
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2014 10:19 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - July 29, 2014

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Connecting

July 29, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning!

Connecting is back after a few days vacation, where in Omaha we celebrated my sister's retirement from 44 years as a second-grade teacher. We never did find Warren Buffett's house, but Omaha is a great city, with a super zoo and lively Old Market area.

Here are some stories of interest:

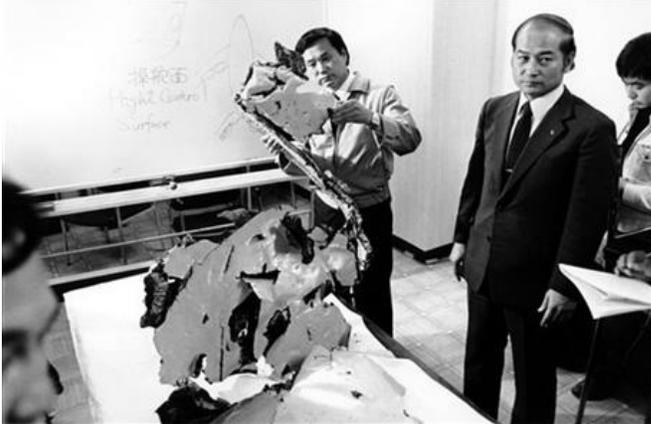
Former Moscow AP chief recalls Soviet evasion in '83 jet downing

By STEVEN R. HURST

Those searching for the truth about what happened in the shoot-down of the Malaysia airliner over Ukraine can take little comfort from the history of another passenger jet that was blasted out of the sky over the Soviet

Union more than three decades ago: The Kremlin at the time dodged, weaved and obfuscated. Today, we still don't know what exactly happened to Korean Airlines Flight 007.

I was The Associated Press' Moscow bureau chief when a Soviet Sukhoi-15 fighter



downed KAL 007 on Sept. 1, 1983. The passenger plane was about to leave Soviet airspace after more than two hours of flying off-course above super-secret military

installations along the Pacific coast. Pilots on the New York to Seoul flight via Anchorage, Alaska, had apparently put wrong navigation points into the on-flight computer. All 269 people on board were killed.

For three days, the Soviets said little. Then, on the fourth day, came a flurry of confusing and unlikely accounts. Authorities said the Red Army in the Far East mistook the KAL airliner, with the distinctive 747 hump at the front, for an American RS-135 spy plane, a modified Boeing 707. At the time, the United States maintained a fleet of the RS-135s around the world, many of them flying off the Pacific coast of Siberia.

That same day, Col. Gen. Semyon Romanov was quoted by the official TASS news agency as saying, "The horror of this is that the United States sent the plane on its dirty mission." Romanov declared the "South Korean plane flew from the United States as a rude and deliberate provocation."

Neither account acknowledged that the Soviets had shot down the civilian aircraft. TASS said only that a Soviet interceptor had fired "tracer shells" along the airliner's flight path. Other Soviet press reports said the Korean craft then flew out of Soviet air space and 10 minutes later disappeared from radar.

Seeking some clarity, I contacted a Soviet source who was in a position to know, but wouldn't let me identify him in stories. His account was more believable.

He confirmed that a heat-seeking air-to-air missile blasted KAL007 out of the sky. He said top Soviet military officials decided to shoot it down because they truly believed it was on a spy mission. He said the military

had proof, but wouldn't say what it was. The Soviets were sensitive to intrusions over the secret military installations at Kamchatka and Sakhalin, and officials in Moscow would have been notified only minutes after Soviet airspace was violated, he said. But then-President Yuri V. Andropov, ailing and on vacation outside Moscow at the time, had not been consulted, the source said.

I wrote about this source's account, but for days there was still no official word from the Soviets. Then, eight days after the downing, they gathered reporters to make the claim that the jet was on a spy mission for Washington and, finally, acknowledge that one of its jet fighters had shot it down.

I was in the Foreign Ministry press center as top military commanders made their case using huge maps and diagrams of the militarily sensitive region not far north of Japan. They said several military fighter jets had stalked the jetliner as it flew through Russian airspace. The Soviet brass also said its intercepting jets had confused the airliner with an American RS-135 spy plane that Moscow claimed was trailing behind the civilian jetliner.

About a month later, Soviet sources offered yet another explanation: They told me that two of three major radar installations in the region had broken down, leaving air defense forces in the region confused about what was happening with the intruding plane.

Precisely what happened and why still hasn't been told. Did they really think a civilian passenger plane was used for a spy mission? Or did they mistake it for a spy plane?

That uncertainty may be replayed with the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has tried to lay blame for the tragedy on the Ukrainian government and its attempt to put down the uprising in the east of the country by separatist pro-Russian rebels who are backed by Moscow. He did not specifically assert the Ukrainians had downed the airliner. No other explanation has been forthcoming.

Senior U.S. intelligence officials say the plane was likely shot down by an SA-11 surface-to-air missile fired by the separatists. They cited intercepts, satellite photos and social media postings by separatists, some of which have been authenticated by U.S. experts.

But that would still leave key questions unanswered. Who ordered the shoot-down? Was the passenger plane mistaken for a Ukrainian military plane?

History suggests we may never know.

(Shared by Paul Colford)

Steven R. Hurst covered the Soviet Union and Russia for 12 years between 1979 and 1994. He has covered international relations for more than 30 years and is AP international political writer in Washington.

FILE - In the Sept. 12, 1983, file photo above, Korean Airlines equipment procurement section chief Suk Jin-Ku examines a piece of aircraft debris at Wakkania Police station in Japan. Those searching for the truth about what happened in the shoot-down of the Malaysia airliner over Ukraine can take little comfort from the history of another passenger jet that was blasted out of the sky over the Soviet Union more than three decades ago: The Kremlin at the time dodged, weaved and obfuscated. Today, we still don't know what exactly happened to Korean Airlines Flight 007. (AP Photo/Mikami, File)

Connecting mailbox

More Cuba memories

[Joe McGowan](#) - I am glad Ike Flores spoke up about the AP in Havana, Cuba.

When I went there Christmas week, 1962 aboard the freighter carrying ransom supplies to Castro so he would release the Bay of Pigs prisoners, I met and spent quite a bit of time with George Arfield, an Argentine citizen who had worked in the Buenos Aires bureau and then was sent to Cuba to head the AP bureau. On the first day in Havana, Fidel Castro came to the freighter and then took me, surgeon general Leonard Scheele and Barrett Prettyman Jr., a member of Bobby Kennedy's attorney general staff, on a ride through Havana. He took us to Hemingway's house and all over Havana. Scheele and Prettyman were flying back to Florida aboard one of the planes chartered to fly the Bay of Pigs prisoners to Florida. George now lives in Sarasota, FL, after many years of living in New York City.

Castro told me I could stay in a hotel downtown while the freighter was being unloaded (it took nearly a week), and I could go anywhere I wanted. When I teamed up with Arfield, we were able to take taxi rides to places where the Castro government had not allowed him to visit. My first evening in Havana, George and I met in Hemingway's favorite bar!! And I turned over to him a photographer's case I had taken with me, full of

bananas and other fruit which were not available in Cuba in those days. I took the loaded case in the hopes I would get to see George and turn the fruit over to him. Sure enough, I did.

Embarrassing - or confusing - work moments continued

[Joe McKnight](#) - You've been using reports of embarrassing situations among AP staff. Following are a couple of incidents that, while I never thought of them as embarrassing, did create confusion for me.

The first occurred in the Atlanta AP bureau in the fall of 1957 when President Eisenhower ordered elements of the 101st Airborne Division to Little Rock to see to the safety of nine black students who had enrolled in the previously all-white Central High School. The AP General Desk in New York sent a number of reporters to Little Rock to assist in news coverage. Among them were Relmin "Pat" Moran, one of the top writers in New York's reporting stable at the time.

I was working the night rewrite desk in Atlanta at the time and went to work one afternoon to find a stranger working at my desk. He seemed quite busy and was concentrating so I wandered around the office for a bit, reading the bulletin board, etc. Finally, the stranger stood up and I quickly asked if I could help him. He asked where was the bathroom and I pointed to the door, quickly introducing myself, "Oh, Hi," he said, shaking my hand and quickly walking toward the bathroom.

I then asked news editor Roy Hutchinson who that was and Roy, said "ask him yourself." So when the guy returned to my desk, I asked for his name.

He quickly apologized and said he was Pat Moran. He then explained that he had been at Little Rock several days, was en route to another assignment, but needed to finish a weekend story on Central High School before starting his next chore.

I found an alternate desk to work at that evening.

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Fast forward to 1966 and I was correspondent at Wichita. It was mid-day and I was finishing the daily chore of gleaning the afternoon Wichita Beacon of newsworthy copy. A bald-headed man walked into the office and introduced himself as Jules Loh. I recognized the name as a writer working in New York, though I had never met the man. He said he was in Kansas working on a story about the facts that led to Truman Capote's factual novel "In Cold Blood." Jules said he had been away from New York longer than he planned and had run out of money and could I lend him \$100.00. I didn't have that much cash but did end up giving him \$50.00. He

assured me I could turn in an expense account listing this as a loan to him.

Loh left the office and I quickly called Kansas City Bureau Chief Frank Gorrie and explained what I had done.

"How do you know it was Jules?" Frank asked.

I stammered and quickly said I didn't. I had visions of my \$50.00 fluttering out the window.

Gorrie laughed, said he knew Loh was somewhere in Kansas and said he would have his secretary send me a check that day for my \$50.00. He said he didn't need an expense report, that Loh was known for running out of cash when on assignment.

Buddy Love - Don't give up on the GOP!

Connecting colleague [Scott Charton](#) reveals that some prankster - no one has 'fessed up - has added his border collie-Aussie shepherd mix, Buddy Love, to several mailing lists.



Scott, a 21-year AP veteran, writes: "This includes the Republican National Committee, which obviously isn't cross-checking its email and snail mail lists against voter registration records. Buddy Love has gotten fundraising emails from Presidents Bush41 and Bush43, and RNC Chairman Reince Priebus and today, an entreaty from RNC Treasurer Tony Parker asking plaintively: "Buddy - have you given up on the Republican Party?" He asks

because Buddy Love hasn't written any donation checks, which is no surprise in our household because Buddy Love doesn't have a checking account.

"Truth is, the vote of my friendly dog could probably be bought with a nice meaty bone. Until then, he's officially unaligned and uncommitted, except when chasing cats and squirrels."

Scott's Facebook friends are chuckling about Buddy Love's political mail, with one declaring: "Nag The Dog," inspired by the DeNiro-Hoffman political satire of a few years back, "Wag The Dog."

Welcome to Connecting



[Bryan Baldwin](#) - Director, Internal Communications, AP Corporate Communications

Stories of interest

[At Front Lines, Bearing Witness in Real Time](#)

David Carr: My social media feed has taken a bloody turn in the last few weeks, and I'm hardly alone. Along with the usual Twitter wisecracking and comments on incremental news, I have seen bodies scattered across fields and hospitals in Ukraine and Gaza. I have read posts from reporters who felt threatened, horrified and revolted.

Geopolitics and the ubiquity of social media have made the world a smaller, seemingly gorier place. If Vietnam brought war into the living room, the last few weeks have put it at our fingertips. On our phones, news alerts full of body counts bubble into our inbox, Facebook feeds are populated by appeals for help or action on behalf of victims, while Twitter boils with up-to-the-second reporting, some by professionals and some by citizens, from scenes of disaster and chaos.

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[Wolff: What next for CNN?](#) (Bob Daugherty)

For almost 20 years, Time Warner has been criticized for its management of CNN. The gummy CNN problem - it makes money, but nobody likes it - is about to be inherited by someone else. Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox, in its bid for CNN's parent, Time Warner, says if it buys the conglomerate, it will sell CNN to avoid any conflict with Fox News. If Murdoch's bid fails, that will probably be because someone else's prevails. If it wasn't before, CNN's future is up for grabs.

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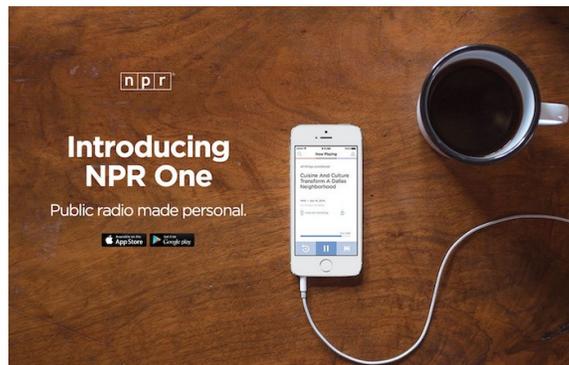
[Joyce Terhaar: Capitol coverage demonstrates commitment](#) (Scott Charton)

Gov. Gray Davis was famously ascetic and committed the sin of being boring - and then the energy crisis hit, complete with rolling brownouts across the state. Californians brought celebrity sex appeal to the Capitol when they ousted Davis and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger governor in 2003. Schwarzenegger strode into Sacramento with his alligator boots and cigars and, far more notably, media attention from around the world. The attention was so novel it became fodder for news reports: Schwarzenegger announced his candidacy on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno. Austrian television carried his inauguration live. Camera crews crowded the Capitol. Broadcast journalists from Europe and Asia and South America wanted interviews. Compare that media commotion to today's coverage of politics and state policy out of Sacramento. Yes, Arnold is gone. But it's not just an issue of a worldwide celebrity making his mark in politics and leaving. Even before Schwarzenegger's term ended, many journalists had packed up and gone home. Covering a statehouse, as it turns out, is hard work, and it takes a financial commitment from media companies.

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[The newsonomics of NPR One and the dream of personalized public radio](#)

Wouldn't it be cool if public radio fans could get to all their stuff in one simple app? Stuff from Morning Edition, Fresh Air, Here & Now, All Things Considered - and their local station. It would know what we want to hear even before we know it's out there, bringing it all to us in real time and no cost. It's a vision that might complete the transition of turning the phone into a virtual digital radio - and it would work on a tablet, a laptop, and even in certain connected cars.



That's the dream of NPR's new NPR One app. It's out of beta in soft launch today, and you can test drive it for yourself in the iOS and Android stores. NPR One begins to achieve that vision, even as a work in progress. Of course, its dream is a common one online, the fevered hope of masterful, personalized curation aggregating the best of the best. We've seen that in

news (Google News, Yahoo News, AP Mobile), in magazines (Flipboard), in music (iTunes, Spotify, Pandora), movies and TV (Netflix, Hulu). Now NPR wants to lead the pack in public radio news listening.

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[Margot Adler, An NPR Journalist For Three Decades, Dies](#)

Margot Adler, one of the signature voices on NPR's airwaves for more than three decades, died Monday at her home in New York City. She was 68 and had been battling cancer. Margot joined the NPR staff as a general assignment reporter in 1979. She went on to cover everything from the beginnings of the AIDS epidemic to confrontations involving the Ku Klux Klan in Greensboro, N.C., to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



"Her reporting was singular and her voice distinct," Margaret Low Smith, NPR's vice president for news, said in an announcement to staff. "There was almost no story that Margot couldn't tell."

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[Tribune Publishing CEO: We're Buying Newspapers](#)

Tribune Publishing Co. CEO Jack Griffin isn't selling off newspapers. He wants to acquire more of them. Despite all the speculation about a sale of Chicago Tribune, the Los Angeles Times and/or the other Tribune dailies, Mr. Griffin is setting his sights -- at least at the start of his tenure at soon-to-be-independent Tribune Publishing -- on buying smaller newspapers in or near his existing markets.

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[When Media Mergers Limit More Than Competition](#) (Doug Pizac)

The much-admired Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black may be rolling in his grave at the prospect of a merger between 21st Century Fox and Time Warner Inc., which would reduce control of the major Hollywood studios to five owners, from six, and major television producers to four, from five.

"The widest possible dissemination of information from diverse and

antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare of the public," he wrote in the majority opinion that decided a 1945 antitrust case involving major newspaper publishers and The Associated Press. "The First Amendment affords not the slightest support for the contention that a combination to restrain trade in news and views has any constitutional immunity."

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The Enquirer exposed!

It was business as usual down in the Financial District on a recent Wednesday afternoon. Wall Street wags were clustered al fresco on their lunch breaks. Ferries docked and departed from their creaky slips at Pier 11. Tourists clogged the cobblestone corridors of South Street Seaport. And on the second floor of an East River office tower, the editors of America's most notorious tabloid sat around a conference table picking out their next victims.

Matt Lauer was in the crosshairs thanks to a photo, displayed on a flat-screen monitor mounted on the wall, of the embattled "Today Show" anchor boarding his "love boat" with a "mystery woman." Tom Cruise was the target of new "nightmare rumors," as The National Enquirer would squawk the following week, "involving same sex love affairs." Not even Michelle Obama had escaped the scrutiny of the sensational celebrity scourge, which assigned one of its reporters to compile a list of the first lady's current and former aides. A certain blonde bombshell of yore (you'll find out who soon enough) was on the story budget, too, having agreed to "strip down to a bikini at age 67," as the Enquirer's new editor-in-chief, Dylan Howard, boasted.

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Editor Greg Moore gives the story behind the Pat Bowlen scoop

BAM!

It is rare to pick up the morning newspaper and be smacked in the face with a story so surprising that you stand there for a second just to take it in.

Wednesday's news that Broncos owner Pat Bowlen was relinquishing day-to-day management of the team was just such a story.

I thought I'd share a glimpse with you about how the super scoop came about.

And finally

A good read shared by **Claude Erbsen**:

[Angell in the Outfield](#)

ROGER ANGELL takes off his brown J. Press sports coat and blue cap, yanks out his hearing aids, stashes his cane, and sits down for a shave and haircut at Delta barbershop at 72nd and Lex., the same spot he's patronized for 40 years. "I don't see Henry Kissinger doing any interviews in a barbershop," he says dryly.

The 93-year-old New Yorker writer has come down from his house in Maine to get spruced up for the Baseball Hall of Fame ceremony this weekend. The old man who has lovingly described so many young men playing the game is getting the sport's highest writing honor, the J. G. Taylor Spink Award, unprecedented recognition for "a drop-in writer," as he calls himself, whose leisurely deadlines prevented him from becoming a member of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.



Editorial Talking Points - week through July 20, 2014

GAZA WAR: During a brief ceasefire in the Gaza war, AP photographer Hatem Moussa followed a Civil Defense worker into a badly damaged building. From under the rubble came the feeble sound of a family trapped: A woman crying for help next to her husband, 7-year-old niece and three dead relatives. The wounded were later rescued and the Civil

Defense team invited AP to the hospital for a follow-up story.

It was one of several instances of AP being a step ahead of the competition in a war in a small, sealed-off area where its journalists both live and work _ and know every inch of the strip.

On July 13, video 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. AP got the pictures six hours ahead of Reuters.

<http://yhoo.it/1olx42s>

Ukraine-Plane: When Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine, AP was first with self-shot video from the scene.

St. Petersburg photographer Dmitri Lovetsky and Donetsk-based video journalist Mstyslav Chernov negotiated their way to the crash site through three rebel-controlled checkpoints. The quality of Lovetsky's stills meant AP had extensive front-page use in newspapers, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, De Telegraaf in the Netherlands, The Times in London and three Japanese titles.

Both of them used smartphones to expedite the first images to customers. Chernov filed two short video clips on his smartphone that moved one hour ahead of our nearest competitor. Next was an edited package, complete with an eyewitness account of the crash from a rebel. This story was the most used news item of the last year, with 7,306 uses by our clients amounting to two days of broadcasting hours.

In the Netherlands, chief correspondent Mike Corder ensured that the AP had cross-format coverage of a grieving mother who urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to give her back her children. Corder tracked her down, interviewed her, got photos of her children and arranged for her to talk to Berlin producer Dorothee Thiesing, who drove to Rotterdam for an exclusive interview. Their stories put a human face on the suffering of a nation.

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