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Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 9:13 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - August 12, 2014

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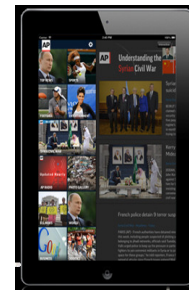
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Connecting

August 12, 2014

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



Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning from a still-weary Connecting editor.

I never had to have a COB-mobile towed in 25 years and 750,000 miles of bureau chiefing, but it happened Monday in retirement.

I made a three-hour drive to Independence, Kansas, for the funeral of **Hub Meyer**, a longtime friend of mine and the AP as publisher/owner of the Independence Daily Reporter. Hub died at the too-young age of 67 and his services were at a Lutheran church in Independence, a city of 12,000. After the services and paying respects to the family, I returned to my Retiree-mobile to find that it



wouldn't start. What's more, my cell phone was in a no-service area.

Friendly folks at a cooling and heating firm let me use their office and phone to arrange AAA help and they tried to help me jump start the battery but it wasn't the problem. Nearest place to fix my car, I learned, was back home in Kansas City.

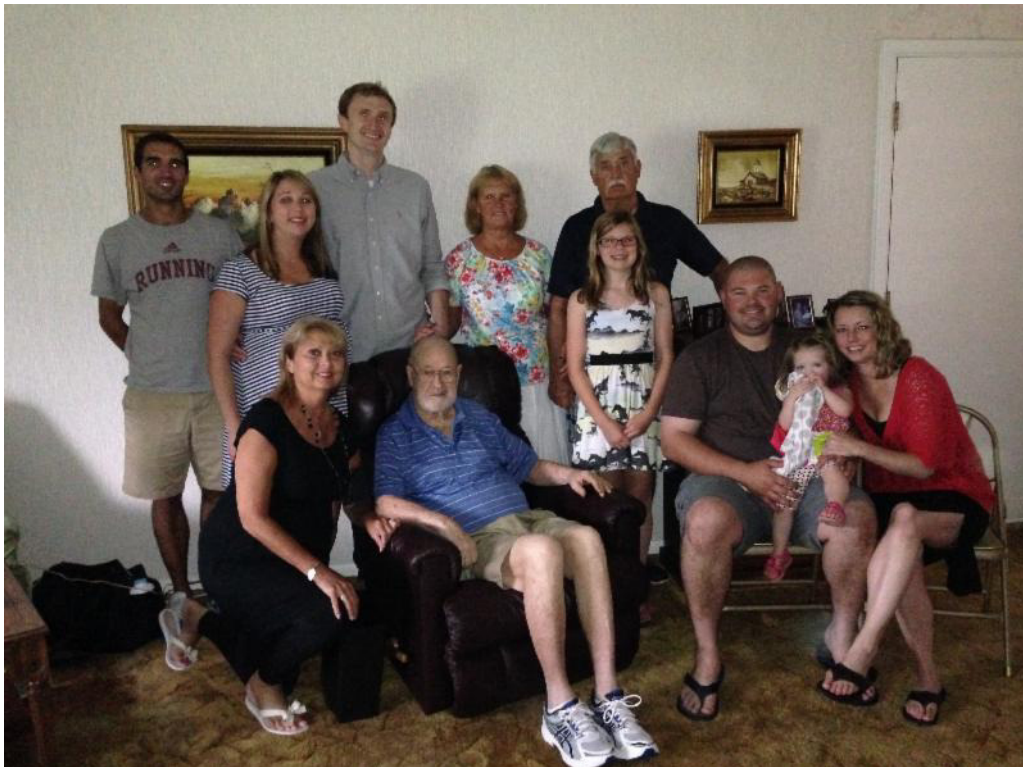
On the drive back, I talked my tow truck driver into stopping at a favorite Dairy Queen en route and in our three hours of conversation, I learned that his dad was once news director of a Kansas radio station that was a longtime AP contributor. A 30-something, he was enthralled in learning how the AP worked and remembered visiting his dad in the early morning hours and watching him tear AP copy off the station's Teletype.

A long day and night, but worth it to say goodbye to my friend and to meet some new friends in the process.

Paul

Thanks from the Walt Tabak family

Here are some items of interest, leading off with a **Walt Tabak** family photo from his 90th birthday last week.



The children of the retired Indianapolis chief of communications, Barb and Ron, shared this photo and report:

Dad had a fun evening to celebrate his 90th. He really enjoyed all the messages from his Associated Press friends and we are sure he will read them over and over. He is shooting for another 10 years!

We had a nice family gathering. He received over 30 cards and emails from his AP friends. His quote of the day which he said many times as we went through them was "Wow! That's someone who just crawled out of the woodwork."

It helps us all to have such great support. We still have never forgotten how helpful everyone was when we were faced with the sudden loss of our mom.

Connecting mailbox

Advance word when Nixon resigned

[Doug Pizac](#) - It was on August 8th (1974) that I and another National Geographic intern had been invited to lunch with President Nixon's photographer Ollie Atkins. We arrived, had lunch in the White House and was given a behind the scenes tour by Mr. Atkins.

At one point we had to stop in a hallway for President Nixon to pass us. He looked heavily burdened. We found out why a little later.

After the tour Mr. Atkins took us to his office where we talked shop and he relayed to us a wealth of information that we readily absorbed like sponges. Our get-together was interrupted by a phone call from one of Nixon's inner circle people informing Mr. Atkins that all photo plans for the rest of the day and forever more were cancelled. Nixon was resigning his presidency.

While the media would not find out for hours to come, two lowly interns had the inside scoop. We walked back to Geographic and told our colleagues about what was going to happen. Several of us stayed after work to watch Walter Cronkite's news show before going home to watch Nixon's speech.

More stories from the paper routes

[Doug Tucker](#) - Yes, you betcha I had a paper route. Delivered the now long defunct Capitol Hill Beacon, an afternoon paper that worked hard in a doomed effort to compete with E.K. Gaylord's Daily Oklahoman and PMs Oklahoma City Times. I was 13 and threw about 50 papers off my bike five days a week.

They call that part of southwest Oklahoma City Capitol Hill because the Capitol

building was located there in the state's embryonic years following the land run. And also because it really is on a big hill, a fact not lost on a kid pedaling up, usually against the prevailing south wind, to collect his papers.

But I loved it. Collection book slung over my handle bars along with the bag of thin, folded papers, I speed down the alley away from the Beacon Building, dodging tall weeds and piles of boxes. Within minutes, I'm tooling down pleasant tree-lined streets that Norman Rockwell would have painted with love. This was a time and a place where smiling moms looked out for everybody's kids and devoted, hard-working dads meant shut up when they said shut up.

The only house that almost never got its Beacon on the porch was the one with the big red chow. That plug-ugly mutt clearly did not think invading strangers had any business throwing things at his home. He actually got hold of my pants leg a couple of times. But he never got me off my bike and he never put teeth on flesh. I dunno - maybe he really wasn't trying to.

He finally gives up the chase and a few minutes later I'm headed back home, accelerating faster and faster down the big hill. My work is done. I'm young and free. My heart pounds with adventurous spirit. I sometimes wonder if I got a bike today and did not go into cardiac arrest, could I recapture just a bit of that wonderfully youthful feeling of freedom and adventure? Just a tiny bit? I darn well may try.

News of the AP

Amy Fiscus Exits AP for Tribune

Tribune Washington News Bureau will welcome assistant editor Amy Fiscus on Aug. 18. She joins from the Associated Press, where she served as an editor on the East region desk in Philadelphia since February 2009, adding state government to her duties in March 2013. Tribune Washington News Bureau serves as the Washington bureau for the Los Angeles Times, and additionally supplies content for all Tribune Company editorial platforms.

Mike Allen's Politico Playbook quoted a staff memo from Bureau Chief David Lauter: "As an editor on AP's East region desk, Amy directed ... enterprise on subjects such as the Affordable Care Act while also ... coordinating on-site coverage of the Newtown school shooting. In between those assignments, she edited the manuscript for 'Enemies Within,' Adam Goldman and Matt Apuzzo's book on the problematic record of the [NYPD's] intelligence unit. ... Before working at AP, Amy was an editor at the Charlotte Observer. She's a graduate of the University of Missouri journalism school. She'll start Aug. 18."

Stories of interest

[Attacked on the job: A Post-Dispatch photographer's tale](#) (Lori Rose)



David Carson stood in the middle.

At one end of West Florissant Avenue, hundreds of police officers coalesced into lines. On the other side, crowds gathered in tank tops, hoodies and bare chests, shirts wrapped around some mouths and noses.

Carson, a photographer at the Post-Dispatch, was shooting it all. He caught the crowds lighting flares and smashing objects he couldn't identify. He snapped shots of grim-faced policemen in helmets and vests.

But just before 11 p.m. Sunday night, he was stuck between the two.

AND

[St. Louis photographer on scene at riots: 'This is my job'](#) (Bob Daugherty)

David Carson hid across the street from a gas station in a patch of trees. No one could see him there as he transmitted his first batch of photos from the looting of a Quik Trip back to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It was just after 10 p.m. on Sunday night. More than 24 hours had passed since police shot and killed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

AND

[KMOV News Crew Forced to Flee for Safety During Ferguson Riots](#)

A KMOV news van was vandalized during last night's looting and rioting in Ferguson, MO.

The rioting and looting broke out after a prayer vigil for an unarmed 18-year-old black man who was shot and killed during an altercation with Ferguson

police.

The St. Louis CBS affiliate posted a picture of the van to its facebook page. The van's driver side and rear windows were broken. The station said the crew was forced to flee for its safety, but was unharmed.

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[CBS News veteran Dotty Lynch dies](#)

Washington's media community reacted with an outpouring of sadness Monday at the death of Dotty Lynch, the longtime political analyst and pollster who spent 20 years as the political editor of CBS News.

Lynch was an early leader among women in the polling industry at a time when survey research - like most sectors of political consulting - was dominated overwhelmingly by men. An adviser to presidential candidates including George McGovern, Jimmy Carter and Gary Hart, Lynch spent several years as polling chief for the Democratic National Committee before joining CBS in 1985.

She battled aggressive melanoma in recent weeks before passing away at age 69.

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[Turkish journalist killed in Iraq during clashes](#)

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) -- A journalists' rights group says a Turkish journalist has been killed in Iraq during clashes between Islamic militants and Kurdish Peshmerga forces and has demanded an investigation into the circumstances of her death.

Reporters without Borders said Monday that Leyla Yildizhan, who is Kurdish and uses the pseudonym Deniz Firat, was killed on Aug. 8 during fighting between the Iraqi Kurdish fighters and the Islamic State group.

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[Indianapolis Star reducing staff ahead of headquarters relocation](#)

The Indianapolis Star is planning another round of staff reductions as it prepares to move into a new downtown headquarters.

The Indianapolis Newspaper Guild, which represents most of the Star's newsroom and building-services employees, said the newspaper intends to chop newsroom staff and management 15 percent over the next few weeks-a

move that will decrease the employee count from 124 to 106.

The cuts include five of the Star's 11 photographers and the entire staff of the copy desk, which reviews and polishes news stories before publication. Some of those duties will be assumed by other staff members as part of a newsroom reorganization.

The guild said the cutbacks mark the sixth round of layoffs at the Star in six years.

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What all this bad news is doing to us

A terrifying jihadist group is conquering and butchering its way across big swaths of Iraq and Syria. Planes are falling out of the sky on what seems like a weekly basis. Civilians are being killed in massive numbers in the Israel-Gaza conflict. Others are falling prey to Ebola in West Africa. The world, in short, is falling apart.

That's how it feels, at least, to those of us who sit at a blessed remove from the death and destruction, but who are watching every bloody moment of it via cable news and social media. It raises an important question: In an age when we can mainline bad news 24/7 if we so choose, what's the psychological impact of all this exposure to tragedy at a distance?

Mary McNaughton-Cassill, a professor at the University of Texas-San Antonio and leading researcher on the connection between media consumption and stress, said the current trend of breathless, protracted coverage of tragedy and calamity can be traced back to the Oklahoma City bombings. "That was really the first event where it really went viral, just 24 hours of news coverage, and that's really become the norm," she said.

Almost two decades later, news outlets - facing pressure from an endlessly multiplying array of competitors all zeroing in on the same stories - have greater incentive than ever before to ramp up their coverage of scary, emotionally wrenching stories. The outlets all feel "they have to be sensational, they have to grab your attention," said McNaughton-Cassill. It can be hard, sometimes, not to see media coverage as an "unrelenting flow" of negativity, especially when it's so loudly amplified by social media. (In a related video, Science of Us asked visitors to the High Line what stories they were most freaked out about, and how they coped with negative-information overload.)

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Maureen Dowd joins N.Y. Times Magazine

New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd is joining the New York Times Magazine as a "narrative journalist," the paper announced Monday.

Dowd will continue to write a column for the Times Opinion page each Sunday, as well as write narrative pieces for the Times Magazine. The news was relayed to staff in a memo from editorial page editor Andy Rosenthal and Magazine editor Jake Silverstein.

"The move comes as the Magazine is preparing for a major redesign that will emphasize long-form storytelling," Rosenthal and Silverstein wrote. "While we can't disclose any specific assignments as of yet, we can reveal that Maureen's subjects for the Magazine will range far afield from politics, foreign affairs, and Hollywood."

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[After a summer Back in the Newsroom, journalism professors are headed back to the classroom](#) (Latrice Davis)

Students in Howard University journalism professor Yolanda McCutchen's intro to broadcast journalism class have, in the past, focused solely on learning to report, write, and produce segments for television. But when her students return to campus this month, they'll also be required to learn a new set of skills: producing video stories specifically for the web.

The added focus on web video is a direct result of McCutchen's participation this summer in a new program, Back in the Newsroom, run by the International Center for Journalists. It paired five journalism professors from historically black colleges and universities with news organizations across the country for fellowships in their newsrooms to refresh their approach to journalism while also working to improve newsroom diversity.

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[Three views of the print future: genuinely worried, vaguely optimistic, and hallucinatory](#)

We have dueling visions of the print newspaper future from Michael Wolff and David Carr today.

And finally...

[RIP Rick Bacon: Editor who hated errors in obituaries writes his own obit](#)

LUMBERTON - Richard Norton Bacon (Rick) of Lumberton has left the building. His friends will tell you he's in a better place. The rest will say they can smell

the Bacon burning. He is stress-free and at peace.



The curtain came down on Thursday night at Southeastern Regional Medical Center.

He is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Candace Smith Bacon. He is also survived by his son Jonathan Bacon and wife Beth of High Point; daughter Melody Kearsse of Rock Hill, S.C., and son Bryan Kearsse and wife Liz of Raleigh. Five grandchildren made his life better with their visits.

Rick loved dogs. Trixie, Richie, James Brown Beans and Mr. Woo were the last in a long line of hairy hogs that shared his bed and his affection.

He was born in Auburn, N.Y., July 16, 1947, the son of the late Elizabeth Dunster Bacon and Frederick Neil Bacon. He was also predeceased by a brother, Ted.

He drifted south from upstate New York in 1962 to the mountains of North Carolina, where he graduated without honors in the class of '65 at East Yancey High School. After one undistinguished year at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Rick enlisted in the United States Air Force. He became a Morse intercept operator and spent two and a half years overseas in Turkey and Italy.

After another failed college attempt at Mars Hill College, Rick got his start in media at WKYK radio in Burnsville, N.C. From radio it was on to newspaper, where Rick spent 26 years publishing newspapers, moving from state-to-state looking for a town that would keep him. From Spruce Pine, N.C. to Barnwell, S.C. to Lake City, Fla., he survived buying a Buick LeSabre (the official car of geezers) and a heart attack that convinced him it was time to leave Florida unless he wanted to die young. He headed back to North Carolina to live and work in Rockingham and Lumberton, where he had a good life.

Rick was a Rotarian for over 25 years. He served as president of the Rockingham Rotary Club in 2012-13 and was proud of the work that Rotary did in the community and around the world. He was a two-time Paul Harris Fellow.

In March of 2014, Rick was diagnosed with lung cancer. He celebrated with yet another trip to a Cincinnati Reds game. If you knew Rick, you knew that he was a loyal Reds fan since the late '50s without ever living a day in Ohio. He often said, "There's no explaining taste."

Cremation will take place at the family's convenience and his ashes will be kept in an urn, passed from family member to family member until no one can remember what's in the jar.

Everyone who remembers Rick is asked to celebrate his life in their own way; telling a 'He wasn't so bad' or 'What an ass' story of their choosing. Boiled shrimp and a beverage of your choice should be part of any celebration.

Instead of flowers, Rick would hope that you will do an unexpected act of kindness for some less fortunate soul. Rick liked to buy food for the car behind him in the drive-thru lane, or a meal for a military couple (if he could do it without them knowing who paid). That's a lot cheaper than flowers.

A memorial luncheon in Rick's honor will be held at Pier 41 in Lumberton on Saturday, Aug. 23, 2014 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Pier 41 Seafood. Adult beverages will follow at widow Candy's house on Camellia Lane. To the crooks reading this: We left an armed guard and the four killer dogs home from the luncheon. If you come to steal, they will hurt you.

Paul Stevens
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