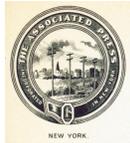


---

**From:** Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 9:20 AM  
**To:** stevenspl@live.com  
**Subject:** Connecting - November 7, 2014

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



# Connecting

November 7, 2014

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



**A moment of history...**  
**And the AP was there**



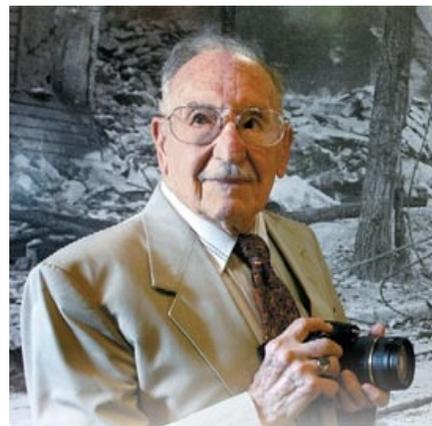
Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Sunday will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and Connecting provides you with a special package of photos, video and stories to mark one of the most significant events in our history.

Speaking of another event of significance to his many AP friends:

The AP's oldest retiree, **Max Desfor**, celebrates his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on Saturday and his son Barry plans to take his dad and a few guests out to a favorite restaurant to celebrate.



If you would like to drop Max note, his address is:

**15115 Interlachen Drive. Apt 1018  
Silver Spring, MD 20906**

If you would like to email congratulations and best wishes to Max, send your note to me at [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) and I will be sure it gets to Barry for relay to his father.

Paul

# AP Covers the Fall of the Berlin Wall: Nov. 9, 1989

"The Berlin Wall. Brooding, cold and gray, it was an ugly, intimidating structure, symbolizing the East-West divide, not only in Berlin, or Germany, or even Europe, but the world." - *George Jahn, AP correspondent*

"With decades of fortified frontiers apparently at an end, the wall that represented the literal division between the East and West may become a mere monument to the Cold War." - *Nesha Starcevic, AP writer*

The 25th-year observance of the fall of the Berlin Wall will take place this Sunday (Nov. 9), and Connecting presents this special package that Corporate Archives, AP Images and AP Archive and others within The Associated Press have assembled. Videos are the work of Corporate Archives Director **Valerie Komor**, Processing Archivist **Francesca Pitaro** and Man for all Seasons/Video Editor **Santos Chaparro**.

The eighth in a series of mini-documentaries produced by the AP Corporate Archives, this video marks the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989. Drawing upon AP's rich repositories of photography, video, and archival documents, it features the eye-witness account of Vienna Bureau Chief **Alison Smale**, who accompanied one of the first West Germans through Checkpoint Charlie on the night of Nov. 9 and went on to cover the bloody Romanian revolution which followed.

The story begins in Communist Hungary in May of 1989, when border guards began snipping at the barbed wire fence separating Austria from Hungary, allowing the first stream of East Germans, many on their summer vacations, to pass through into Austria. Growing political pressure on East Germany - in the form of thousands of East Germans camping out in West German embassies - finally resulted in the elimination of most travel restrictions between East and West Berlin. With the ouster of East German leader Erich Honecker on Oct. 18, it was just a matter of time before the wall itself began to crumble.

Click [here](#) to view the video. From then on, it was just a matter of time before the political pressure brought down on East Germany resulted in the elimination of all travel restrictions between East and West Berlin and then-inevitably-the physical collapse of the wall, beginning on Friday, Nov. 10, 1989.

Here are two other links related to the story we would like to share:

The AP corporate web site: <http://www.ap.org/explore/berlin-wall/>

**And**

Eleven photos showing the Berlin Wall today:

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/762cf1e9f66c42a0943d481b2b3bea26/11-photos-showing-berlin-wall-today>

## ***Sharing a few memories:***

**Alison Smale** ([Email](#)), now the Berlin bureau chief for The New York Times:

I arrived in Berlin on Nov. 8, 1989, getting together with my colleague **Nesha Starcevic** before heading the next day to Bernau, a small town just north of East Berlin. There, there was little sense of the optimism and bubbling anger which were on display at increasingly huge protests against Communist leaders who on Nov. 8 had found no better response than to resign en masse. That was what prompted my arrival.

Clearly, the Communists were, figuratively, on the run. And yet none of us expected the Wall to open ... just like that. Obviously, the Politburo member who announced it had not attended the key meeting where the order to allow travel to the West had been discussed. Nor had he thoroughly read his briefing paper. And so, when he was asked the key question about WHEN the new travel rules would take effect, he cast a hasty glance at the documents, and said, "Immediately, without delay." But that language was contained in an order that was only supposed to be published almost 12 hours later, after agreement with the Soviets and other key players.



But East Germans needed no second signal. Encouraged also by reports from West German television -- widely watched all over the Communist East -- they flocked to key Wall crossings. At Bornholmer Strasse, the commander of the frontier troops eventually ordered the barrier lifted. I headed for Checkpoint Charlie, just like East Germans who also heard West German TV say it was possible to get through. In fact, that was all based on another error -- some West Berlin journalists had been drinking at a bar near the checkpoint on the Western side when they heard the Wall was opening, went out and checked the checkpoint, saw nothing was happening but were photographed with their bottles of booze in an image that said they were the first joyous East Germans to cross.....

And so on.....this is the magical story of how some of the most Ordnungs-minded people on the planet -- the Germans -- seized the opportunity opened by a series of errors in a crumbling order to take back their freedom. In the process, they threw and enjoyed the best party their hardliving city has ever seen. It was the sheer joy of unexpected liberation, and, for pure pleasure and purity of political purpose, nothing will ever come close.

*(For the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, Alison wrote the following for The New York*

Times: to view, click

[here](#). Alison worked for the AP from 1981 to 1998, serving as correspondent in Bonn and Moscow and then Vienna bureau chief from 1987 to 1998. She joined The Times as weekend foreign editor and rose to be deputy foreign editor when in 2003 she was sent to Paris as managing editor of the International Herald Tribune. She became its first woman executive editor in 2008. In 2013 she became Berlin bureau chief for The Times. Alison is married to Russian composer and pianist Sergei Dreznin and they have one daughter, Lucy.)



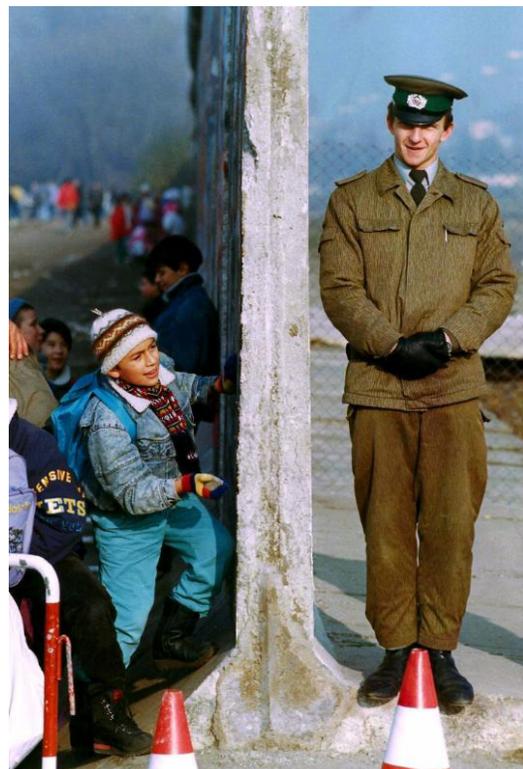
**Nesha Starcevic** ([Email](#)) called Frankfurt with the first word and the Flash shown above was the result of her call.

-0-

Former AP photojournalist **Rob Kozloff** ([Email](#)) - Those were analog color days with the Leafax and spooler and I was buried inside for 10-12 hours at a time getting everyone's photos home. I went out early on a couple of the mornings to just take in the amazing scene.

I agree with JGIII (John Gaps III), it was one of the greatest, most uplifting assignments to have worked. The world was changing and everyone, on both sides of the wall, were enjoying life.

Here is one that I liked of a young boy taking a peek around the wall as an East German guard stood watch at one of the many new



checkpoints as the wall was coming down.

Former AP photographer **John Gaps III** ([Email](#)) - I was covering the Iowa High School football playoffs in November of 1989 when I received a call from AP New York. The message was this, "The Berlin Wall is coming down. Get there, make pictures. Figure it out." This is one of the pictures I made that crazy week. It was lovely chaos.



It was an interesting time, everyone was confused about what was going to become of this situation. AP Chicago photo editor Rob Kozloff made a wonderful image, my favorite of the assignment, so I'll hope he'll share it. Everyone who was anyone in journalism was in Berlin that week. It was an amazing party. East Berliners, almost 30-years disconnected from the West, were looking for family and friends. I was in a constant state of amazement to be part of such a historic event.

I also came home with almost 20-lbs. of chipped off pieces of the wall that I was constantly shoving into my pockets. I still have several hunks of the wall, if anyone is interested.

-0-

**Steve Graham** ([Email](#)) - I wasn't in Berlin for the fall of The Wall, but shortly thereafter, Frankfurt Chief of Communications Hubert Kessler and I loaded up some mobile phones (the Germans call them "Handys") and some other prohibited items and headed over to the AP East Berlin office.

It was illegal at that time, but things were so confused, the DDR border guards didn't pay any attention.

### ***AP Staff in Frankfurt, 1990***



This photo shows staff from AP's German headquarters in Frankfurt gathered in front of the Brandenburg Gate in 1990, weeks after the wall was dismantled.

Finally, Connecting shares this London Log. Very sobering.



**WORLD SERVICE**

November 1-6, 1964.

## THE LONDON LOG

### EARLY CHRISTMAS

By JOHN O. KOEHLER

(AP BERLIN CORRESPONDENT)

Christmas came early this year to hundreds of thousands of West Berliners, including two Associated Press Staffers. The Reds had again opened their wall temporarily and allowed visits to relatives in the Soviet Sector.

It was much easier this time than last Christmas, when the communists handed out their first passes since the wall went up in 1961.

For Brunhilde Behrens, Berlin traffic staffer since the end of World War II, it was a special treat.

"Last year I waited for 10 hours to get a pass so that I could visit my old parents. It was so cold and there was so much snow that I thought we would surely freeze to death. One woman, who was in the same line, did die because of the ordeal," Mrs. Behrens said. "But this time everything had been organized so well that it took only about 10 minutes to get a pass."

Eva Vogel, another traffic staffer, waited all day last year — this time only 30 minutes.

With her husband and two children she went to see Grandma, for whom all carried satchels packed with coffee, cocoa and other items scarce or expensive in the East.

### AP WAS THERE

AP was well prepared for the opening of the wall. Hamburg photographer Helmut Lohman covered the East side since Berlin staffer Edwin Reichert cannot cross over because he is a West Berliner.

The communists had announced the checkpoints would be opened at 7am but last year they opened earlier and to be on the safe side I began making the rounds at 5 am.

The first West Berliners were already in line, all talking excitedly about seeing their loved ones again. News staffer Klaus Schulz-Vobach covered the eastern sides of the wall.

At seven sharp the barriers and gates were opened and Reichert got his first picture of happy West Berliners crossing. By 10 o'clock, photo editor Margot Frits had already transmitted eight pictures.

Lohman came back with the dramatic photo of the East Berlin woman embracing her mother. The father, who also had a pass, had died the night before. "Even the border guards were so moved that they had to look away," Lohman reported.

When operation oldster began a few days later, Reichert brought his first pictures to the office and exclaimed:

"I have taken pictures of young fellows shot up at the wall and old ladies jumping into firemen's nets at the Bernauerstrasse to escape, but I was never so moved as today when I shot the scenes of the old people coming across.

"I was not ashamed that my eyes got a little watery because even the hardest boiled border guards felt that way... I could see that clearly," Reichert said. He added reflectively:

"Perhaps this was good for me... To see this... When you live with this damn

(The last line was cut off. It reads: wall day after day you can soon become pretty callous."

## FBI admits agent impersonated AP reporter

SEATTLE (AP) - FBI Director James Comey says an agent impersonated an Associated Press reporter during a 2007 criminal investigation, a ruse the news organization says could undermine its credibility.

In a letter Thursday to The New York Times, Comey said the agent "portrayed himself as an employee of The Associated Press" to help catch a 15-year-old suspect accused of making bomb threats at a high school near Olympia, Washington. It was publicized last week that the FBI forged an AP story during its investigation, but Comey's letter revealed the agency went further and had an agent actually pretend to be a reporter for the wire service.



Comey said the agent posing as an AP reporter asked the suspect to review a fake AP article about threats and cyberattacks directed at the school, "to be sure that the anonymous suspect was portrayed fairly."

The bogus article contained a software tool that could verify Internet addresses. The suspect clicked on a link, revealing his computer's location and Internet address, which helped agents confirm his identity.

"That technique was proper and appropriate under Justice Department and FBI guidelines at the time. Today, the use of such an unusual technique would probably require higher-level approvals than in 2007, but it would still be lawful and, in a rare case, appropriate," Comey wrote.

**Kathleen Carroll**, executive editor of the AP, said the FBI's actions were "unacceptable."

"This latest revelation of how the FBI misappropriated the trusted name of The Associated Press doubles our concern and outrage, expressed earlier to Attorney General Eric Holder, about how the agency's unacceptable tactics undermine AP and the vital distinction between the government and the press," Carroll said in a statement.

In a letter to the Justice Department last week, the AP requested Holder's word that the DOJ would never again misrepresent itself as the AP and asked for policies to ensure the DOJ does not further impersonate news organizations.

In a letter Thursday to Comey and Holder, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press asked the agency for full disclosure about the incident.

"The utilization of news media as a cover for delivery of electronic surveillance software is unacceptable," the letter said. "This practice endangers the media's credibility and creates the appearance that it is not independent of the government. It undermines media organizations' ability to independently report on law enforcement."

In his letter to The New York Times, Comey said all undercover operations involve deception, "which has long been a critical tool in fighting crime."  
*(Shared by Paul Colford)*

## Jim Reindl's first post from Ghana

Our Connecting colleague **Jim Reindl** ([Email](#)) and his wife **Graca** are now in Ghana at the start of their two-year assignment with the Peace Corps, and Jim files this report:

ANYINASIN, EASTERN REGION, GHANA - We're closing in on one full month in Ghana, which we'll officially mark on Nov. 8, Saturday. Time seems to have added a new dimension since we've been here. It moves and stands still at once. It's hard to explain but my best effort is to say the days go by in a whirl of daily activities we used to take for granted and Peace Corps training. At the same time, it feels as if we've been here forever. I thought I was the only person feeling this way until one of my fellow trainees voiced the exact same feelings to me on a recent afternoon.

There is a certain vacation feel to this just because Peace Corps provides our housing and our homestay families cook and serve us all our meals. Even if we wanted to "go out," there isn't a restaurant for many a kilometer around here. It's not a vacation, though, and our homestay will come to an end the middle of next month when we are sworn in and sent to our village in the Volta Region, also known in Ewe, the language we're learning, as Amo Nutome.

So, what's it like for us?

Anyinasin is a village of about 7,500 about three hours north of Accra, the capital of Ghana. We are living in a multi-family compound under the care of our homestay "parents," Nana and Saywah Kantanka. Nana is one of the village chiefs. He's also a retired high school and college science teacher. Nana and Mama have three children but only 14-year-old Joe is still at home. My Ghanaian name is Nana Kwesi Opoku after Nana's father. Graca is Adwoa Seiwaa since she was Monday born and after Mama.



The original part of the compound was built in the early 1940s and the full compound completed some years later. Everyone in the compound is related. Familial relationships extend far and wide in Ghana. We all share a common latrine and we have two "bath houses," an outside one and one that's enclosed. I prefer the outside one; Graca the inside.

Our compound. is a large square with one access point to the road outside. The apartments are arranged around the interior, which frames a large, open courtyard, often occupied by some resident goats and chickens and a couple of cats who keep the mice terrified.

We have no running water. We capture rain water in barrels. Sometimes we go to a community tap about two "blocks" away to fill buckets and bring them back for everything - washing clothes, washing ourselves, cooking, drinking, everything.

Since Ghana is only about 3 degrees north of the equator, day and night are nearly equally divided. Days begin early with most Ghanaians rising by 4 a.m. It's not unusual for a soccer game to get started on a Saturday morning by 5:30 a.m. The town mostly quiets down for the night by 9 p.m. We are up daily at 5:30 and in PC training by 8, sometimes earlier. Training is six days a week. Our morning session runs from 8 to noon, when we go home for lunch. We return to training by 1 and go to 5 p.m.

There are 32 of us in this agricultural training class. We'll be dispatched to all corners of Ghana after being sworn in. Mostly, the group is young but there are a few oldsters like us. We're from all parts of the USA and even more since we have Graca with her Brazilian roots and one PCT, Miguel, who was born in Peru.

Once we get up, it's off to the bath house for our "bucket baths." We haven't had a hot shower since the morning of Oct. 7, when we arose in a Philadelphia hotel room. I find I can take a perfectly adequate bath now with about half a bucket of water. You might be shuddering at the thought of cold water at 6 a.m. but, believe me, when you've slept in this humidity all night in a room with no air conditioning or even a fan, that first ladle of water is refreshing. Sometimes we put extra water in the bucket for the luxury of pouring more over ourselves. Although we're acclimating to the heat and humidity, two baths a day are mandatory for hygiene and comfort.

Ghanaians have an interesting relationship with food. It is gasoline for the body. It serves no social functions. You won't find Ghanaians, at least in the south where we are, sitting down for a family meal or hosting dinner parties. People eat when the food is ready and they are ready to eat. We're served daily three times because that's the most efficient way for PC to handle it and keep the training schedule moving along. Food is heavy on starch, which means rice or fufu, a kind of paste made from cassava. Banku also is popular; it's a fermented corn paste served with soups. We get a lot of fish and chicken but only in small portions for our protein. Although greens and green vegetables are available and grow well here, they don't appear to play an important role in the typical Ghanaian diet.

Our training is divided among three topics - language, agricultural technical training and PC-DC mandated sessions on things like health and culture. There are more than 70 languages spoken in Ghana, though the official language of this former British colony is English. The most widely spoken dialect is Twi. However, we are learning Ewe as noted because we're going to a region where that is the dominant tongue. There are so many dialects in Ghana that some villages speak their own language, which is not known outside the village limits. Generally, a smattering of Twi will get you a long way but we do need to know Ewe in some depth to function well in our village. We go once a week to a PC facility several kilometers away for the PC-DC sessions.

After training we sometimes join some of our colleagues at the "spot," owned by one PCT's homestay mom. It's across the soccer field from our place so it's an easy walk. A "spot" is a bar in Ghana. It's a simple place serving mostly beer. Star and Club are two national brands and both are good, especially when the electricity has been on for a while and they are served cold. Yes, the electricity here is intermittent. Most days we get 12-18 hours of electricity but not all. You can be in the middle of something where lights are necessary and, without warning, it goes pitch black. Always an adventure. Whatever time the electricity goes out, we go lights out around 9 every night.

That would be right about now, especially since this post is already twice as long as I intended it to be. Some folks were interested in the basics of our life here so now you know. I'll close with this photo of the rising moon, fitting for time that moves and holds still at once. Dodo nye nyo (good night).

*(Note: The opinions and observations expressed here are mine and do not represent the official views or policies of the Peace Corps.)*

## **Story behind Medal of Honor to a Union hero**

**Richard Pyle** ([Email](#)) - As a long-time devotee of Civil War history, with about a dozen visits over the years to the battlefield at Gettysburg, I watched with special interest the White House ceremony on Thursday where President Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to a Union hero 151 years after he died there.



The recipient, Lt. Alonzo Cushing, was already a familiar name to many CW scholars and amateur historians like myself. On July 3, 1863, as hundreds of Confederate soldiers in the legendary, last-ditch "Pickett's Charge" came over the stone wall at the "Angle" on Cemetery Ridge, the 22-year-old artillery officer stood his ground, firing his last working gun until he, too, was killed.

His actions were later deemed crucial in causing that last desperate rebel attack to fail, and became known in history books as the "high water mark" of the Confederacy, where the momentum shifted toward an eventual Union victory.

About ten years ago, as one of several AP staffers visiting Milwaukee on a speaking tour for the AP corporate history, "Breaking News," I had a personal reunion with Don Hillmer, my best friend in college at Michigan State University, who lived in nearby Delafield, Wisconsin.

In the course of catching up on each other's lives and interests, Don mentioned that a "famous Civil War hero" was buried in the local cemetery. Not being a CW nut himself, he didn't remember the name or any details but seeing my interest, suggested we visit the cemetery.

What I'd known of Alonzo Cushing personally was that he had some NY state connection, so I was astonished to read his name on a grave marker in Delafield, Wisconsin, and Don was astonished that I was able to provide an impromptu history lesson on who Alonzo Cushing was and what made him a hero.

The South's own great hero of that moment was Brig Gen, Lewis A Armistead, who in leading his Virginia troops from the front, was among the first of the men in gray to make it across the stone wall, and with hat on his upraised sword, fell mortally wounded a few yards from Cushing's guns. By one account, they fell so close together that their blood mingled. Probably fanciful, but given the war's endless ironies, you can't rule it out.



Among Armistead's closest friends from prewar days was Union Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, who on July 3 commanded the troops which Armistead attacked. Hancock was told of the wounded Armistead's presence, but having been seriously wounded himself, was unable to see him before Armistead died two days later.

Years before I knew anything much about the Civil War or had even heard of Alonzo Cushing, I knew about Lewis

Armistead. The principal of my grade school in the Detroit suburb of Highland Park was Edwin A Armistead, who claimed direct lineal descent from the heroic general and had both the name and the soft Virginia drawl to back it up.

Speaking of heroes, Alonzo was the older brother of another Civil War icon, William Cushing, a naval officer who in 1864 pulled off a single-handed, clandestine torpedo attack that destroyed the Confederate raider CSS Albemarle at its dock. Sometimes called the first Navy SEAL, William has had five USN ships named for him, a distinction soon to be bestowed on Alonzo as well, according to Obama.

Yet a third brother, Howard, also served in the CW and later as a cavalry officer against the rebellious Apaches in the Arizona territory. Killed in an ambush by Cochise's forces in 1871, he became known as the "Custer of Arizona." (The original Custer, George, was a classmate of Alonzo's at West Point.)

If there is a final irony in this story, it may be that none of the brothers are actually buried in Delafield, the family home town. His grave marker there notwithstanding, Alonzo is interred at West Point; William at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and Howard (who was born in Milwaukee) at the national cemetery in San Francisco.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Chelsea Carter leaving CNN*

Connecting colleague **Chelsea Carter** ([Email](#)), a former AP newswoman, told friends Thursday that she is making a job change:

OK, FB peeps. Big, life changing news to share. For some, this will come as a surprise. For others, you know this is just a natural step in my journey.

I have accepted a position as managing editor with the Apollo Lightspeed (Apollo Education Group) to manage content for SkilledUp as it relaunches.

The position is in New York. Yes, that means I'm leaving CNN. It wasn't an easy decision. In fact, it was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made. But I know this is the right next step for me. To the folks at CNN, I have to thank you. This next step in my life wouldn't have been possible without all of you. You reinvigorated a jaded, banged up journalist, and you reminded her of all the possibilities when you combine hard work, camaraderie and laughter. In many ways, this next step in my life is possible because of all of you. Again, thank you -- from the heart.

So in the words of the ultimate cheesy 80s metal band: "Here I go again...."

-0-

### ***Kydos from Mort Rosenblum to Connecting***

**Mort Rosenblum** ([Email](#)) - Paul, I'm hoping you'll put aside your admirable self-effacing inclinations and post this.

Speaking, I'm confident, for all of us wire animals strewn across the globe please accept a herd of kudos for Connecting. (Kudos, which I discover comes from an old Greek word, kydos, with a circumflex over the y, is right up there with awesome in clichédom. Kudus are much more useful -- tasty, healthy ruminants, great for a neighborhood barbecue, with awesome horns.)

You and Mark (Mittelstadt) not only keep the old family together but you also enlighten us regularly with fascinating comment and links we'd otherwise miss. Plus all the little stuff; I'd lost track, for instance, of Dana Bloch, a grand man among men, who patiently taught so many of us what to do when typewriters vanished.

I don't know where you find the energy, but we're all glad you do.

*(To which Ye Olde Connecting Editor and Mark say - Thanks!)*

## **Stories of interest**

### **[Protecting the messengers: news groups rethink safety for correspondents on the frontline . . . and at home](#)**

The execution of journalists and emerging brutal reign of terror group Islamic State are putting to the test precautions taken by Australian media in a bid to safeguard correspondents working in the Middle East.

With safety protocols having been steadily ratcheted up in recent years, news groups



including Fairfax and the ABC are increasingly alert to the risks facing their frontline reporters.

"Those of us working in and around Syria have been acutely aware of the increasing danger for the last few years," says Ruth Pollard, Middle East correspondent for The Age and The Sydney Morning Herald.

Of the recent beheadings of American journalists Jim Foley (above) and Steve Sotloff by IS militants, she adds: "It is too painful to even think about it."

-0-

### [Tom Brokaw: Talk Radio Thinks 'Obama Voters...Live In Excrement'](#) (Bob Daugherty)

Tom Brokaw, former anchor of NBC Nightly News, had a busy midterm election night as he appeared on both NBC and PBS's midterm coverage programming. During Brokaw's appearances on the two networks, the former Nightly News anchor repeatedly minimized the significance of the GOP's electoral victory.

During his appearance on the PBS program Charlie Rose, Brokaw disgustingly claimed that talk radio hosts insist "Obama's voters are people who live in excrement. That was his phrase. And they expect us to lift them out of excrement."

-0-

### [Why in-house innovation is a great plan for legacy outlets](#)

In the last few years, a growing number of media outlets have undergone a critical shift in organizational structure to build innovative products. Rather than focus on retaining customers for platforms that may not be viable, legacy outlets are fostering innovation from within to diversify revenue and stay relevant.

It might, dare I say, be trending. The San Francisco Chronicle launched an incubator in early 2014 to train staff and encourage innovation. And while not an incubator per se, The New York Times has made a number of strategic investments in startups that could reap tangible benefits for the institution. The most recent one, Blendle, is a popular paywall metering tool with a large percentage of users under the age of 35. The New York Times Co. contributed to a \$3.8 million investment in the company. In my work as a consultant for media outlets and foundations, I've also encountered many organizations adopting this strategy, seeking to bring the startup into the newsroom

-0-

### [Ken Doctor: The envelopes open on the sale of Digital First Media newspapers](#)

Valentine's Day may be coming early for Digital First Media this week. DFM's board and UBS, its broker, open the envelopes, looking for affection. It's an uneasy love-me/love-me-not time, newspapers' version of Match.com. Will DFM's affection for the open

market be returned, or will it be left searching love in all the wrong places? Rampant in the newspaper world this week: whispers, theories, and prognostications of how happy (or lovelorn) DFM will be by Friday.

-0-

### ['How Did You Start Investigating the Red Cross': A Q & A With ProPublica Reporters](#)

(Latrice Davis)

Red Cross CEO Gail McGovern claimed that the charity's post-Sandy response was "near flawless." Yet ProPublica's Justin Elliott and Jesse Eisinger, along with NPR's Laura Sullivan, found that it wasn't. Through internal documents and exclusive interviews, their investigation uncovered a bungled relief effort after Hurricane Sandy and PR-driven decision-making during Hurricane Isaac.

Jesse and Justin have been discussing the story with readers in the comments section of the story, on Facebook, and in an "Ask Me Anything" Q&A session on Reddit. Here are some highlights from the conversation:

-0-

## **APME UPDATE - Nov. 6, 2014** (Mark Mittelstadt)

### **APME Journalism Excellence Awards: Deadline Friday, Feb. 27**

The deadline for the 2014 APME Journalism Excellence Awards is Friday, Feb. 27.

The awards honor superior journalism and innovation among newspapers, radio, television and digital news sites in the United States and Canada. They seek to promote excellence by recognizing work that is innovative, well-written and incisively reported and has outstanding multimedia.

A special award honors innovation by colleges and universities, and a new category recognizes news organizations that build strong ties to their communities.

All awards will be presented for journalism published or launched between Jan. 1, 2014, and Dec. 31, 2014. A news organization can enter as many categories as it wants, but is limited to entering a specific body of work in no more than two categories.

New this year is the Community Engagement Award. It will be given to news organizations that best demonstrate the ability to provide effective dialogue with their communities and/or seek partnerships that sustain the dialogue and encourage more community dialogue.

Other categories include: 45th Annual Public Service Awards, 45th Annual First Amendment Awards and Citations, Innovator of the Year Award for newspapers, Innovator of the Year Award for college students, Innovator of the Year for radio and

TV, Best Mobile Platform, Digital Storytelling Awards and International Perspective Awards.

## Today in History

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2014. There are 54 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Nov. 7, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

### **On this date:**

In 1861, former U.S. President John Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives (however, Tyler died before he could take his seat).

In 1914, the first issue of The New Republic magazine was published, presenting itself as "A Journal of Opinion which Seeks to Meet the Challenge of a New Time."

In 1916, Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress.

In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm.

In 1954, the CBS News program "Face the Nation" premiered with Ted Koop as host; the guest was Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis.

In 1962, Republican Richard Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore." Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, 78, died in New York City.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1974, British peer Richard John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan, disappeared after his children's nanny, Sandra Rivett, was bludgeoned to death at his family's London home;

he has not been seen since.

In 1980, actor Steve McQueen died in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, at age 50.

In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's first black mayor.

Ten years ago: France rolled out overwhelming military force to put down an explosion of anti-French violence in Ivory Coast, its former West African colony. In the New York City Marathon, Britain's Paula Radcliffe won the women's race in 2:23:10, edging Kenya's Susan Chepkemei by only four seconds; South Africa's Hendrik Ramaala won the men's race in 2:09:28. Actor and musical star Howard Keel died at age 85.

Five years ago: In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House narrowly passed, 220-215, landmark health care legislation to expand coverage to tens of millions lacking it and place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry. David Haye won the WBA heavyweight title with a majority decision over Nikolai Valuev in Nuremberg, Germany.

One year ago: Seeking to calm a growing furor, President Barack Obama told NBC News he was "sorry" Americans were losing health insurance plans that he repeatedly had said they could keep under his health care law, but he stopped short of apologizing for making those promises in the first place. The Food and Drug Administration announced it was requiring the food industry to phase out artery-clogging trans fats. Shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion. A Russian spacecraft carrying the Olympic torch and three astronauts docked with the International Space Station ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Today's Birthdays: Evangelist Billy Graham is 96. Actor Barry Newman is 76. Singer Johnny Rivers is 72. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 71. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 62. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 57. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 54. Actress Julie Pinson is 47. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 46. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 42. Actors Jason and Jeremy London are 42. Actress Yunjin Kim is 41. Actor Adam DeVine is 31. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 31. Actor Lucas Neff is 29. Rapper Tinie (TY'-nee) Tempah is 26. Rock singer Lorde is 18.

***Thought for Today: "Man cannot live by incompetence alone." - Charlotte Whitton, Canadian feminist (1896-1975).***

Paul Stevens  
Connecting newsletter  
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**

This email was sent to [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) by [stevenspl@live.com](mailto:stevenspl@live.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215