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Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 2014 8:59 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - August 6, 2014

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Connecting

August 6, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good morning! Here are some items of interest.

Paul

NATO soldier fires 'warning shot' near AP photographer

A member of NATO forces fired a warning shot near an Associated Press photographer outside of a military training academy on the outskirts of Kabul, according to the New York Times.

Massoud Hossaini was there to cover a shooting at Camp Qargha, a military base west of Kabul. The New York Times is reporting an American major general was killed in the attack, which the AP says also wounded "about a dozen" Americans.



When Hossaini was outside the base, a NATO soldier on a roof-mounted gun yelled a warning to him and then fired a warning shot in his vicinity, The Times reports:

"I don't know what he fired. It was fired near our car," he said, adding that he left the scene straight away.

The soldier fired his pistol near Hossaini, according to the AP. There were no injuries.

Hossaini was awarded the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography for an Agence France-Presse image of a girl cowering after a suicide bomb attack.

Earlier this year, AP photographer Anja Niedringhaus was killed while covering the run-up to the Afghanistan presidential election.

PHOTO above: A NATO soldier opens fire toward journalists near the main gate of Camp Qargha, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2014. A man dressed in an Afghan army uniform opened fire Tuesday on foreign troops at a military base, causing casualties, an Afghan military spokesman said. (AP Photo/Massoud Hossaini)

Spy Agency Stole Scoop From Media Outlet And Handed It To The AP

WASHINGTON -- The Associated Press dropped a significant scoop on Tuesday afternoon, reporting that in the last several years the U.S. government's terrorism watch list has doubled.

A few minutes after the AP story, then consisting of three paragraphs, was posted at 12:32 p.m., The Intercept published a much more comprehensive article. The original article, which has since been updated and expanded, appears below:

The government, it turned out, had "spoiled the scoop," an informally forbidden practice in the world of journalism. To spoil a scoop, the subject of a story, when asked for comment, tips off a different, typically friendlier outlet in the hopes of diminishing the attention the first outlet would have received. Tuesday's AP story was much friendlier to the government's position, explaining the surge of individuals added to the watch list as an ongoing response to a foiled terror plot.

Click [here](#) to read more.

News of the AP

Father in law of AP's Robert Burns dies

JEFFERSON CITY - An influential Jefferson City lobbyist whose legislative victories included bringing legalized riverboat gambling to Missouri has died at 88.

John Britton died Tuesday at a Jefferson City hospital after an extended illness, said his son-in-law **Robert Burns**, AP's national security writer based in Washington.

One of Britton's first clients in a half-century lobbying career that made him one of the most influential people in the state Capitol was Anheuser-Busch, a company he represented despite having quit drinking.

Britton, a notorious chain smoker who frequently flaunted the Capitol's no-smoking rules, worked to keep beer taxes down and fought limits on public smoking.

Britton was previously a speech writer for then-Missouri Attorney General Thomas Eagleton.

Connecting mailbox

Tasnadi at political convention

[Bob Daugherty](#) - AP photographer Ray Stubblebine was shooting from a photo stand and was suffering some sort of gastric distress. Washington photo editor Barry Stroup, who was coordinating floor photographers, called Charlie Tasnadi over and told him to "go spell (relieve) Stubblebine." Charlie looked at Stroup, who was motioning toward the photo stand in the back of the hall, and didn't move. Stroup repeated "go spell Stubble." Finally Charlie replied, "I can't spell Stubblebine here, why should I go back there?"

Memories of carrying the Rocky

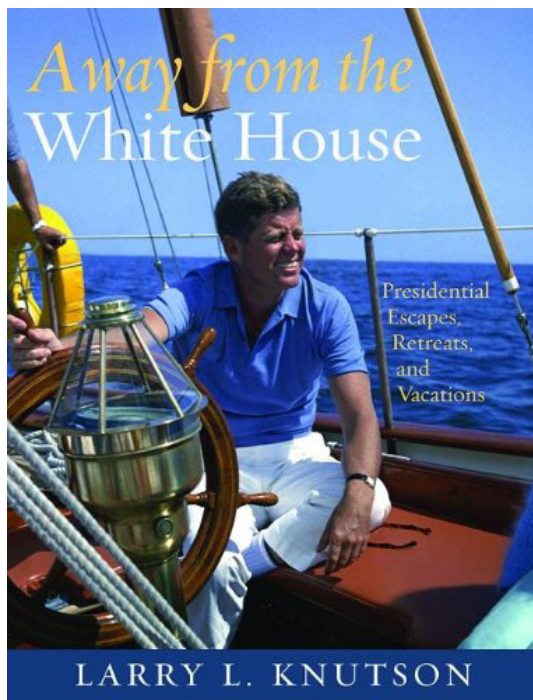
[Marc Wilson](#) - responding to Tuesday's Connecting call for newspaper carrier experiences:

I delivered the Rocky Mountain News in suburban Denver in the mid-1960s. The afternoon Denver Post was delivered to nearly every house, while the struggling morning Rocky went to about one in five residences. Many years later, I was a general assignment/cops reporter for the Rocky, and met my wife-to-be, Ginny, a copy editor, at the Rocky. From the Rocky, I joined the AP, and worked in five bureaus. Was a sad day in our house when the Rocky folded in 2005.

AP's Larry Knutson writes new book on presidential vacations

[Carl P. Leubsdorf Sr.](#) shares:

My long-time AP Senate and White House colleague, [Larry Knutson](#) - we covered the downfall of President Nixon 40 years ago this month - has a new book out on presidential vacations that should make great summer reading.



Timed to coincide with President Obama's summer vacation at Martha's Vineyard, the White House Historical Association is publishing Larry's book on the places presidents have gone and the many things they have done on breaks from the tensions, pressures and ceremonial routine of the Oval Office.

The title sketches the story: Away From the White House, Presidential Escapes, Retreats and Vacations. It presents a comprehensive view of the presidential vacation from the time George Washington's coach and four-horse team first headed to his Mount Vernon home from the temporary capital at Philadelphia.

The book's 37 chapters, illustrated with hundreds of vintage images and photographs, records presidential escapes by horseback, steamboat, railroad, automobile, and ultimately, Air Force One.

Larry retired in 2002 after a 37-year AP career beginning in Chicago. He covered the White House, Congress, national political campaigns and presidential vacations along with the rest.

The idea for the book evolved after the AP asked him to write a weekly local history column. The column, *Washington Yesterday*, explored stories from the city's two centuries. Inevitably, that came to include stories about presidential vacations.

Larry's book begins in an era when presidents went home to their farms and plantations: Washington to Mount Vernon, John Adams, to Quincy, Mass., Thomas Jefferson to Monticello and James Madison to Montpelier.

The concept of vacation emerged later in the 19th century when presidents, impelled in large part by Washington's summer heat, left town to enjoy fresher and cooler ocean or mountain air. As transportation evolved they found they could travel further and faster even as their responsibilities followed them, as they have for all presidents.

The book has dozens of stories ranging from humorous to tragic. A few include:

-Franklin Roosevelt fishing from a launch lowered from a Navy cruiser. Calvin Coolidge, fishing with worms in the Black Hills, donning an Indian war bonnet and dedicating Mount Rushmore, just days before he startled the country by announcing he did not "choose" to run for re-election in 1928.

-Abraham Lincoln, unable to travel for pleasure because of the Civil War, established a peaceful summertime retreat in a cottage at the Soldier's home, within the confines of the District of Columbia, and commutes to and from the White House by horseback.

-Grover Cleveland was outraged after being pursued on his honeymoon by a trainload of reporters. In a second term he used the pretext of a vacation to cloak secret cancer surgery on a friend's yacht and his recovery at his Cape Cod vacation home.

-James Garfield, fatally wounded while walking across a Washington railroad station to board a train and begin the first vacation of his still new presidency.

-Theodore Roosevelt transformed the presidential vacation for all time by taking senior advisers and a working staff with him to Sagamore Hill, his summer home at Oyster Bay, N.Y. TR used that staff and a global communications network to broker an end to the Russo-Japanese war. The effort earned him the 1905 Nobel Peace

Prize.

-Franklin Roosevelt, unable to use the presidential yacht as war approaches, established Shangri La, a woodsy retreat in the rolling hills of western Maryland. It survives today as Camp David.

There are dozens of other stories and images throughout the book. Among them: Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush cutting brush, Lyndon Johnson chasing steers on horseback, Jack Kennedy sailing and playing touch football, Theodore Roosevelt earning a newspaper scolding for diving in an early submarine, Gerald R. Ford skiing, Jimmy Carter playing softball, George H.W. Bush throwing horseshoes, and Harry Truman discarding blue-suit formality to make the loud and bright Hawaiian sport shirt the emblem of his laid back Key West, Fla. vacations.

Not to forget: William Howard Taft, Dwight Eisenhower, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama on golf courses coast-to-coast.



In a preface, Larry says this about sources:

"When this book became a possibility, I discovered its underpinnings in more than two centuries of news stories about presidential escapes, retreats and vacations. The stories emerged from stacks of faded newspaper clippings, unreeled from spools of microfilm and emerged from the recesses of the internet."

He also cites the resources of presidential libraries, biographies and presidential memoirs and continues:

"Often an important source was an observant staff member or Secret Service agent, or, at least once, a well placed person on the street. Walt Whitman, the poet, watched Abraham Lincoln ride back to the White House almost every morning from his retreat at the Soldiers Home. "We have got so that we exchange bows, and very cordial ones," he wrote in his journal.

Larry commented: "At times I felt as though I had been doing that as well."

Brian Williams, the anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News, wrote the foreword. Williams and Knutson were once colleagues in the White House press room.

This is from his conclusion:

"We ask a lot of our chief executives ... That means the burdens and hopes and dreams of the nation reside in that one individual, and given the pressures of office, we voters have always been interested in where they choose to go to relax. Larry Knutson takes us there_to each place and in great detail_in this first book of the kind ... You are in for a great treat, and a wonderful journey."

Away From the White House: Presidential Escapes, Retreats and Vacations, by Lawrence L. Knutson, published by the White House Historical Association, can be purchased for \$39.95.

To order, call 1(800) 555-2451 or visit:
SHOP.WHITEHOUSEHISTORY.ORG

Stories of interest

[How ProPublica uses a "reporting recipe" to cook up collaboration](#)

Roger McKinney first heard the story on NPR. Students in public schools, many with physical or mental disabilities, were physically restrained or isolated more than 267,000 times across the country during the 2011-12 academic year, according to federal data.

"More than half the time, that meant adults held or pinned the child, and in 7,600 cases, a device was used, like a belt or handcuffs," NPR reporter Joseph Shapiro said on air. "And the numbers are almost certainly higher. Many of the nation's largest school districts reported no use of seclusion or restraint."

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[The Obama White House has a terrible relationship with the press corps. Whose fault is that?](#)

There's a new piece in Rolling Stone magazine about the tense -- to be kind -- relationship between the Obama White House and the media tasked with covering it. The piece is interesting on a lot of levels not least of which because it was written by Reid Cherlin, a former press operative for President Obama who left the White House to pursue a career as a journalist. (Editor's note: Cherlin wrote a profile of me for GQ online a few years back.)

In the Rolling Stone piece, Cherlin tries to answer two basic questions: 1) Are things worse now than they have been in the past? and 2) If so, whose fault is it?

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[Looking for the Enduring Photo in Gaza](#)

[Tyler Hicks](#), a New York Times staff photographer, covered Gaza during the first two weeks of the current conflict. He spoke about that experience in a phone interview with James Estrin. The conversation has been edited.



Mr. Hicks [won the Pulitzer Prize](#) for Breaking News Photography in 2014 [for his coverage](#) of the massacre at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya. He was also a member of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 2009 for coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

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[Killing the game story would be a shame](#) (Mark Mittelstadt)

My love for almost everything began with a love for sport writing, and it remains my favorite kind of journalism.

In the early days it was the game story that most excited me. There was so little television coverage of sports back then - no replays or ESPN and the like - that if you wanted a good accounting, you read a rundown of the game in the New York Daily News. A sharp game story accompanied by some data visualization - uh, I mean the box score - and you were good to go.

You would think that the game story would be obsolete, that sports networks and the internet would have provided countless replays accompanied by endless commentary by both players and a clone army of talking heads. Or that by now the game story would be the job of a robot journalist.

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[5 investigative journalism tips from New York Times' David Barstow](#)

After a publisher chopped away at one of David Barstow's early investigative stories, he considered ditching journalism and heading off to law school. Since then, Barstow

- now a reporter at The New York Times - has gone on to win three Pulitzer Prizes for journalism that has exposed [poor working conditions](#) and [bribery](#) in America's companies and [manipulation of the American media](#).

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[Ken Doctor: 10 takeaways from Gannett's blockbuster announcements](#)

Gannett has long been one of the most market-savvy American newspaper chains. It showed those smarts again today, with its twin announcements.

Had it only announced the spinoff of its distressed newspaper properties, it could have been seen as a me-too response to the split-'em-up business model *du jour* (Monday's post: "[The newsonomics of splitting up media companies, with Gannett maybe next](#)"). Or, had it only announced its acquisition of Cars.com, [buying out](#) its partners for \$1.8 billion, that might have been seen as expected, and perhaps even at the lower end of the anticipated price ("[The newsonomics of Cars.com](#)").

Combine the two announcements, though, and you can position it as a digitally propelled company of the future being born along with a newspaper company that can chart its own future. That's blockbuster spin, and it even contains some truth. Curiously, the timing of the combined announcement looks like it was done on the fly. The new "Gannett" is unnamed at birth, and may have been premature.

And finally...

Sex-slave investigation shares Philly Daily News' front page with 'Sexy Singles' (Bob Daugherty)

Philadelphia's location between several mid-Atlantic cities "creates a particularly attractive opportunity for the brokers of enslaved women," Morgan Zalot writes in an investigation of sex trafficking published in the Philadelphia Daily News early Tuesday.

Philly is also a place where "Sexy Singles" appear in swimsuits, according to its front page.



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