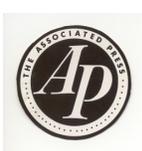
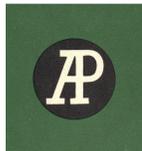

From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2014 8:44 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - July 25, 2014

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



Connecting

July 25, 2014

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



Colleagues,

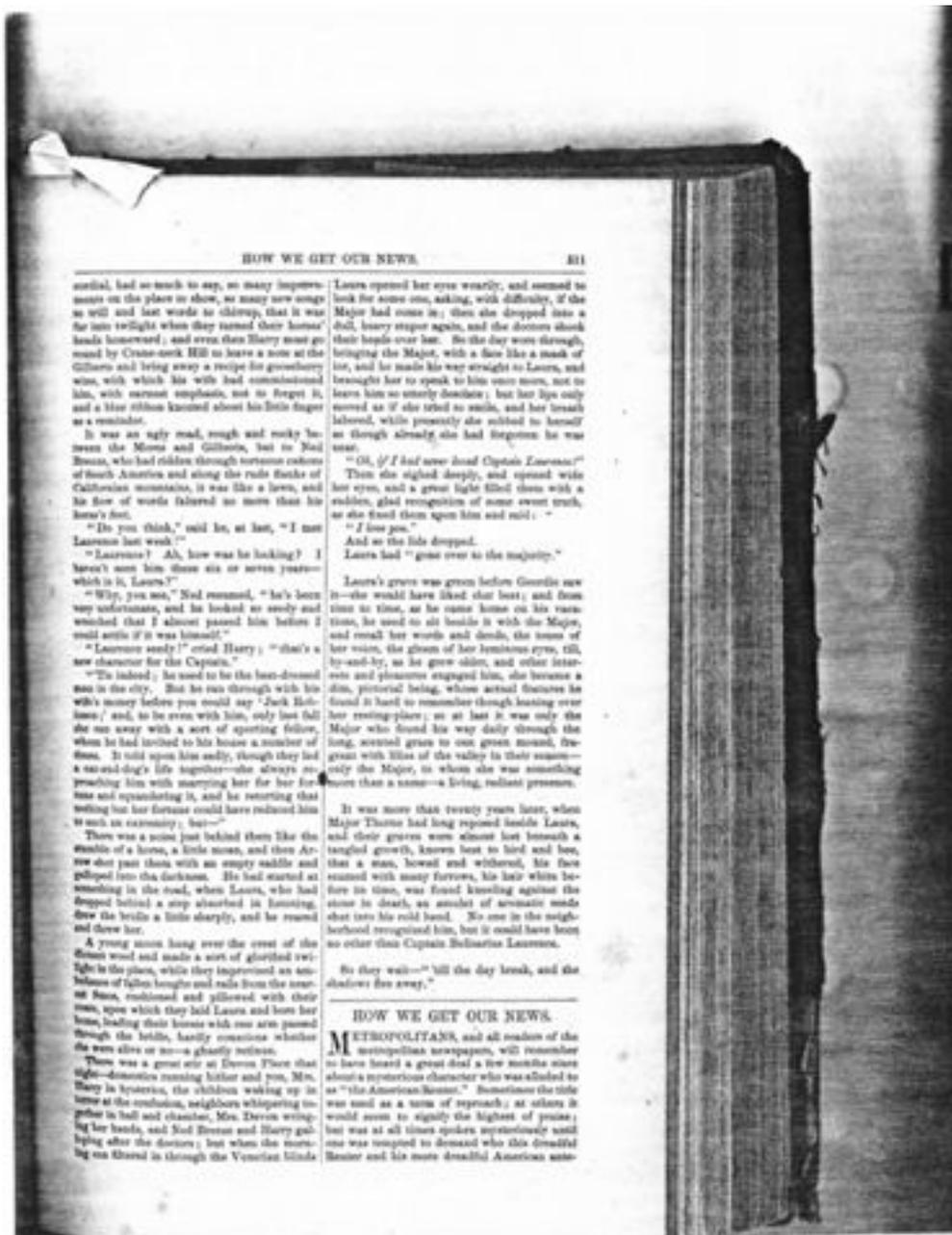
Here are some stories of interest on this Friday morning.

Connecting will take a break until next Tuesday morning as both its editors, Mark Mittelstadt and me, are out of town, but continue to send me your contributions for a catch-up edition Tuesday.

Meantime, this gives you time to look through this first item, shared by Claude Erbsen, that I think you will find fascinating.

Paul

Sharing AP history from 1866



[Claude Erbsen](#) - Some 30 years ago I was looking through a box of old books on the floor of a junktique shop in Gloucester, MA, when I spotted a bound volume of the New Harper's Monthly from 1866.

I saw it included some interesting original reportage from the Civil War, plunked down a couple of bucks for it, and took it home to my sister's place. You can imagine my surprise, as I began to flip through it, to find a lengthy article about the AP.

This weekend, as I looked through it again, it occurred to me that some Connecting colleagues might also enjoy seeing it, so I scanned it and today my IT Manager -- AKA my son Michael -- performed some electronic witchcraft to park it so it can be remotely accessed. It begins at the bottom of the first scanned

page, page 511.

Here's the link:

<http://goo.gl/L6Nwuz>

Connecting mailbox

Jim Lagier: thanks for birthday wishes

Dear Friends, many thanks for all the happy birthday messages. I spent the afternoon awaiting a birthday party this (Thursday) evening, reading iPhone News Apps. Wow, on my 79th birthday the world is crumbling. Huffington Post's commentator says the news media is lying about the Mideast war, failing to call it a "massacre." Even beloved AP is ridiculed for a tweet for a grammatical error that said a plane crashed when it had not. I switched to CNN for its interview with that loquacious Texas senator the press quotes as the font of all wisdom. Then , after all this downer information, I switched to Bach, Chopin and Scarlatti. Now, off to the party.

Memories of the astronaut moon landing

[Reid Miller](#) - I was an editor on AP's Apollo 11 team at Houston. We worked primarily from NASA's mission flight plan, a loose-leaf binder about an inch and a half thick that detailed the astronauts' actions on an almost second-by-second timetable, assuming all went according to plan. That allowed us to write and edit leads before actual events -- separation of the landing craft, the descent to the moon, the landing itself, etc. -- adding and inserting the words of the astronauts and their mission controllers at Houston as necessary.

The AP's historic yet simple lead on the landing was decided on at an editorial conference the day before. It was largely the work of Lou Boccardi, with input from John Barbour, Hugh Mulligan and Jules Loh. At the end of a very long day, during which many of us seldom had a chance to follow the event minute-by-minute on television, Barbour, Mulligan, Loh and I opened a bottle of Jack Daniels in the motel room that John and I were sharing, turned on the TV and sat back in awe as the major networks replayed the landing over and over.

Although we had just written, edited and transmitted thousands of words of copy, we sat transfixed by the images sent from space of Armstrong leaving the first human footprint on the moon, Aldrin following him onto the surface and the two of them frolicking on the distant orb.

On the new AP bureau chief in Havana

[Ike Flores](#) - From time-to-time someone writes that "The AP office in Havana was closed for decades following the early days of Fidel Castro's revolution." For the record, to whom it may concern, this is simply NOT true.

For those not checking records: After operating for years, the AP office was officially closed by the Castro regime at the time of the Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961. It was then permitted to reopen a few months later, although it was to be run by a non-American journalist and was pretty much restricted to carrying dispatches from official Castro government sources and AP's own interpretations of the windy speeches of Fidel himself. This became AP's norm until 1965.

In 1965, I was appointed the first American resident correspondent after the Bay of Pigs, replacing newsman Daniel Harker, a Colombian, who had been toeing the Castro government policy closely. He cleared the way for me, and I took up my assignment in the AP office he worked in and went to live in the AP apartment he had occupied. I believe Harker was then assigned to AP Bogota and, later, to 50 Rock. There were one or two other non-Americans representing AP in Havana even before him.

I spent more than two years in Havana as resident correspondent. Before I left in 1967, I welcomed John Fenton Wheeler, also an American. He and his wife lived and reported from there for another three years or more before they were ejected on trumped-up charges. The Castro regime again closed the AP office, but 50 Rock can tell the story after that point.

Cuba has always been an important part of AP operations. The Havana bureau has an interesting history, should anyone want to look it up.

A budding journalist following in mom's footsteps?

John Randle IV, the 9-year-old son of Kansas City Chief of Bureau **Kia Breaux Randle**, portrayed a newsman in a play presented by his summer camp on Wednesday.

The other children in the play acted out several fairy tales, while John



and his counterpart recapped the headlines on "Fairy Tale News."

Kia reports that John auditioned for the part and won it.

A second-generation AP journalist in the making?

Derl McCrudden promoted to lead AP video news

Broadcast journalist **Derl McCrudden** has been promoted to head of international video news for The Associated Press.

The 43-year-old McCrudden, who was previously head of video newsgathering, joined AP in London in 2010. He has helped lead coverage of some of the biggest news events of the past 20 years, including the war in Syria, the election of President Barack Obama in 2008 and the invasion of Iraq in 2003. *(McCrudden at left in photo, Denise Vance at right)*



He joined AP from ITN Consulting, and before that was on the launch team of Al Jazeera English, where he went on to run the channel's Asia operation. Prior to that, he worked in UK network news for ITN for 11 years.

"Derl is one of the smartest journalists in the business, a proven leader whose calm demeanor and steely determination mark him out as a natural for this role," said Sandy MacIntyre, AP vice president and director of global video. "Derl brings a vast amount of experience, both in managerial roles and in running big stories in the field. That experience directly translates into not only understanding, but anticipating the needs of AP's customers."

AP also announced several other video leadership changes:

* Denise Vance, deputy director of U.S. video, will become head of U.S. video and radio, continuing to oversee video and audio newsgathering and production in North America.

* Vaughn Morrison, a former CNN and Fox executive, was recently named the new head of U.S. video production.

* Debora Gorbett, head of video content development, will add oversight of AP Middle East Extra, a new video service offering more unique video content centered on the news that matters most to that region.

"AP's video customers are going to be immensely well served by these changes," MacIntyre said. "This editorial leadership team combines decades of knowledge of the needs of broadcasters and digital players with a passion to win on accuracy, speed and innovation."

AP counts major international broadcasters and leading U.S. television networks and local stations among its global customers. In addition, AP Video Hub, its start-of-the-art online video delivery platform, is being licensed by a growing number of news organizations worldwide. Its U.S. video portal, called AP Video-US, delivers broadcast and online video together on a single platform.

A Graphic (AP) Photo Spurs Reflection

In late May, photographs from a remote Indian village of two teenage cousins hanging from a mango tree spread rapidly and widely online, focusing the world's attention on the problem of gang rape in India.

New York Times Lens Blog:

The girls, 12 and 14 years old, had stepped away from their home to go a nearby field that they used as a toilet. They were gang-raped and left hanging by their scarves. When the girls did not return, Sohan Lal, the father of the younger child, went to the police station and begged for an investigation. Instead, he said, he was derided and asked what his caste was.



When the bodies were discovered the next morning, the girls' families - who

were from a lower caste and distrustful of authorities - left them up so that the police would investigate. The families insisted that the bodies remain hanging so outsiders could see how the girls had been found.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Stories of interest

[And minder makes three: For White House interviews, it's never just one-on-one](#) (Latrice Davis/Facebook)

When NBC News White House reporter Chuck Todd conducts background interviews with government officials these days, he and his source usually aren't the only ones in the room or on the call. Typically, there's a third party: A representative of the White House's press staff monitors the conversation.

Sometimes, the press monitor interjects to clarify a point the official makes. Other times, he or she remains silent. Each time, however, "it feels like having a third wheel on a date," Todd says. "It's like having a chaperon." He adds, "There's so much precaution now in the way people in power interact with the press."

-0-

[Rieder: The fog of Washington](#)

You just can't make this stuff up.

There was White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, chastising The Washington Post for a story that was based in part on information from unnamed sources.

"The lede is hooked entirely to anonymous sources," Earnest said Monday when asked about a Post piece asserting that the Obama administration had had plenty of warning about the burgeoning crisis of children from Central America crossing the Texas border. "That's a fact."



-0-

[Foreign Correspondents in Israel Complain of Intimidation](#)

As the death toll mounts and passions spike, the Foreign Press Association in Israel condemned on Wednesday what it called "deliberate official and unofficial incitement against journalists" who are reporting on the fighting in Gaza. That includes "forcible attempts to prevent journalists and TV crews from carrying out their news assignments," the association said.

-0-

How Media Organizations Are Prepping To Bring The News To Your Wrist



The "mobile-first" transformation for news organizations has been long and painful. Despite the fact that wearables haven't come close to breaking through to a mass consumer base, these same organizations are taking precautions so they don't get left behind by the next wave in tech. As expectations for an Apple iWatch mount (a research firm has predicted that 330 million smartwatches will be sold worldwide by 2018), news orgs are already planning for the ways they will move their content onto the wrists and foreheads of consumers.

-0-

Telling the story of the first world war with 2014 technology

Today we launched our most recent multimedia interactive to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the first world war.

It's a summary of the war, but with a global twist: stories from the outbreak of war to its aftermath are told through the voices of 10 historians from 10 different countries.



It is available in seven languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Hindi and Arabic. We are also inviting our readers to translate the project

into even more languages for relaunch in the autumn. In fact, if you want to get involved, please email us!

-0-

[Longtime Wichita journalist Randy Brown dies at age 73](#) (Doug Tucker)

Randy Brown, a long-time Wichita journalist who also taught at Wichita State University and was an advocate for transparency in government, died Wednesday after a long illness. He was 73.

Visitation is planned for 5 p.m. Sunday at Downing and Lahey East, 6555 E. Central. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at East Heights United Methodist Church, 4407 E. Douglas.

Mr. Brown worked for more than two decades at The Wichita Eagle, including stints as editorial page editor and executive sports editor. He also was senior editor, managing editor and "Live at Five" anchor at KAKE-TV, and an instructor at Wichita State University's Elliott School of Communication.

-0-

[Bloomberg struggles to break out of the box](#)

When Justin Smith arrived from The Atlantic to last fall to take over the sprawling media group at Bloomberg LP, the move was greeted by hosannas in the media and journalism circles. Here was the young, digitally savvy executive credited with playing a crucial role in pulling a 156-year-old monthly from the brink of extinction coming to an immensely profitable company bristling with technological knowhow but struggling to break out of its narrow financial niche and into the media mainstream. Soon after arriving, Smith issued a memo announcing a "hundred day strategy process," toward a new plan that would raise Bloomberg's visibility beyond financial circles and, perhaps, help transform the media industry itself.

-0-

[Attention, TV Networks: Facebook Is Coming For You Next](#)

Mark Zuckerberg likes to use the first few minutes of his quarterly earnings calls to preview big themes that he sees as pivotal to Facebook's future. With a particularly strong quarter of results in hand, Zuckerberg took the opportunity to sketch out a particularly ambitious goal: stealing market share from just about every other form of digital media, particularly television.

Facebook users in the U.S. spend about 40 minutes per day with the service on average. That statistic is usually cited as evidence of Facebook's ubiquity, but

Zuckerberg noted that Americans spend about nine hours a day with screen of all kinds. That's exciting, he said, because of shows there's a lot of room for growth.

-0-

[Journalist working for CNN detained in Ukraine](#)

Donetsk, Ukraine (CNN) -- A Ukrainian journalist working as a freelancer for CNN remains in detention two days after he was detained by pro-Russian separatists.

Armed men from the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic seized Anton Skiba outside a hotel in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk after he had worked for one day with a CNN television crew.

Since his detention, CNN has attempted through a number of different separatist officials, including the office of the separatist Prime Minister Alexander Borodai, to secure Skiba's freedom.

AP Beat of the Week

It was late Sunday afternoon and a brief cease-fire had silenced a raging battle in the Gaza neighborhood of Shijaiyah. Dozens of Palestinians were dead, hundreds wounded and thousands fleeing. In a matter of minutes, the battle would resume.

AP Gaza photographer Hatem Moussa, touring the area, caught sight of someone he knew from Gaza's Civil Defense who was searching for bodies and followed him into a badly damaged building. From under the rubble came the barely audible sound of a family trapped: A woman crying for help alongside her husband, 7-year-old niece and three dead relatives.

"I'm here under the shop," the woman cried out. "God, please, I can't breathe."

Moussa called for AP backup. Visiting photographer Lefteris Pitarakis and VJ Dalton Bennett were not far away; upon arrival, they first determined whether they might help the family, and then shot pictures and video. It was too dangerous for rescuers to bring in bulldozers. As the AP team rushed out, Moussa spotted a Red Cross team and passed on the exact location. Hours later, rescue workers returned and saved the family. The Civil Defense team made a point of calling AP, inviting the team back to the hospital for a follow-up story.

<https://vimeo.com/101530733>

<http://news.yahoo.com/scores-dead-first-major-ground-battle-gaza-202146112.html>

<http://apne.ws/WDRb1M>

It was just one of several instances of AP being a step ahead of the competition in the most challenging of environments: war in a small, sealed-off territory where they both live and work. In this setting and under these circumstances, the Gaza staff performed brilliantly, advancing a story of global interest to earn the Beat of the Week award.

For the Gaza staff, this is more than a news story. It's their life. Covering war is hard enough; worrying if your family will survive the day is simply impossible for most of us to imagine. Consider a few snapshots from recent days:

Moussa was having the pre-dawn Ramadan meal with his wife and four children when the airstrikes began. They fled, fearing death. Driver Said Jalis' family, his wife heavily pregnant, took refuge at a U.N. school, sleeping on the floor; his 10th child was born Monday. Writer Ibrahim Barzak's family moved twice in less than a week before deciding home was safest; he turns the TV off when his children are near and sleeps less than four hours. Fares Elwan, the caretaker, sleeps on a mattress in the office hallway because it's too dangerous to return to see his 11 children. Majed Hamdan, a photographer, fixer and driver, put his family in the room looking away from a built-up area in Shijaiyah. "If we die, we all die together," he says.

And yet, routinely, the Gaza staffers put all this aside, mining their excellent network of sources and years of experience. Reporting into the Jerusalem bureau -- and working closely with AP staff journalists in Israel who are themselves under siege from Hamas rockets - their professionalism puts AP consistently ahead on one of the world's most competitive stories.

They know every inch of the strip, and are able to quickly verify or debunk reports. Besides covering and facilitating stories themselves, they've created a crucial foundation for the visiting team of Senior Producer Khaled Kazziha, writer Karin Laub, Pitarakis and Bennett.

Just ask Pitarakis, who has covered conflicts across the globe: Working with the experienced Gaza staff, he says, makes all the difference. "Without a doubt, this is the game-changing scenario," he says. "These guys set up this amazing system. The drivers know everything. The local photographers know everyone. It's a constant flow of information and I wouldn't be able to operate without it. These guys tell me: go there, go here."

This well-honed newsgathering system has been working throughout the conflict. On July 13, APTN producer Najib Abu Jobain put AP ahead with the first images of families fleeing the northern towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun which were coming under heavy attack from Israeli tank fire.

"I got a phone call from my daughter the moment she saw the donkey carts, trucks and cars arriving at the U.N. school (where the displaced were

seeking shelter)." AP got the pictures at 2 a.m., about six hours ahead of Reuters.

And the staff has been working this way for years: Back in 2011, it was Barzak who broke the news that Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit had been handed back to Israeli forces.

For valiant and extraordinary efforts that helped make the AP the leading source for news on this crucial story, the Gaza-based staff wins this week's \$500 award. They are: chief APTN producer Najib Abu Jobain, correspondent Ibrahim Barzak, photographer Adel Hana, cameraman Rashed Rasheed, photographer Hatem Moussa, photographer Khalil Hamra, APTN producer Wafa Shurafa, photographer-fixer Majed Hamdan, cameraman Tamer Ziara, cameraman Yacoub Abu Galwa, driver Ismail Shurabasi, driver Said Jalis and caretaker Fares Elwan.

Mike Oreskes

AP Best of the States

St. Louis reporter Alan Scher Zagier is this week's Best of the States winner with a series of scoops that exonerated a Missouri man wrongly convicted of murder.

The story goes all the way back to 2008, when Scher Zagier began digging into the courtroom conduct of Kenny Hulshof, a six-term congressman and former special state prosecutor who was the GOP nominee for Missouri governor that year.

After publishing a series of stories about questions surrounding Hulshof's tactics -- which included allegations of withholding evidence and embellishing closing arguments -- Scher Zagier received a phone call from a state lawmaker who pointed him to another Hulshof case, that of Missouri inmate Mark Woodworth.

Woodworth, who was 16 when his neighbor was shot and killed in her bed in the rural community of Chillicothe, had been convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Scher Zagier visited county courthouses and Woodworth's attorney's office to review documents from his trials and subsequent appeals. Although the paper trail eventually extended beyond 1,000 pages of trial transcripts, investigative reports and other documents, he suspected the record was still incomplete.

So Scher Zagier submitted an open records request to access records kept by the Missouri Attorney General's office. With a junior prosecutor glued to his side, he found a series of letters exchanged between a survivor of the shooting that killed Cathy Robertson, a reluctant county prosecutor and a county judge, all of which raised serious questions about how the case was handled.

One revealed that the survivor had asked that the prosecutor be disqualified for a "lack of enthusiasm." The prosecutor reminded the judge that soon after the crime, the witness "was adamant that we charge another young man" - the abusive and violent ex-boyfriend of Robertson's oldest daughter. And in a letter to the attorney general's office asking for a replacement prosecutor, the judge wrote that the county prosecutor "boycotted the grand jury proceedings this morning, which is simply unheard of in my experience."

Woodworth's defense lawyers had never received those potentially exculpatory letters.

Scher Zagier was alone on the Woodworth story for years. Eventually, it became too big to ignore -- especially after a judge appointed to review the case by the Missouri Supreme Court called Woodworth's conviction a "manifest injustice," citing Scher Zagier's discovery of the letters.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch also hailed his work: "Associated Press reporter Alan Scher Zagier uncovered a bombshell: Prosecutors had withheld key documents."

And the Kansas City Star: "He might have remained in prison if Alan Zagier, a reporter for The Associated Press, had not looked into the case several years ago and discovered documents in the state's file that never had been turned over to Woodworth's attorneys."

Eventually, the state Attorney General's office was removed from the case for its series of prosecutorial missteps -- also first reported by Scher Zagier. Another special state prosecutor was appointed to the case.

And then finally, on July 15, the murder charge against Woodworth was dropped. Not surprisingly, it was Scher Zagier again who broke the news after being tipped off by a defense lawyer and before a county court clerk contacted for independent verification had even entered the written ruling into the court's computer system. Here is his [story](#).

For his persistence in sticking with the story, holding public officials accountable for their missteps, and digging out the details that reversed a wrongful conviction, Scher Zagier wins this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Brian Carovillano

(Both Beat of Week and Best of States shared by Valerie Komor)

And finally...

Wondering what happened to those documents you requested, Maine journalists?

"Investigative reporter nightmare? Found outside the Maine statehouse"
(@POGOBlog)



Paul Stevens
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)



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