back at the Apollo missions that led up to the landing and successful walk on the moon. "Footprints on the Moon: The Associated Press Covers the Apollo Missions," is available in hard cover and electronically at [Amazon](#), Barnes & Noble, [iBooks](#) and other online retailers.

From the Amazon summary: "This book tracks the story of the small footsteps humanity took in reaching the 'moon' goal, from the tiny agency NACA to its repositioning as NASA in the late '50s. From Eisenhower's relative indifference to Kennedy's public passion to beat the Soviets at their own game, and finally to Johnson's funding of NASA that produced victory in Nixon's presidency. NASA grew from an idea in the minds of a few rocket scientists to a full-blown agency with a mission that had as much to do with politics as it did science. (John)

Barbour shows the agency's warts and all as it measures success upon the hunched shoulders of failure: Vanguard, the little satellite that couldn't; Jupiter, the little rocket that could; Apollo 1, the launch pad capsule malfunction that resulted in the first multiple man loss for the US Space Program; Apollo 11, which vindicated that painful loss by succeeding in NASA's ultimate goals on every level."



Connecting mailbag

The non-story that led to an AP career

Kevin Noblet _ The discussion of basement "newsrooms" reminds me of my introduction to AP in 1980, in just such a space.

I was a police reporter for the Stamford (Conn.) Advocate when, one morning, the city editor told me to go out to the home of local resident **Leo Branham**, who had called the paper to report how a driver had crossed his lawn in the night, hit a tree and fled. I protested that it wasn't a story. "Just go," my boss said. "Take a photographer, too."

I didn't know Leo had been an AP war correspondent and foreign desk editor, but my boss knew. He also knew I wanted to be an overseas correspondent some day.

Leo was waiting in his yard by some kind of evergreen. It was small -- maybe 10 feet tall -- and hadn't even been knocked down. Just kind of bent over a little. There were tire tracks. The photographer shot a frame or two.

Leo looked at me, and said, "Not much of a story, is it?"

"Not really," I said.

"Want a drink?" he asked. It was maybe 11 a.m.

"Sure," I said.

He poured us glasses of whiskey in his basement "newsroom," the walls boasting photos of him covering World War II in Europe. I remember one of him on a ship in the Atlantic, another in an army jeep. We talked about his past, and about this or that, for maybe an hour before he got around to asking, "So what do you want to do in your career?"

I told him. He made some calls and arranged for me to take the writing test at 50 Rock. I passed, got put on "the circular" and started as a temp in AP's New Orleans bureau that summer.

When Leo died years later, I was based in South America. I wrote his wife, Millie, to express condolences and recall how he'd helped me. It was the first of many acts of generosity I would experience during 27 years at AP.

Those AP men are such a serious lot

Hal Bock _ We had an obsessive compulsive baseball writer in NY sports who was a neat freak. He would label his personal baseball media guides with his initials and two red lines. This would identify the media guide as his very own and warn others to stay away. Some playful staffers acquired a copy of the media guide, labeled it as if it were his and then cut out all the pages and placed them carefully back between the covers. An hour or so later, our target picked up the guide, opened it and watched in horror as the pages fluttered to the floor. It was a priceless moment.

Have a "home newsroom" or an AP prank to share? Send it to [Mark Mittelstadt](#) for possible inclusion in Connecting.

News of the AP

July 13 Editorial Talking Points

This week's edition focuses on reporting that got to the bottom of a drug-war shootout in Mexico, and a rare look at a Pacific island where everyone's moving out.

Welcome



Dudley says hello to:

Dennis Cook

AP Photographer, Washington (retired)

Stories of interest

Russia Today correspondent resigns over coverage of Ukrainian plane crash

A London-based correspondent of Kremlin-funded news channel Russia Today has resigned in protest at its coverage of the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17.

-0-

With jet crash, news media again weigh where to draw the line on graphic photos (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

As news about the Malaysia Airlines jet crash began breaking Thursday, the Reuters news service tweeted what it described as the first photo from the scene in Ukraine. The image was ghastly: It showed a man hosing down the shattered, still-smoldering remains of a plane that just moments before had carried 298 people. But closer inspection showed something even more potentially offensive.

-0-

[CNN pulls reporter from Gaza coverage following Tweet about 'scum' Israelis next to her](#)

CNN has removed reporter **Diana Magnay** from covering the Israel-Hamas conflict after she tweeted that Israelis cheering missile strikes in Gaza and whom she said threatened her were "scum," the Huffington Post reported.

-0-

[New York mayor takes it on the chin in city's media](#)

New York Mayor **Bill de Blasio** won his job in a landslide last November, but is finding out that staying so popular is not easy. On Thursday, he was labeled "an ass" on the cover of one city tabloid after being skewered in another as behaving like Marie Antoinette and accused on television of being a socialist. The Democratic mayor's media woes arguably can be traced back to the night before his Jan. 1 formal inauguration when he shut most of the media out of his swearing-in ceremony and raised the hackles of the city press corps.



-0-

[Good journalism or bad? LeBron gives first-person account through Sports Illustrated](#)

Sports Illustrated broke the biggest sports news of the summer on July 11 when it posted a 950-word piece by **LeBron James** as told to Lee Jenkins, announcing James' decision to leave the Miami Heat and return to play for the Cleveland Cavaliers. SI.com and Jenkins were widely praised for their scoop. But others found it poor journalism, with one columnist even calling it "a pure load of crap."

-0-

[Reworked JOA could to 'irreparable harm' to Salt Lake Tribune, group alleges \(Shared by Bill Beecham\)](#)

Owners of The Salt Lake Tribune may not intend to shut it down, but their newly revised business plan still risks putting the newspaper in a downward spiral, according to a group of former Tribune employees and readers in the community.

-0-

[Why you should not take photos of the seven ugliest buildings in the nation's capital](#)

Unless you like getting your camera taken from you. Have security concerns become

overblown to the point common sense and simple public access have been shown the door?

-0-

[Iowa city using tax dollars to create own digital newsroom to cover municipal affairs](#)

The city of Davenport is doing something officials say no other U.S. city has done, creating a news-based website they vow will shine new light on positive and negative city happenings.

-0-

[BBC staff threaten strike over newsroom job cuts](#)

The BBC is facing a fresh threat of industrial action after announcing plans to axe 415 posts to save money. The cuts will be offset by around 195 new roles, meaning a net reduction of 220 jobs.

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[Politico CEO: Hard to find, keep real reporting stars](#)

Audio of WAMC's Alan Chartock "In Conversation" Q&A with Jim Vandehei, co-founder of Politico as well as president and CEO of Politico and Capital New York.

-0-

[How data journalism can become a revenue supplement for news organizations](#) (Shared by Carol Ann Riha)

The byproducts of journalism rarely have value to anyone besides the reporters who gather and assemble the information. (Exhibit A: The troves of spiral notebooks, manila folders and microcassettes left over from my newspaper days, still gathering dust in my garage.) But more news organizations are discovering that cleaned-up, searchable databases have extra value beyond their journalistic utility - and, better yet, can generate revenue to support even more public-interest reporting.

-0-

[More downsizing at the Daily News](#) (Daugherty)

Multiple sources said that buyouts have recently been offered to some employees and that layoffs were made this week. No official word yet on names, the total number of cuts or which departments have been affected, but sources put the number of newsroom pink slips at 17.

-0-

Oops!

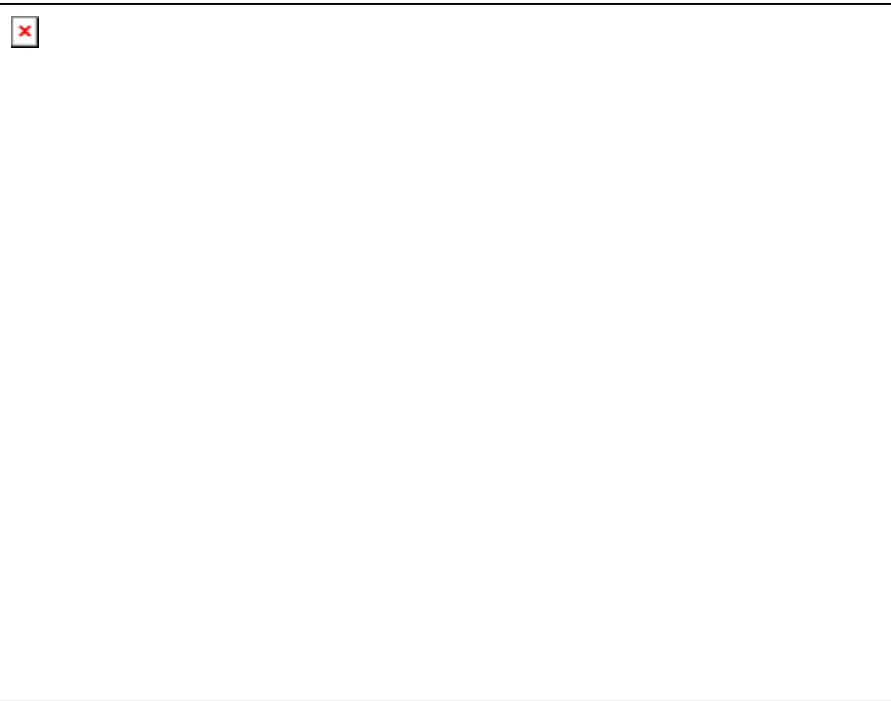
[Newspaper corrects Tweet about Lance Armstrong walking on the moon 45 years ago](#)



[Distractify raises millions, but apparently not enough to hire a copy editor](#)



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