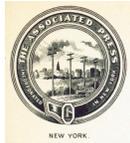


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2014 8:57 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 1, 2014

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Connecting

December 1, 2014

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Today - It's all about (your) books!

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning - and here's to the start of the month of December and a great week ahead.

In Today's edition, we feature the books of authors on Connecting who submitted material on their books to Ye Olde Connecting Editor since the call went out for them a couple weeks ago.

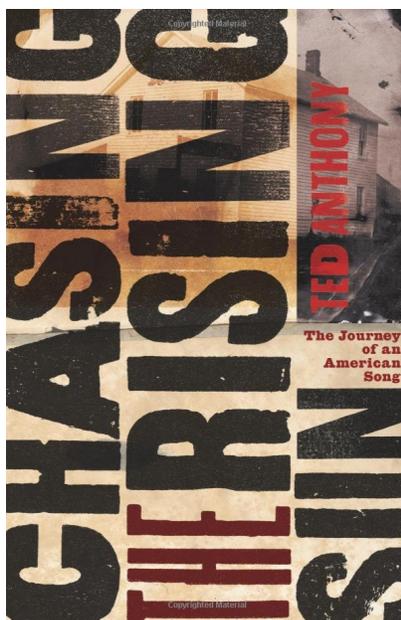
I hope you will spend some time going through this eclectic and fascinating list of books. Perhaps you will find a book or two that will make a good Christmas present - or just for your own reading enjoyment - or both.

Enjoy!

Paul

Books produced by Connecting authors

Ted Anthony [\(Email\)](#)



"Chasing the Rising Sun: The Journey of an American Song"

Chasing the Rising Sun, which started as an AP story in 2000, is the story of an American musical journey told by a prize-winning writer who traced one song in its many incarnations as it was carried across the world by some of the most famous singers of the twentieth century. Most people know the song "House of the

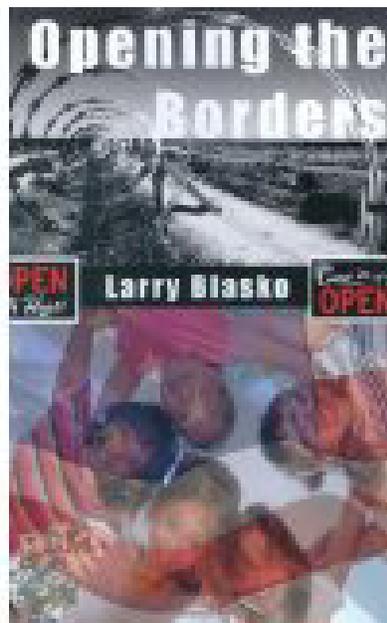


Rising Sun" as 1960s rock by the British Invasion group the Animals, a ballad about a place in New Orleans -- a whorehouse or a prison or gambling joint that's been the ruin of many poor girls or boys. But that barely scratches the surface; few songs have traveled a journey as intricate.

Anthony began his search in New Orleans and traveled to the Appalachians -- to eastern Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, and western North Carolina -- to scour the mountains for the song's beginnings. He dug deep into old records and recordings and interviewed scores of singers who performed the song. He went to the planet's farthest corners and found it the most diverse of places -- Bangkok karaoke bars, Gatorade ads, and as a ring tone on cell phones. Through his own journey he discovered how American traditions survived and prospered -- and how a piece of culture moves through the modern world, propelled by technology and globalization and recorded sound.

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Larry Blasko ([Email](#))



"Opening the Borders"

and...

"Frimplesthz Remembers - Tales of the Santa Protection Service"

"Vamp!"



Three books by Larry Blasko for your collection:

Opening the Borders" (Level 4 Press, 2007), a look at the (mostly) Mexican illegal immigration problem and a way to solve it for everyone's benefit. **Walter Mears said on the cover "His is a fresh take on an intractable, urgent issue." **Claude Erbsen** said "...a novel approach to resolving the thorny issue of illegal immigration from Mexico, with a win-win proposal for both immigrants and the American economy."*

(To be fair, both Walter and Claude got all photos and negatives back after their gracious reviews, except for one donkey who kept hers for sentimental reasons.)

I also offer *"Frimplesnithz Remembers - Tales of The Santa Protection Service. "* Longnose A. Frimplesnitz does a lots better job than the Secret Service as he nails that real stinker Felonious Phloop and returns the Great Pretender to Santa's safe.

And don't forget *"Vamp!"* which begins "Jews get Tay-Sachs disease, Blacks get sickle-cell anemia, Slavs get vampirism.

"You think all that blood sausage is accidental?"

All three are available at amazon.com -- just search my name. Frimplesnitz and Vamp! are Kindle only.

(This picture of me sort of holding latest (No. 6) grandkid, Nolan East, at his christening. He looks happy with me because he can't read yet.)

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Hal Bock ([Email](#))



``Willard Mullin's Golden Age of Baseball''



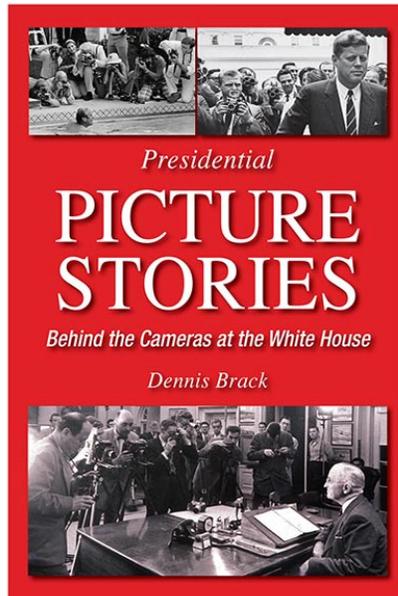
Mullin was the most prominent sports cartoonist of the 20th century and created some iconic images like the Brooklyn Dodger Bum (a proud but down on his luck hobo), the Philadelphia Phillies Whiz Kid (complete with a slingshot hanging out of his pocket), the St. Louis Cardinals Swifty (a riverboat gambler with handlebar moustache and a deck of playing cards at the ready). All of them appear in this

anthology of his cartoons along with my narrative. The book covers four decades of Mullin's baseball work and graphically shows why when he retired he was named Sports Cartoonist of the Century by his peers.

My previous books include the narrative for ``The Associated Press Pictorial History of Baseball''; ``The Big Whistle,''' (autobiography of Hockey Hall of Fame referee Bill Chadwick); ``Yesss!'' (a sports broadcasting handbook with Marv Albert); biographies of NBA star David Robinson and NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young; ``Goal My Life on Ice (autobiography of Hockey Hall of Famer Rod Gilbert); the narrative for ``The Complete Encyclopedia of Ice Hockey'' ; two very early books - ``Save! Hockey's Brave Goalies'' (a dozen or so profiles of goalies past and present); and ``Dynamite On Ice'' a biography of Bobby Orr. The Mullin book is available on Amazon.

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Dennis Brack ([Email](#))



"Presidential Picture Stories: Behind the Cameras at the White House"

The author is Dennis Brack, but it is really by the men and women (many AP) because it is the stories that we have told over the years.

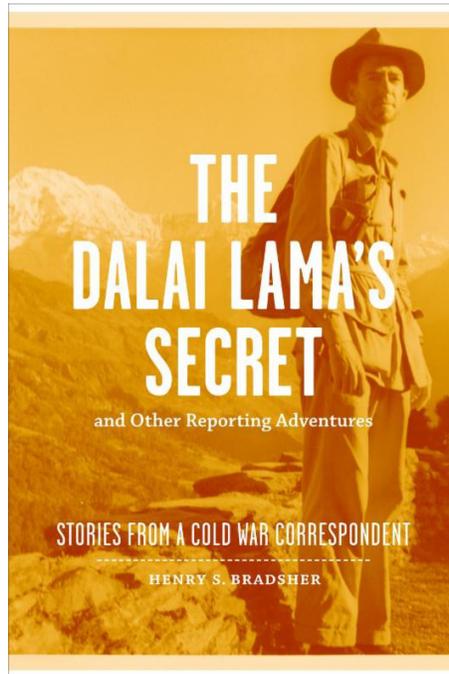
Presidential Picture Stories is about the photographers who cover the presidents, how they viewed the presidents they covered, and what the presidents thought of them. It is a unique new history of US presidents and their families. Stories about photographer's tricks, triumphs, defeats, and of course, war stories. There are stories about the iconic presidential photographs and how the photographers made them. An important part of the book tells about the tools that photographers used from Mathew Brady to today. *Presidential Picture Stories* is a fast history of the news picture business and a collection of delightful stories about the characters behind the cameras.



FYI, all profits go to the White House News Photographers Association. The book is on Amazon and at Barnes& Noble stores.

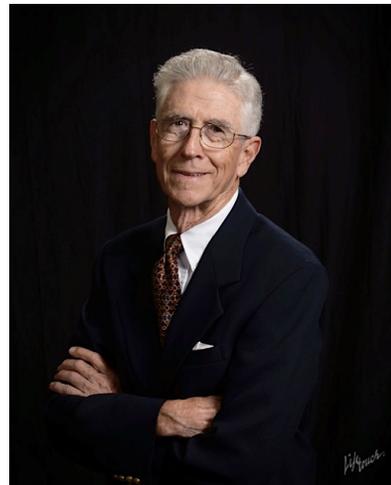
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Henry Bradsher [\(Email\)](#)



"The Dalai Lama's Secret and Other Reporting Adventures: Stories from a Cold War Correspondent"

After reporting for AP the bus boycott that began Martin Luther King Jr.'s career, Henry spent five years covering South Asia. He broke stories about the Dalai Lama, trekked into a closed part of Nepal to find a secret Tibetan guerrilla army (the dust jacket photo), rode a mule into then-primitive Bhutan, hunted tigers with Queen Elizabeth, participated in royal weddings, and had other adventures. Then as AP bureau chief in Moscow, he forced the retraction of a Khrushchev statement, broke up a KGB blackmail scheme and ruined a Soviet reception system, and, after articles evaluating Soviet achievements, suffered a KGB bombing of his car. Later, as a special in Hong Kong, he irritated China by being right on hidden internal conflict, reported periodically on the Vietnam and Cambodian wars, and predicted and then covered Bangladesh's independence war; Henry Kissinger tried three times to censor him, but history proved Kissinger wrong each time. Then as a roving correspondent from Washington, he extensively covered the Middle East on repeated visits, predicting the failure of President Carter's Camp David I efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli confrontation over the West Bank, and reported from every continent except Antarctica.



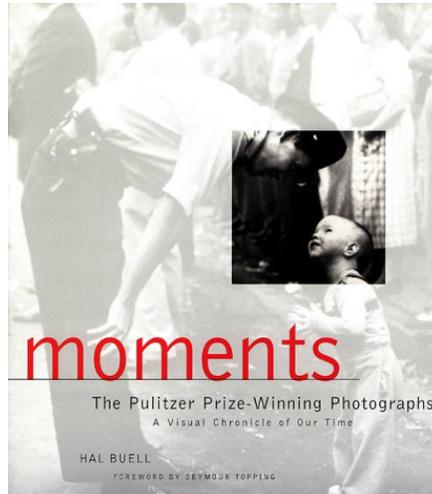
Available in hard copy from both Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and in Kindle from Amazon, Nook from B&N.

Other books (both out of print but both available from Amazon and B&N):
Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, Duke University Press, 1983; Afghan

Communism and Soviet Intervention, Oxford University Press, 1999.

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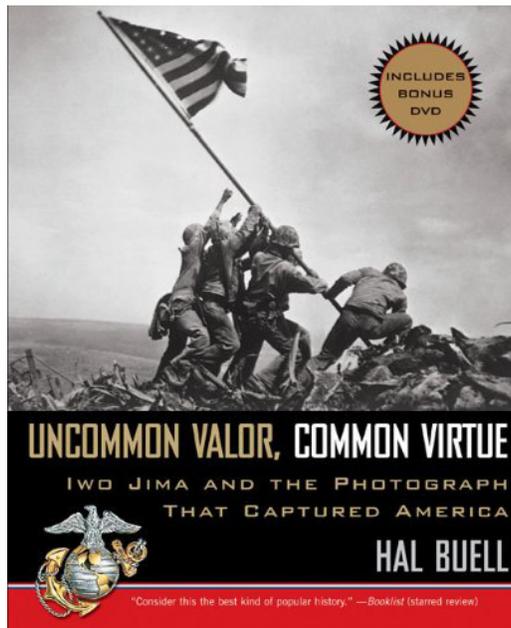
Hal Buell ([Email](#))



MOMENTS: The Pulitzer Prize Winning Photographs



This book contains the story of each of the two Pulitzer Prizes for Photography that have been awarded since 1942 (1968 for the Feature Prize), Pictures are black and white or color. The book also carries six essays that report on the development of photography over the decades. A small picture timeline of other events of each year are included. The introduction is written by David Halberstam. MOMENTS is indexed. The book is being redesigned for release in the autumn of 2015, updated and in soft cover.



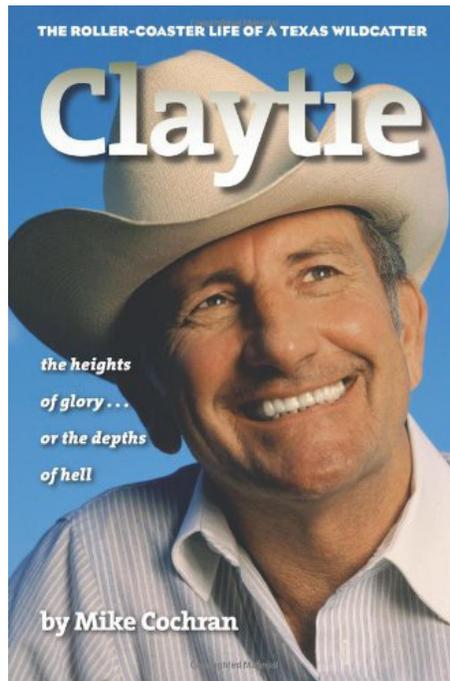
UNCOMMON VALOR,COMMON VIRTUE: Iwo Jima and The Photograph That Captured America.

The book tells the story of Joe Rosenthal's famous World War II photo of the raising of the American flag on Mt. Suribachi. The battle for Iwo Jima is told but the story deals mainly with the photo, how it was made, the controversy of whether the picture was posed and the continuing interest in the photo even today. The book contains more than 100 photographs, including many others made by Rosenthal on the invasion beach and during the weeks long battle.

Both books are available on Amazon.com.

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Mike Cochran ([Email](#))



"Claytie"



I retired as a roving Texas correspondent in 1999 after 39 years with the AP and then five years as a senior writer at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where I had opened the Fort Worth bureau in 1961. I left the news business to write books about madcap West Texas wildcatter Clayton Williams and legendary Las Vegas gambler Doyle "Texas Dolly" Brunson, also a native West Texan. I had written AP stories about both on several occasions and both remain great friends.

"Claytie," published by Texas A&M Press, was copyrighted in 2007 and "The Godfather of Poker," published by Cardoza Publishing of Las Vegas, was copyrighted in 2009. I spent an enormous and glorious amount of time with Claytie in Midland and Doyle in Vegas.

My favorite quote about Claytie came from Larry L. King, author of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Said King: "In losing the 1990 Texas gubernatorial race to Ann Richards, Claytie Williams shot himself in the foot more times than a centipede with a machine gun. But Mike Cochran's biography also introduces us to the philanthropic, loyal, honest, and sometimes soft-hearted side of this boom-or-bust oilpatch kingpin. Claytie's life might be a movie--except that it was already made in the 1950s as "Giant" with James Dean playing the Claytie role."

And this about Brunson from Nolan Dalla, World Series of Poker Media Director: "Doyle Brunson is to poker what Babe Ruth was to baseball--a larger-than-life giant of a man who not only helped revolutionize and popularize the game he loved, but set the standard for achievement and excellence by which all players are measured."

The Claytie book was a biography (\$24.95) and the Brunson book an autobiography (\$26.95) and I'm sure both are available through some bookstores, Amazon and the two publishers. If anybody wants a reduced-price book signed by me send a \$20 check to 4509 Starlight Dr., Haltom City, TX, 76117. That price includes shipping and handling.

Other earlier books by Cochran:

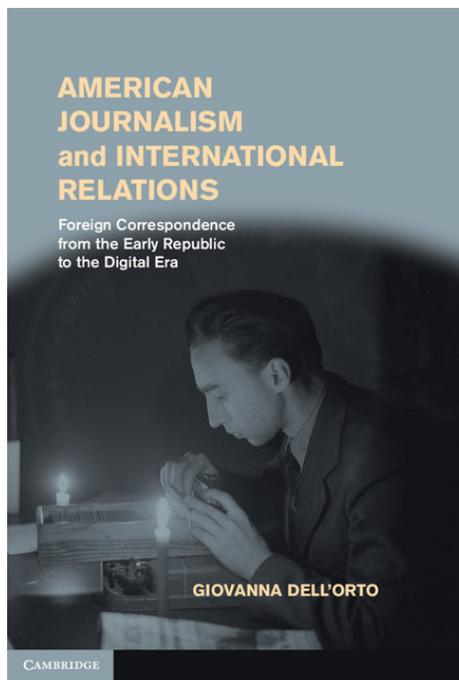
Texas vs. Davis

And Deliver Us From Evil

West Texas (With former Texas bureau chief John Lumpkin)

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Giovanna Dell'Orto ([Email](#))



"American Journalism and International Relations: Foreign Correspondence from the Early Republic to the Digital Era"

Even though I'm really on deadline for another book (! about foreign correspondents), I couldn't resist sending some info about my latest, which has just come out in paperback from Cambridge University Press, "[American Journalism and International Relations: Foreign Correspondence from the Early Republic to the Digital Era.](#)"

Shedding new light on the debate over the importance of foreign news to America's international relations,



the book unearths the history of U.S. foreign correspondence to call for protecting its endangered future. The analysis of coverage of 20 international events from 1848 to 2008 shows that professional foreign correspondence has always helped shape the box within which Americans -- ordinary citizens and policymakers alike -- have thought about the world and their role in it. Most importantly, it has sometimes provided the only means to think outside of it. This original history of how the American media have covered the world shows that no news story can, or should, drive policy, but less quantity and quality in foreign correspondence have always led to impoverished democratic debate and a needlessly restricted policy range.

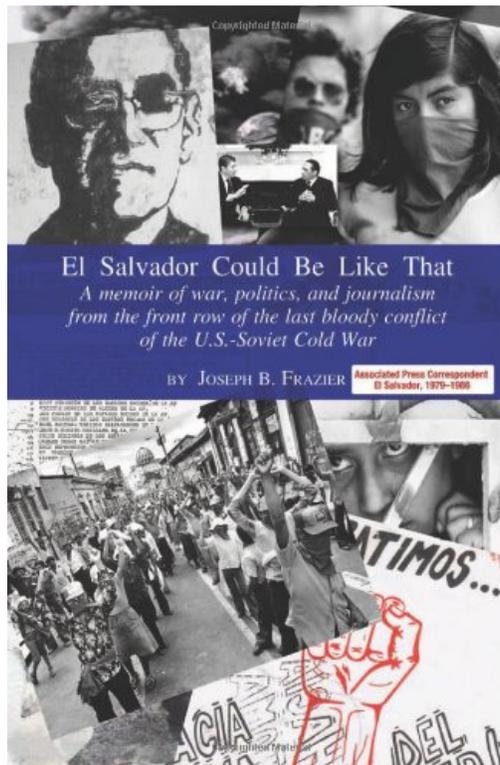
It's for sale at: www.cambridge.org/AMJO2014 (click on the second title, the paperback version) as well as on Amazon etc.

Attached is the cover plus my photo. On the pix: I'm sure quite a few Connecting colleagues will recognize the cover ... that's George Bria in the Rome bureau in the 1940s. [In fact, I believe that Connecting did a story about the book launch at the National Press Club that George, Max Desfor and their families so kindly attended.] As for my photo, that was very kindly shot at the University of Minnesota by Jim Mone, the very first AP photographer I teamed up with [or should we say who took me under his wing??] on a story on my first day at work at the Minneapolis bureau back in 1999.

On to the book: I've authored/edited four other books, but I'll just point out the latest, which might also be of interest since it's about how journalists in the US and the European Union cover immigration and border issues: Reporting at the Southern Borders: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415835886/> (also available on paperback by Routledge).

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Joe Frazier ([Email](#))



"El Salvador Could Be Like That"

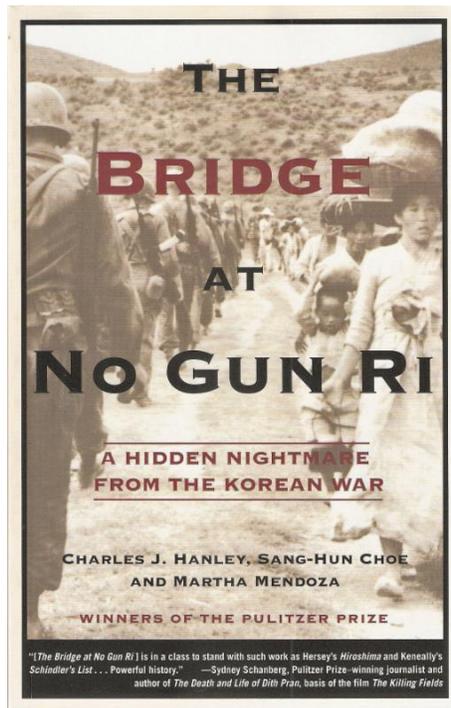
The book is a worm's-eye view of that country's civil war or revolution. I covered the worst years, 1979-1986, for the AP. It is meant to bring to light the war's pact on every-day Salvadorans, the voiceless ones who had to endure it. I spent a lot of time in small towns on conflictive zones, talking to poor folks, human rights workers, farmers, refugees, minor merchants, liberation theology priests, guerrillas, all of whom felt the direct impact. There is a lot there about covering the conflict and about lessons the United States could have learned. It is fairly anecdotal and strives to put the reader on the ground with ordinary Salvadorans. It is by and large a book of memoirs and recollections of the last bloody proxy conflict in the Cold War.



Available through Amazon.

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Charles Hanley ([Email](#))



"The Bridge at No Gun Ri"



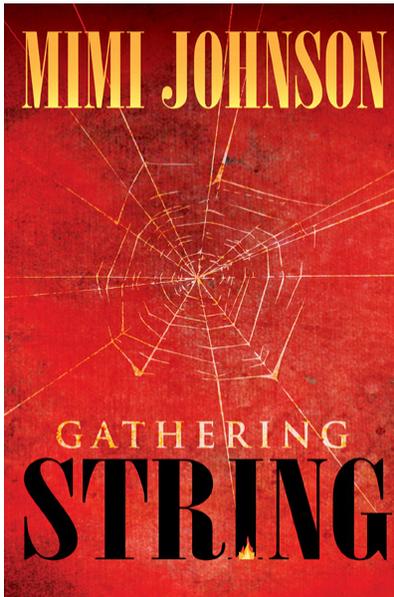
Charles J. Hanley (with AP's Sang-Hun Choe, Martha Mendoza and Randy Herschaft), ***The Bridge at No Gun Ri*** (Henry Holt and Co., 2001, ISBN 0-8050-6658-6), the in-depth story of the Korean War refugee massacre, through the eyes of those who were there, both Korean survivors and American soldiers. An epilogue describes the prodigious AP reporting that won a Pulitzer.

A companion book of particular interest to Connecting colleagues would be Kristina Borjesson's ***Into the Buzzsaw: Leading Journalists Expose the Myth of a Free Press*** (Prometheus Books, 2002, ISBN 1-57392-972-7), in which Bob Port, the ex-AP editor who led the team, writes of the yearlong internal struggle to publish the No Gun Ri story. Both are available at all online outlets and in libraries.

Our 2001 No Gun Ri book is available at all the online outlets, both "new" and used, and of course at libraries. (You might want to tell folks unfamiliar with it of the "WorldCat" book search service, which will locate library books in your zip code, at <http://www.worldcat.org/>)

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Mimi Johnson ([Email](#))



"Gathering String"

A long-ago fire that killed two boys in a small Iowa town emerges as a threat to the front-runner in a presidential campaign. The two journalists pursuing the mystery could hardly be more different. Though he works for the website Politifix, surly Sam Waterman disdains the digital tools that are taking over journalism. All he wants is a political scalp. Congenial Jack Westphal, a basketball star turned editor, is leading and tweeting his small-town newspaper into the digital age. When they start pursuing the mystery, the men have only one thing in common: They both love Tess Benedict. Tess left Washington after a volatile office romance with Sam, finding refuge in Iowa and marrying Jack. Sam and Jack begin their collision course when Swede Erickson, Iowa's popular governor, decides to run for president. Swede became a surrogate brother to Jack after an automobile accident killed his family during his freshman year of college. Jack starts his campaign coverage as an enthusiastic cheerleader of his personal mentor and the hometown favorite son. It's the surprising information in Sam's investigative profile on Erickson that forces Jack to look at his friend through objective eyes. As both men dig deeper, suspicion grows. From different directions the journalists follow separate threads that lead back to the fire. Along the way, they come to realize that the story will carry personal costs, not only to themselves but to the woman they both love. As the men draw closer to the truth, events thrust them together in a contentious alliance. The personal and national stakes escalate as they put together the final pieces and decide whether and how to tell the story. Pushed to the limit, Jack and Sam face together the costs of running a story that could destroy them all.



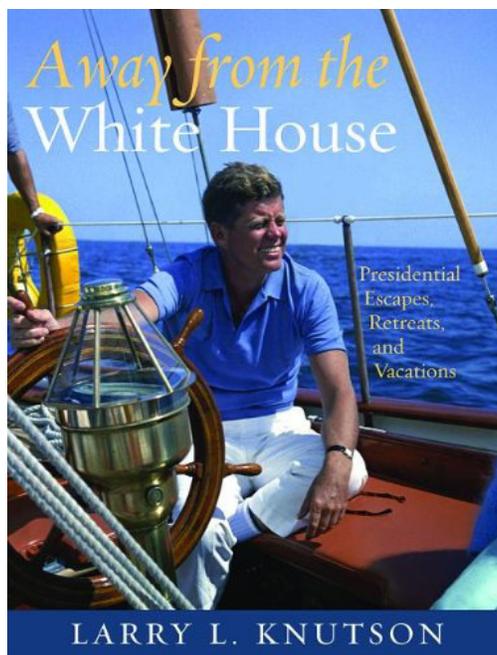
Paperback version: <http://www.amazon.com/Gathering-String-Mimi->

[Johnson/dp/1477599983/ref=sr_1_1_twi_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1417202342&sr=8-1&keywords=Mimi+Johnson+gathering+string](http://www.amazon.com/Gathering-String-Mimi-Johnson/dp/1477599983/ref=sr_1_1_twi_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1417202342&sr=8-1&keywords=Mimi+Johnson+gathering+string)

Kindle edition: http://www.amazon.com/Gathering-String-Mimi-Johnson/dp/1477599983/ref=sr_1_1_twi_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1417202342&sr=8-1&keywords=Mimi+Johnson+gathering+string

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Larry Knutson ([Email](#))



"Away From the White House: Presidential Escapes, Retreats and Vacations"



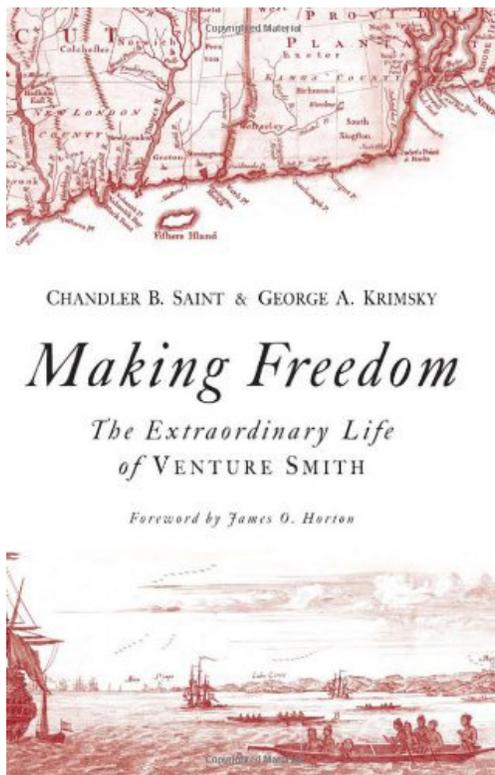
The book, an exploration of the leisure pursuits of the nation's chief executives outside the seat of government, is published by the White House Historical Association, which was founded by first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961. It was published in late summer and is now in its second printing. Knutson recently signed copies at the annual Book Fest of the National Press Club. Other signings are set next month at the University Club of Washington D.C. and the White House Victors Center, Coincidentally, the White House Historical Association chose a color photograph of Kennedy at the tiller of a sailboat as the cover illustration of my book, "Away From the White House, Presidential Escapes, Retreats and Vacations," which has just gone into its second printing. The book, an exploration of the leisure pursuits of the nation's chief executives outside the seat of government, is published by the White House Historical Association, which was founded by first lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961. It was published in late summer. I recently signed copies at the annual Book

Fest of the National Press Club. Other signings are set next month at the University Club of Washington D.C. and the White House Victors Center.

The only link I have is: <http://shop.whitehousehistory.org/away-from-the-white-house>

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George Krinsky ([Email](#))



"Venture Smith: Making Freedom"

My co-author, Chandler Saint, and I are about to publish a new version of our 2009 book about the 18th Century American slave Venture Smith. It has been heavily updated after five years of new research, with lots of art. The title is *Venture Smith: Making Freedom*.

He was a remarkable man, an African prince captured as a boy in his native West Africa and taken to New England in 1739. Born Broteer Furro, he was given the slave name "Venture" because his new owner was so proud of a purchase that cost him "four gallons of rum and a piece of calico."



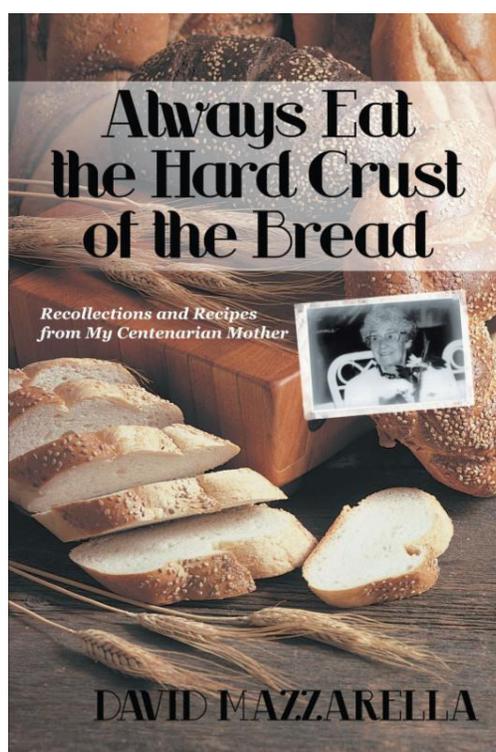
Venture worked as a slave for three owners for 25 years and eventually bought his freedom and became the equivalent of a millionaire in Connecticut. As an old man he provided a narrative of his life and times that serves as a valuable document for

historians and sheds light on the little known institution of northern slavery.

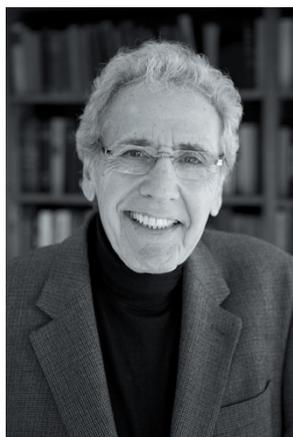
The book will first come out as special hard-cover Library Edition on a subscription basis and then will be printed by Wesleyan University Press in paperback sometime in 2015.

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Dave Mazarella ([Email](#))



"ALWAYS EAT THE HARD CRUST OF THE BREAD: Recollections and Recipes from my Centenarian Mother"



My mother Benigna, an immigrant to America from Italy, lived to one hundred and seven years and nine months. That's slightly more than two years shy of becoming a "supercentenarian" (110 years). I set out to explain to myself and others how that came to be. She had amazing genes, yes, but also, I would say: "Maybe...moderation has a role. And regularity of habits, And a disciplined palate. And a stiff spine. And pleasure found in work. And laughter. And a carrying of one's years lightly. And love and protection of family -- even some of its more nettlesome characters."

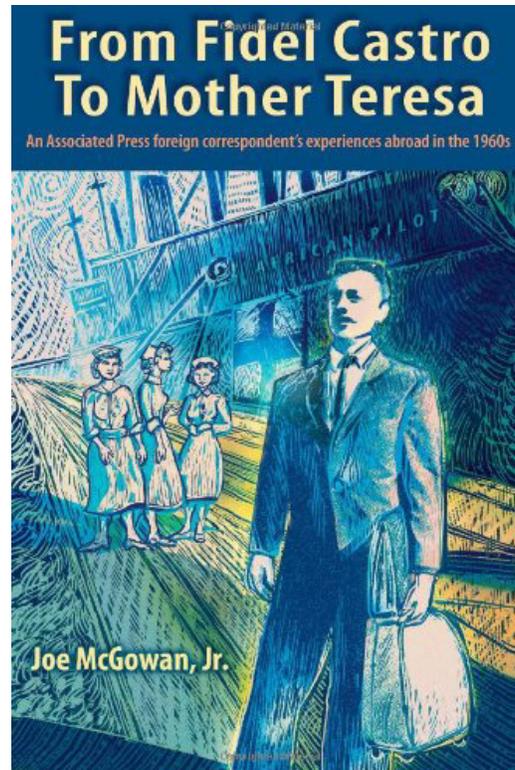
She was a great cook, like most matriarchs, but had some food idiosyncrasies for an Italian: She had little use for garlic, oregano, lumpy tomato sauce, wine and anything but the crust of bread. She occasionally ate meat, as long as it was kosher. (She was Catholic.) Included are almost 50 recipes,

the accounts of three eccentric relatives she cared for, and a description of a rare herb known to the ancient Romans but few in the modern age. It was in mama's signature pasta.

AVAILABILITY: Hard cover, soft cover and e-reader, from the Amazon and Barnes and Noble Web sites.

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Joe McGowan ([Email](#))



"From Fidel Castro to Mother Teresa"

This book is about McGowan's AP time as a foreign and war correspondent in the 1960s. Highlights, as can be told from the title, include his spending an entire day in Havana with Fidel Castro just after the Cuban missile crisis, and spending two days in Calcutta with Mother Teresa. He wrote the first worldwide stories about her Home for the Dying. During three years based in India, he covered the India-Pakistan war of 1965 and was with the Pakistani army when the Indian Air Force bombed and strafed the military convoy. He dined regularly with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and reported the Indian famine of 1967.



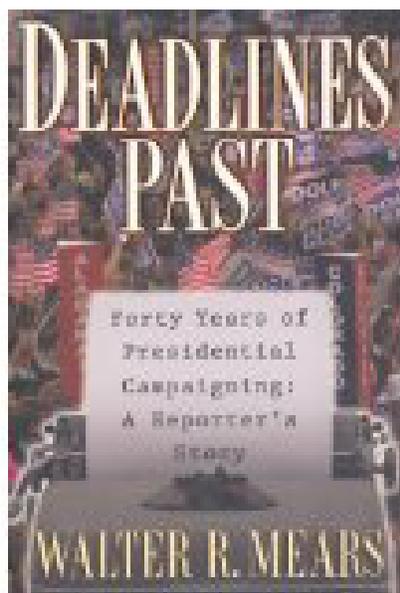
He was transferred to Lima, Peru, days ahead of a military revolution. When a

massive earthquake hit Peru May 31, 1970, McGowan reported to the world that the death toll was nearly 70,000. The military government and thus all other media said for 24 hours the toll was closer to 2,500. When the government found McGowan was right, they ordered him arrested and deported for "insulting the national dignity."

McGowan covered the anti-American violence in the Panama Canal Zone in 1964 and a sniper fired two bullets at him. They missed!

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Walter Mears ([Email](#))



"Deadlines Past"



I've written one and co-authored two other books. The one of most interest to AP people would be "Deadlines Past," my account of the presidential campaigns I covered for the AP from 1960 to 2000. It was published in 2004 (by our Kansas City friends at Andrews-McMeel Universal.) It is still available from Amazon, cut rate. I wrote one chapter on each of the campaigns I covered, covering the candidates and my own AP career. I still get statements from Andrews-McMeel telling me that I haven't yet made back my advance. So the surge of sales Connecting will stir will not add to my pension.

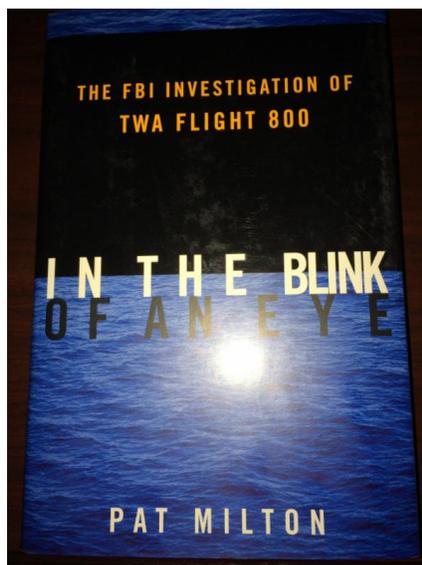
With John Chancellor of NBC News, I co-authored "The News Business," in 1983. We wrote a revised version as "The New News Business" in 1995.

In 2009, Hal Buell, the longtime chief of AP Photos, asked me to join him in

producing "The Kennedy Brothers, A Legacy in Photographs." I wrote a chapter on each of the four brothers and Hal delivered and edited the photographs which are the best part of the book.

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Pat Milton ([Email](#))



"In the Blink of An Eye, the FBI Investigation into TWA Flight 800"

Pat Milton, former Associated Press reporter/writer and currently Senior Producer CBS News, authored the book, "In the Blink of An Eye, the FBI Investigation into TWA Flight 800." The book is published by Random House and is available. Pat covered the investigation into the crash for the AP for more than two years.



On July 17, 1996, a 747 jumbo jet, carrying 230 people, took off from New York's Kennedy Airport bound for Paris when minutes into the flight, something went terribly wrong. Without warning the plane suddenly erupted into a giant fireball in the sky spewing debris and remains over the ocean just off the coast of Long Island. There was no mayday, no communication from the crew instantly raising fear that the crash was an act of terrorism or sabotage. Did a bomb or a missile bring down the plane? 747s just don't drop out of the sky. Speculation that a crime and not mechanical failure was responsible was supported by hundreds of eyewitnesses who reported seeing objects streaming towards the jetliner seconds before it blew up, objects described as a missile, or fireworks or streaks of light. These accounts eventually gave rise to conspiracy theories _among them that the plane was shot down by an errant U.S. Navy missile and the U.S. Government was covering it up.

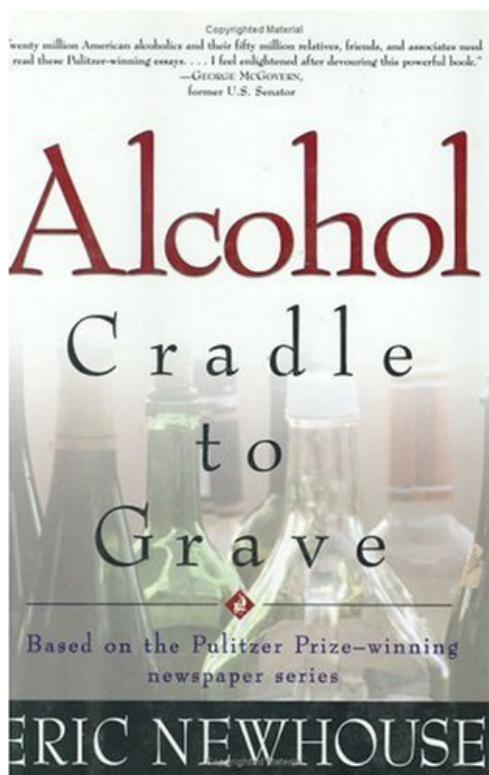
The book gives the reader a rare behind the scenes look at an FBI investigation,

telling the story of agents who worked tirelessly to find the truth to the most mysterious aviation disasters in U.S. history.

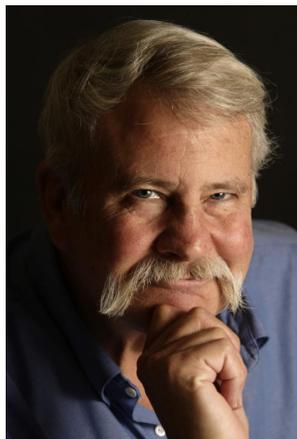
As AP's Long Island Correspondent, I was alerted to the crash by the New York Bureau's night supervisor. I got to the crash site within an hour, commandeering a fisherman who was pulling into the dock at Center Moriches, L.I., the closest point on land to where the plane plunged into the ocean. He took me out to the crash site where I reported for the AP all night surrounded by the burning waters from jet fuel. I covered the investigation for the next two years.

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Eric Newhouse ([Email](#))



"Alcohol: Cradle to Grave"



"Alcohol: Cradle to Grave," is an expansion of the year-long series of stories that won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting for Eric Newhouse, then projects editor of the Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune. (Runners-up for the prize that year were the New York Times and the Portland Oregonian.)

The updated paperback book not only contains all the stories that the newspaper published, but explains how and why the series was conceived and executed. It looks at the

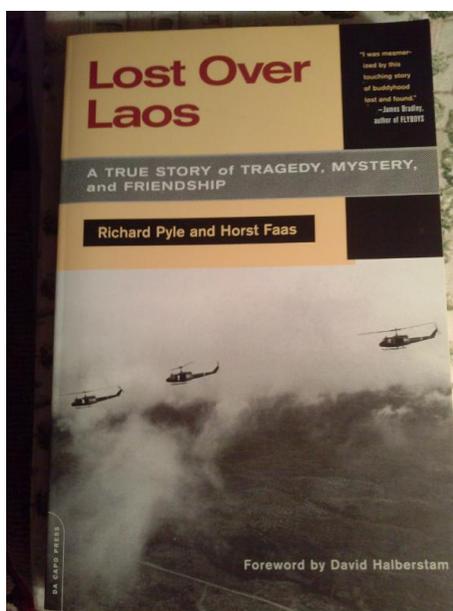
ethical and moral issues the newspaper and the former AP bureau chief faced. And it brings closure to the life of Bill Broderson, an alcoholic who was profiled monthly as part of that series.

"Alcohol: Cradle to Grave" was published by Idyll Arbor Publishing and is available at www.ericnewhouse.com or at amazon.com.

Idyll Arbor also published Newhouse's most recent book, "Faces of Combat: PTSD & TBI," which chronicles the brain damage and emotional traumas facing American warriors as they return home from combat. Newhouse also blogs on those subjects for Psychology Today at <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/invisible-wounds>.

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Richard Pyle ([Email](#))



"Lost over Laos"

On February 10, 1971, a South Vietnamese helicopter was shot down over a jungle mountainside in Laos, killing seven Saigon military men and four of the Vietnam war's best-known civilian photojournalists - Larry Burrows of Life Magazine, Henri Huet of AP, Kent Potter of UPI and Keisaburo Shimamoto of Newsweek. It was a tragic start to a US-backed incursion by SVN forces to cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail, North Vietnam's supply route to southern battlefields. Code-named Lam Son 719, it was an ambitious but flawed operation that would also end badly.



Overall, at least 74 journalists perished in the war between 1965 and 1975 - more than in WW2 - but the loss of four top photographers in one incident was a staggering blow for the Saigon press corps. At AP we were especially devastated by the loss of Henri Huet. The great French-Vietnamese photographer was the last of four AP staff casualties in VN.

As bureau chief one faces a special obligation in such situations, but it being impossible for anyone to reach the crash site in remote, hostile territory, I had to settle for a promise: if any pilgrimage ever became possible, I wanted to be the person to go there.

I could not have imagined that alone would take 27 years.

In 1994, the Pentagon's POW-MIA search agency asked our help in locating the crash site, and on the basis of one missing American (Kent Potter) marked it for a search. The key was AP reporter Michael Putzel's rediscovery of an aerial photo of the site he'd shot from a helicopter the next day. I recruited former AP Saigon photo chief Horst Faas as a partner and co-author on the project, and in March 1998, we were present at the site as a team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recovered helicopter wreckage, camera parts and trace human remains.

The remains being too scant for DNA analysis, the case was closed in 2002 as a "circumstantial group ID." After further delays, the collected remains were ceremonially interred at the new Newseum in Washington DC on April 3, 2008. It was 37 years after the shootdown.

Meanwhile, *Lost Over Laos*, with a photo array by Horst and foreword by David Halberstam, was published by DaCapo Press in 2003, with a second, updated edition in paperback in 2004. While far from a best seller, the book was respected by critics and is for me, the most important writing I ever did.

Other writings by Richard Pyle:

Schwarzkopf: *The Man, the Mission, The Triumph*; Penguin, New American Library, New York; Mandarin, London and Glasgow, 1991. A paperback biography of Gen H Norman Schwarzkopf, published just after the 1991 Gulf war, based on author's reporting for AP from the field and Schwarzkopf's headquarters, with interviews with Schwarzkopf and others.

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David Royse ([Email](#))



"The Political Almanac of Florida"

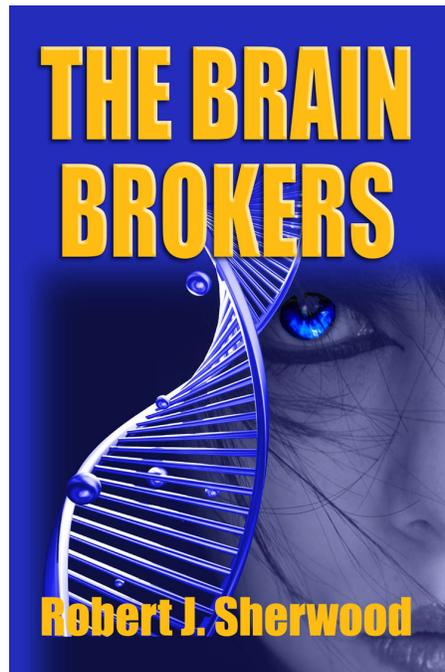
Who lives where in Florida, and how do they vote? This authoritative guide to the demographics of this unique state looks at each of its 120 state House districts up close, with information about who lives there, and how they've voted in recent elections and why. It's a detailed, must-have guide for anyone working in Florida politics, or just interested in the political demography of one of the nation's most dynamic states. From the conservative Navy-town of Pensacola to bastions of Democratic voting in Fort Lauderdale and Miami, and everything in between, The News Service of Florida's Political Almanac of Florida tells the story of the state's voters: who they are, where they came from, and how they're likely to cast their ballots.

Here's the Amazon link: <http://www.amazon.com/Service-Floridas-Political-Almanac-Florida/dp/0615978266>



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Bob Sherwood ([Email](#))



"The Brain Brokers"



In this story, David Dawson uncovers a scheme to track and control the lives of the smartest people in America. He discovers details of a 1921 study which analyzed and tracked 1521 of the most gifted Americans. Their identities have always been zealously guarded. Although the original study subjects are dead, their descendants live on.

Dawson is a single, G5 jet flying, 930 Porsche driving international traveler, and technology guru from Silicon Valley. Dawson and his two partners, *Dr. Matthew Zimmerman*, a technology wizard, and *Helen Shepherd*, a beautiful sensuous woman, find themselves on a roller coaster ride they couldn't have anticipated.

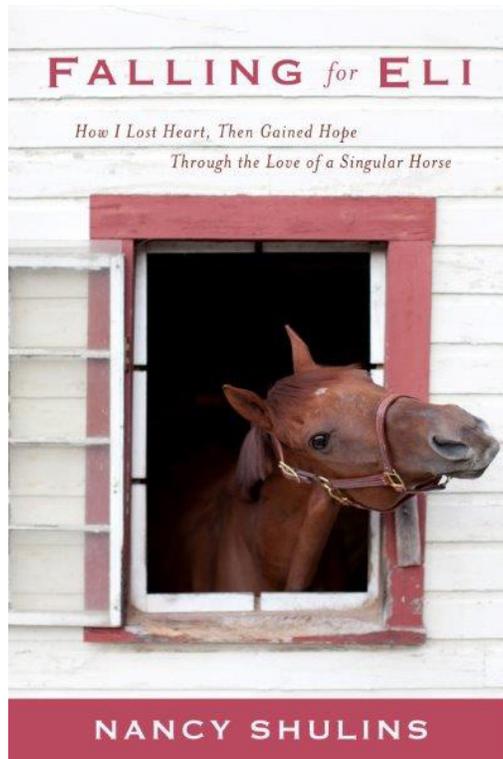
Dawson's path collides with a dangerous billionaire Greek geneticist who launches a program to identify all the Americans who participated in the study. It becomes clear that the Greek will stop at nothing to get his hands on the identities of those people—including kidnapping, extortion and murder. The Greek wants to sell their identities to foreign governments and use their DNA to increase the intelligence level of a select few people.

From challenging Darwin's theory of evolution to exploring basic DNA beliefs, the story engages the reader in genuine issues of personal privacy and of elitist government theories. It is a fast paced thriller that engages the reader in the latest in bio-technology possibilities combined with a love story between the main characters. It's plausible and will make the reader a genuine believer.

Purchase link is: <http://www.amazon.com/Robert-J.-Sherwood/e/B003B3IDJ8>

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Nancy Shulins ([Email](#))



"Falling for Eli"



Former Associated Press Special Correspondent Nancy Shulins had a great career and a loving husband, and was looking forward to having a family. Cheering as her friends got pregnant and dutifully bringing gaily wrapped gifts to every baby shower, she suffered bout after bout of unsuccessful infertility treatment. Devastated, she slowly heals through the most unexpected route: the love of a good (if cranky) horse named Eli.

Everyone knows a woman who loves horses. Maybe she rides whenever she can find the time, maybe she rode as a young girl, or maybe she just devoured the Black Stallion books. Twenty years ago, Nancy Shulins let go of one dream--having a child--and worked toward another one: learning to ride and, eventually, having her own horse. In the process, she learned what it means to love another being so much you can't imagine life without them.

Falling for Eli is about learning to break a sweat rather than break down, to try your best even if you'll never be the best; it's about learning to stand on your own six feet.

Falling For Eli is available in paperback from Barnes and Noble, Amazon, IndieBound, and bookstores nationwide. It's available as an ebook and an audiobook from audible.com.

To read an excerpt, visit <http://www.fallingforeli.com/>

To visit Eli on Facebook, go to <https://www.facebook.com/ElijahBHorse?sk=wall>

Nancy Shulins is also the author of Every Day I Love You More (Just Not Today) published by Warner Books in 2001

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Paul Stevens ([Email](#))



"The Messenger: 150th Anniversary"

Connecting editor Paul Stevens collaborated with his father to produce this book, which records the history of newspapers in Fort Dodge, Iowa, from the Fort Dodge Sentinel's founding and the beginning of the Fort Dodge Messenger as a weekly newspaper in 1872, to the present day.

Paul and his late father, Walter Stevens, have strong family ties to The Messenger. Walter Stevens joined the newspaper in 1954 and became editor emeritus in 1988, a position he held until his death in 2013. Paul Stevens delivered The Messenger as a neighborhood carrier and worked part-time in news and sports through college. Today, he is retired from The Associated Press after a 36-year career.

This history - which began when Paul Stevens did his first history of The Messenger

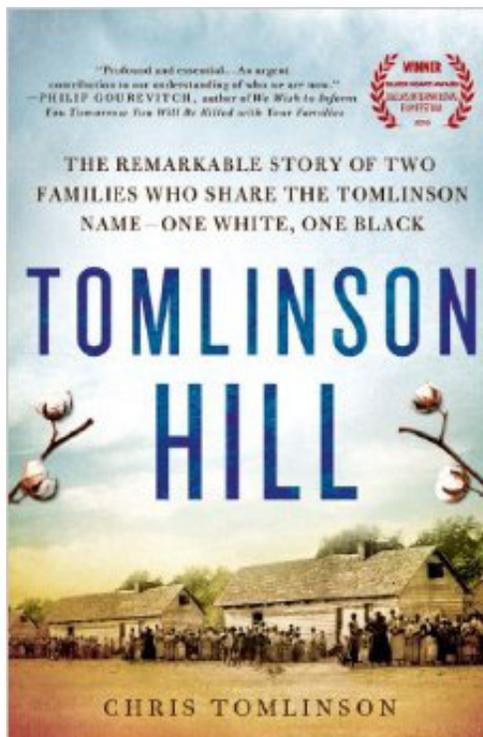
in 1973 as his master's thesis at the University of Kansas - is a labor of their love for journalism and for the thread that has run deeply through their lives and the lives of thousands of Fort Dodgers: *The Messenger*. The photo above shows Paul and his dad at the book signing, with three brothers dressed as old newsboys in the background.

One of the highlights: A chapter in the book on Walter Howey, who got his start at *The Messenger* before going on to a career of fame in Chicago and New York. He is the prototype of editor Walter Burns in "The Front Page." You can read a .PDF of the chapter [here](#).

Availability: It is sold out and *The Messenger* is considering an update in future years, possibly as an e-book. Send me a note if you'd like to borrow a copy.

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Chris Tomlinson ([Email](#))



"Tomlinson Hill"



Tomlinson Hill, a New York Times Bestseller, is the story of two families - one white, one black - who trace their heritage to a slave plantation that bears their name. Journalist Chris Tomlinson grew up hearing stories about the family's cotton plantation in Falls County, Texas. Most of them lionized his ancestors for their pioneering along the Brazos

River. His grandfather often said the family's slaves loved them so much, they took Tomlinson as their last name. Though as a child Chris never visited the Hill, football great LaDainian Tomlinson spent part of his childhood on the same land their ancestors worked as slaves.

As a child, LaDainian believed the Hill was named after his family. Not until he was old enough to read a historical plaque did he realize that the Hill was named for his ancestor's slaveholders. Tomlinson Hill traces the true story of these two families beginning when the first Tomlinson, a white woman, arrived in 1854 to when the last Tomlinson, LaDainian's father, left in 2007.

The book unflinchingly explores Texas' and America's history of race and bigotry, and how it shaped the lives of these two Texas families. Compiled from countless interviews and original research, Chris Tomlinson uses the reporting skills he honed as a war correspondent covering ethnic violence in Africa and the Middle East to tell the intertwined story of five generations of Tomlinsons, and along the way tells the story of America.

The book is available in hardback or e-book from all bookstores, including Amazon, links available here: <http://tomlinsonhill.com/tomlinson-hill-available-for-pre-order/>

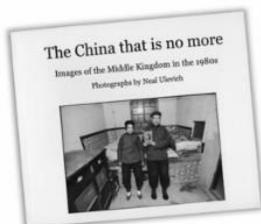
Order a copy of my book *Tomlinson Hill* : <http://smarturl.it/Thpreorder>

Tomlinson is also a co-author of *Kahawa Kenya's Black Gold: The Story of Kenya Coffee*

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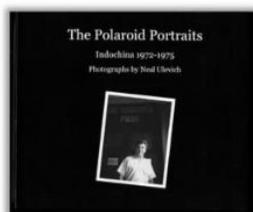
Neal Ulevich ([Email](#))

Watermargin Books



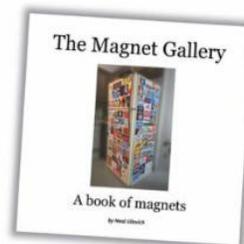
A new book of vanishing sights as China modernizes
Preview and purchase

[Click Here](#)



A unique work of portraiture from the Vietnam War
Preview and purchase

[Click Here](#)



Fine photography meets thought-provoking magnets
Preview and purchase

[Click Here](#)

" The Polaroid Portraits - Indochina 1972-1975 "

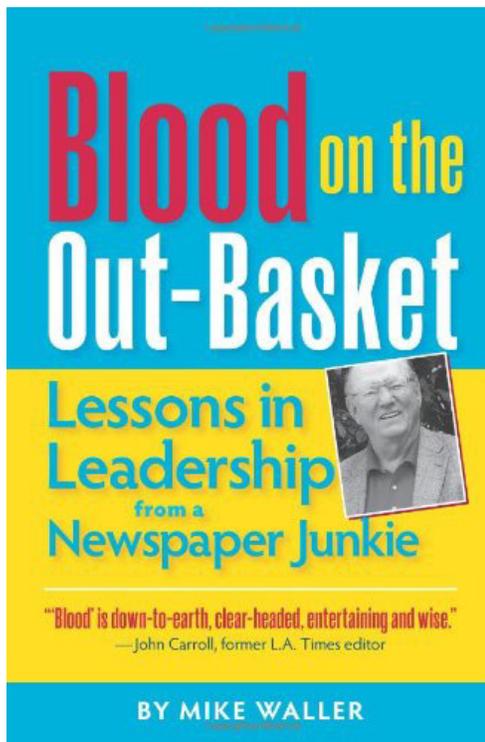
Here is some text describing the portraits book, possibly the most interesting to AP retirees. A Polaroid snap from the era - NU and Ed White in the Saigon photo

department - is attached.

The Polaroid Portraits - Indochina 1972-1975 is a collection of images made in the Saigon bureau and elsewhere of Vietnam War friends, colleagues, visitors and absolute strangers. The portraits range from the bureau cleaning lady to Hunter Thompson Jr. The project was a lark. I kept a Polaroid pack camera in my bureau mailbox for the same reason I carried an 8mm movie camera in the field: The joy of making pictures. Horst Faas, Saigon photo editor, mentor and friend, quipped of my Polaroids: **"He is in the wrong job. He likes photography."** As often happens, the decades leavened the casual images into history. Recently a NY Times Saigon bureau chief said of the portraits, **"Like seeing a bunch of old friends at a reunion. but no time passed."** I dedicated the book to my parents, and also to Faas.

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Mike Waller ([Email](#))



"Blood on the Out-Basket: Lessons in Leadership From a Newspaper Junkie"

"Blood" offers tips on leadership based on Mike Waller's 42 years in journalism. John Carroll, former editor of the L.A. Times and Baltimore Sun, said: "This book is just like Mike himself: down-to-earth, clear-headed, entertaining and wise. People loved working for Mike, and for good reason. They had fun and, at the same time, they

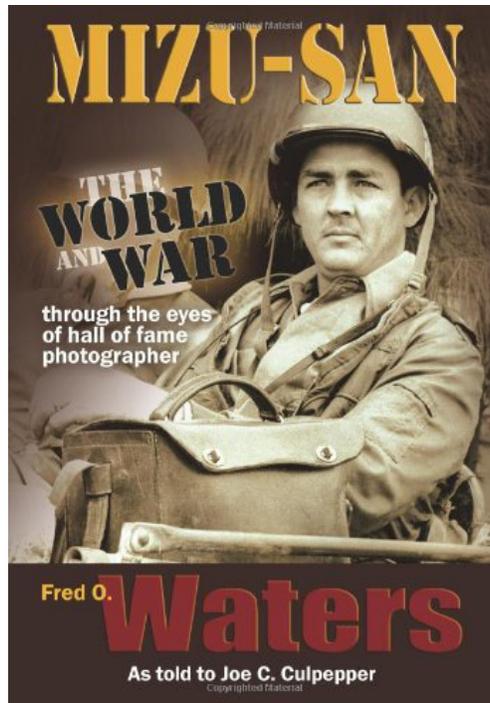
flourished professionally."

"Blood" can be ordered on amazon.com.

Another book by Waller, "Durand's Marvelous Merchants: A Tale of Small-Town Life and Big-Time Softball," also can be ordered on amazon.com.

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Fred Waters ([Email, Daughter Karen Wiley](#))



"Mizu-San: The World and war through the eyes of Hall of Fame photographer"

(Famed AP photojournalist Fred Waters died last December at the age of 86, and in his memory, the Connecting editor includes his book in our compilation of works by Connecting authors. His daughter Karen Wiley is on Connecting and keeps up a Facebook memorial page to perpetuate her father's memory.)

Alabama native, World War II veteran and long-time Associated Press photographer Fred O. Waters shares his remarkable life story as a Naval Seaman, Army journalist and hall-of-fame professional photographer. Travel with Waters as he enlists into the Navy at age 16, ships out for Guam and supports the U.S. military effort against the Japanese Empire. Continue Waters' first-hand account of enlisting into the Army and photographing the recovery of Japan after the atomic bomb drops on Hiroshima



and Nagasaki. Following his military career, Waters remains in Southeast Asia and covers conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Laos and many island nations. Eventually, Waters returns Stateside and embarks on a 25-year career with the Associated Press in St. Louis, Missouri, covering the Civil Rights Movement, floods, politics, athletics and the rigors of news gathering prior to the digital communications age.

Waters, a longtime Associated Press photographer who covered everything from the Korean and Vietnam wars to construction of the Gateway Arch, was born in Alabama in 1927. His family moved to Miami in the 1930s and he got a job as a clerk in the photo lab of the Miami Herald.

He was 17 when he joined the Navy in World War II, earning a Purple Heart on Guam. He joined the Army after his hitch in the Navy ended in 1946 and was trained as a photographer, serving a tour in Japan and earning the name "Mizu-San," Japanese for "Mr. Waters."

Waters was hired by AP in 1952. He remained in Southeast Asia and covered conflicts that included the Korean War, the French-Indochina War and Vietnam. He was wounded in Korea, hurt in a helicopter crash in Laos and suffered an eye injury from a bamboo trap in South Vietnam.

During the French-Indochina War, Waters covered the fall of North Vietnam. He was one of the last three newsmen to leave Hanoi before it was overrun by the Vietminh in 1954. Under constant surveillance and forbidden to take pictures, Waters hung his camera around his neck and as he walked around, aimed his body and snapped his shutter. Once his film was smuggled out of the country, it provided the first photos from Hanoi under Vietminh rule.

In his book, "Mizu-San," published in 2011, Waters wrote, "Very few people can say that they accomplished their life's goal before they were 30 years old. That's what happened to me. It's been a good ride."

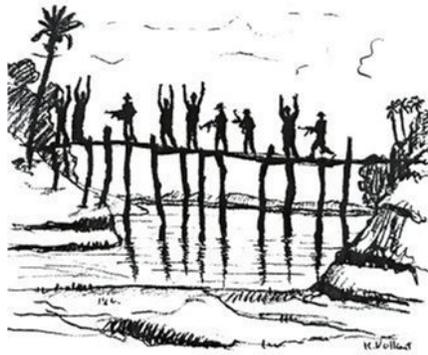
Waters was transferred to St. Louis in 1962 and worked there until he retired in 1987. His photos chronicled construction of the Gateway Arch, presidential visits, World Series and Stanley Cup Finals games. He traveled with Martin Luther King Jr. and covered the upheaval after his assassination.

Waters was inducted into the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame in 2008

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Jeff Williams ([Email](#))

A Cambodian Odyssey
and the deaths of 25 journalists

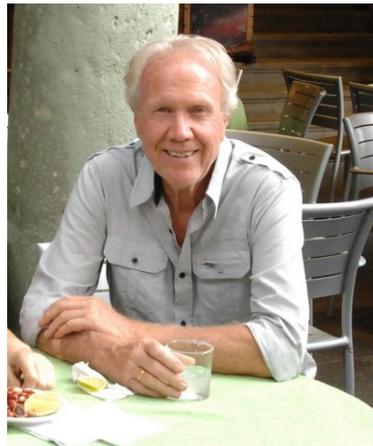


By
Kurt Volkert
and
T. Jeff Williams
Foreword by Bernard Kalb

"A Cambodian Odyssey and the deaths of 25 journalists"

By Kurt Volkert and T. Jeff Williams; foreword by Bernard Kalb

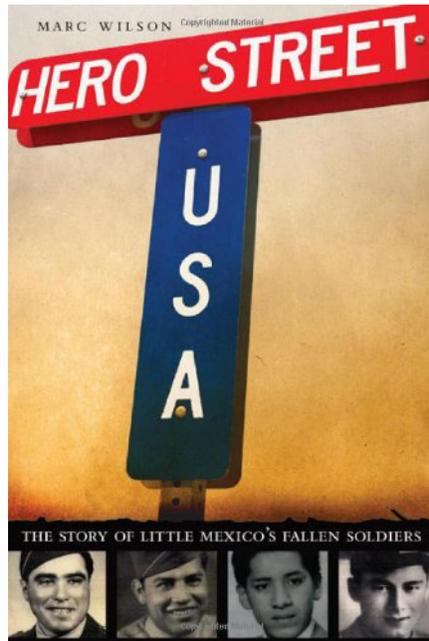
This book recounts the events surrounding the March 18, 1970, Cambodia coup that ousted long-time ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk and set the stage for the murderous takeover by the Khmer Rouge. From his base in Hong Kong, AP correspondent T. Jeff Williams slipped into the country just ahead of the coup. Scores of journalists soon followed and in six months 25 foreign journalists were captured and murdered, including eight with NBC and CBS News. The CBS dead included correspondent George Sylvester and producer Gerry Miller, both former AP newsmen. The night before their deaths, both urged Williams to join CBS. He declined. "You guys have it too easy." Sylvester's cameraman was Kurt Volkert, a combat veteran who refused to go with him that fateful day on grounds he was putting the crew into too much danger. But it was Volkert, consumed with the need to find his colleagues, who collected information crucial to guiding a U.S. Army task force to the killing ground where all but one were eventually recovered.



Footnote: CBS hired Williams in Cambodia and sent him to Vietnam, where he teamed with Volkert.

Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Cambodian-Odyssey-Deaths-25-Journalists/dp/0595166067/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1416846814&sr=1-1&keywords=a+cambodian+odyssey+and+the+deaths+of+25+journalists

Marc Wilson ([Email](#))



"Hero Street U.S.A"



Hero Street U.S.A., the story of the most combat deaths of any single street in America, was written by Marc Wilson (former ACOB Dallas, correspondent Boise, newsman in Denver, Little Rock and Chicago). The book, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, was awarded the honor as the best political/history book by the International Latino Literacy Council in 2010. The Spanish-language version of the book, published by the University of Guanajuato, was awarded a similar award by the council in 2012.

The book recounts the story of six Mexican-American men from one street in Silvis, Ill., who were killed in action in World War II (Frank and Joe Sandoval, Peter Macias, Claro Solis, Tony Pompa, and Willie Sandoval) and two men from the same street (Johnny Munos and Joe Gomez) who were killed in Korea.

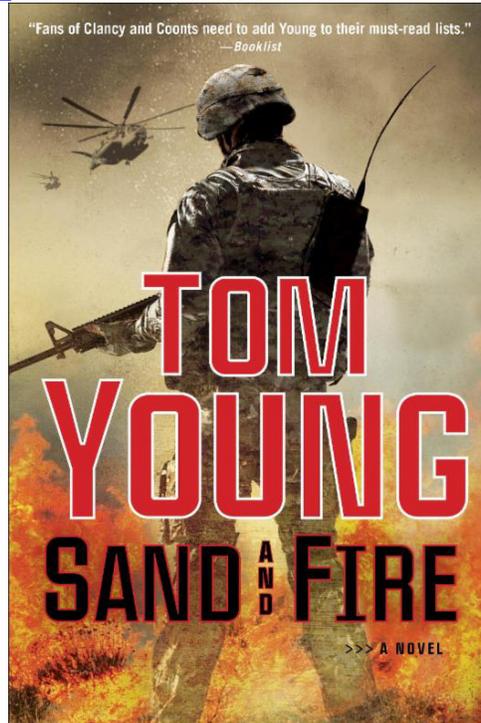
The book also tells of the perilous flight of the men's parents from Mexico during the Mexican Revolution. The refugees were employed by the Rock Island Railroad, which gave each family housing - boxcars where the eight heroes were born.

The book also recounts the blackballing of the Mexican-American soldiers and sailors from the street who were rejected for membership in the local VFW after the wars.

Hero Street U.S.A. is available at Amazon at http://www.amazon.com/Hero-Street-U-S-Mexicos-Soldiers/dp/0806140127/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1416864163&sr=1-1&keywords=hero+street+usa

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Tom Young ([Email](#))



"Sand and Fire"

Author: Tom Young (AP Broadcast News Center, Washington, 1987-1998)

North Africa. A jihadist leader has seized a supply of sarin gas and is wreaking havoc: a nightclub in Sicily, a packed street in Gibraltar. Marine Gunnery Sergeant A. E. Blount, at six-foot-eight a formidable warrior, the grandson of one of the first black Marines, sets out with a strike force to kill or capture the terrorist.

But it's a trap. Several Marines are killed, some are captured, and the jihadist promises that unless forces withdraw, he will execute one prisoner a day.

Immediately, Blount's friends and colleagues Sophia Gold, now with the U.N., and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Parson, working for the United States Africa Command, rush to Libya to help coordinate rescue efforts. The ordeal, however, has only begun. Soon they will all be fighting for their lives in the sand and fire of the desert.



Other books by Tom Young:

The Warriors

The Renegades

Silent Enemy

The Mullah's Storm

The Speed of Heat: An Airlift Wing at War in Iraq and Afghanistan (nonfiction)

All these books are available through all major brick-and-mortar and online booksellers. Here's a link to the Amazon entry for *Sand and Fire*:

<http://www.amazon.com/Sand-Fire-Parson-Gold-Novel/dp/0399166882>

Today's news of interest:

AP Review: Ferguson grand jury papers full of inconsistencies

By HOLBROOK MOHR, DAVID A. LIEB and PHILLIP LUCAS

FERGUSON, Mo. (AP) - Some witnesses said Michael Brown had been shot in the back. Another said he was face-down on the ground when Officer Darren Wilson "finished him off." Still others acknowledged changing their stories to fit published details about the autopsy or admitted that they did not see the shooting at all.

An Associated Press review of thousands of pages of grand jury documents reveals numerous examples of statements made during the shooting investigation that were inconsistent, fabricated or provably wrong. For one, the autopsies ultimately showed Brown was not struck by any bullets in his back.

Prosecutors exposed these inconsistencies before the jurors, which likely influenced their decision not to indict Wilson in Brown's death.

Bob McCulloch, the St. Louis County prosecutor, said the grand jury had to weigh testimony that conflicted with physical evidence and conflicting statements by witnesses as it decided whether Wilson should face charges.

"Many witnesses to the shooting of Michael Brown made statements inconsistent with other statements they made and also conflicting with the physical evidence. Some were completely refuted by the physical evidence," McCulloch said.

The decision Monday not to charge Wilson with any crime set off more violent protests in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson and around the country, fueled by

claims that the unarmed black 18-year-old was shot while surrendering to the white officer in the mostly African-American city.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Connecting mailbox

The Times and corrections

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - I had to laugh at the Times correction piece (in Saturday's Connecting). They have always been famous (infamous?) for their corrections. When I worked there, we had two or three good laughs a week at what they would correct and how.

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Gallagher reminder: Dash for the phone

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - This (photo in Saturday's Connecting of photographer Dave Martin) reminds me of the Wes Gallagher photo dashing for a telephone.

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Another take on Ferguson

Doris Selig ([Email](#))

- From much of what I've read, people are concerned because a white police force patrols black neighborhoods. New York City thought they had the solution after they had riots after a fatal shooting. They have a number of black policemen, why not assign them to the black neighborhoods? It didn't work. The black cops charged discrimination. They didn't want to be assigned to the most-dangerous parts of the city.

I also feel the constant use of "white cop kills unarmed black youth" in all the stories just added fuel to the fire..It seems saying unarmed all the time was only partly true. Brown didn't have a gun, but he did have a weapon -- his fists.

A Cop Hugs a Tearful Boy in Powerful Ferguson Protest Photo



An African-American boy holding a "Free Hugs" sign stood crying in front of a police barricade at a Ferguson rally in Portland. A white police officer motioned for him to come closer. The officer then asked the boy for a hug - and they embraced, the boy's anguished face streaming with tears.

A photographer captured the encounter earlier this week, and the photo has become popular on social media (and has been moved worldwide by the AP). It's an unusual image as people around the country protest a grand jury's decision to not indict a white police officer in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager in Ferguson, Missouri.

In Portland, both the boy and the officer - 12-year-old Devonte Hart and Portland Police Sgt. Bret Barnum - took unusual steps when they met on Tuesday.

The boy's mother Jennifer Hart, who is white, wrote on social media that her son had been struggling with issues of police brutality and racism.

Devonte is one of six children adopted by Hart and her wife, Sarah Hart of West Linn, a suburb of Portland.

A day after the decision on officer Darren Wilson in the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown, the Harts went downtown "with the intention of spreading love and kindness" by holding signs such as "You Matter" and "Free Hugs," Jennifer Hart said. The family then joined the nearby Ferguson rally.

Barnum, who works for the traffic division, had been dispatched to a downtown intersection to help with traffic and crowd control. In the middle of the block, hundreds of protesters listened to speeches about the relationship between police

and black residents.

Earlier that week, when an officer posted on Facebook a badge of the Portland Police Bureau with an "I am Darren Wilson" banner, Barnum had "liked" the post. The officers were later ordered to remove the images and the matter is under an internal investigation.

Barnum said he "liked" the image out of solidarity for the police profession, not because he supports Wilson.

A couple days later, Devonte Hart stood on the outskirts of the Portland rally, about 10 feet away from Barnum. He was trembling, his mom said. Tears were rolling down his cheeks.

"Devonte was struggling. He wouldn't speak. He was inconsolable," his mother wrote. "My son has a heart of gold, compassion beyond anything I've ever experienced, yet struggles with living fearlessly when it comes to the police... He wonders if someday when he no longer wears a 'Free Hugs' sign around his neck, when he's a full-grown black male, if his life will be in danger for simply being."

Barnum told The AP he noticed the boy and wondered what was wrong. So he motioned for him to come up to his motorcycle.

The officer asked for his name and shook his hand. He also asked Devonte where he went to school (he is homeschooled), what he did this summer (he traveled around the U.S. with his family), and what he likes to do (art). The tears stopped.

Barnum has two teenage sons and has worked for Portland's police force for 21 years. While continuing to talk to Devonte, he looked at the "Free Hugs" sign on the ground and asked if he might get a hug as well.

Devonte put his arms around the officer.

"Knowing how he struggled with police, his bravery and courage to catch my eye and approach me were impressive," Barnum said. "And it's a blessing for me that I didn't miss an opportunity to impact this child."

Hart said the moment was about "listening to each other, facing fears with an open heart."

Click [here](#) to see the story above. *(Shared by Bob Daugherty)*

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TIME: Meet the photographer who captured a rare moment of empathy in the

Ferguson protests

A demonstration in Portland, Oregon was the scene of an unusual embrace last week.

The November 25 protest was held, along with many across the United States, in solidarity with the family of Michael Brown, the unarmed black teenager shot and killed by a white policeman in August, following a grand jury's decision not to indict the officer.

Photographer Johnny Nguyen brought his camera to the protest and met a 12-year-old black boy named Devonte Hart, who was overcome with emotion.

"I saw tears running down Devonte's face and a sign that said free hugs around his neck," Nguyen, 20, recalls. "There was a lot going on, but my gut told right then and there to stay with this kid."

Nguyen followed Devonte through the crowd and watched as a white Portland police officer named Bret Barnum looked at Devonte's sign and asked, "Do I get one of those?" The pair hugged.

"It has spread the message of coming together despite our differences," says Nguyen of the photo, which he put on [Instagram](#). "The message is about love and compassion and finding a common ground."

After the hug, the two went their separate ways: the 12-year-old Hart to go protest, and Barnum to do police work.

Nguyen says that Americans have been waiting for a sign of togetherness after the vitriol and anger of the past week. "I think people deep down have been clambering for a glimmer of hope amidst all the negativity going on," Nguyen said. "I'm just glad I was there, in the right place and the right time."

Stories of interest

[Ferguson: Riots, race and the media](#)

When a grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who shot and killed unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, the media descended on the St Louis suburb once again. Race issues took centre stage on America's televisions and in its newspapers.

But many voices accused the mainstream media of giving too much prominence to the potential for violence and not enough to the decision itself. Young black

Americans used #BlackTwitter to take journalists to task on their coverage and provide their own version of the truth. Even US President Barack Obama and the prosecutor in the case had critical words for the media.

Talking to us about the Ferguson story this week are: Malkia Cyril, founder and executive director of the Center for Media Justice who has led a number of campaigns for racial and economic justice; journalist Mikki Kendall who writes about race and feminist issues; veteran journalist Richard Prince, from the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. Prince is known for a landmark complaint he brought against discriminatory practices at the Washington Post in 1972; and Sarah Kendzior, a reporter and anthropologist who has been named the best online journalist in St Louis.

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[Former al Qaida hostage recounts nightmare - of dealing with FBI](#)

WASHINGTON - The only thing as bad as being tortured for months as a captive of jihadists in Syria was dealing with the U.S. government afterward, according to one former American hostage. Matt Schrier, 36, a freelance photographer held by extremists for seven months in 2013 until he escaped, has told McClatchy that the bureaucracy he endured upon his return home was a second kind of nightmare following the months of abuse he suffered while he was a hostage. "I never thought it would get this bad," Schrier said.

The FBI never told his father that he had been kidnapped. It waited six months into his capture to produce a wanted poster, and only after his mother prodded. It allowed jihadist forces to empty his bank account - \$17,000 - with purchases on eBay, even as the government warned hostage families not to pay ransom so as not to run afoul of anti-terrorism laws. After his escape, the government made him reimburse the State Department \$1,605 for his ticket home just weeks after he arrived in the United States. The psychiatrist assigned to help him readjust canceled five appointments in the first two months. And when he had no means to rent an apartment, FBI victims services recommended New York City homeless shelters. The FBI declined to comment on the specifics of Schrier's complaints but said in a statement that "When an American is detained illegally overseas, the FBI's top priority is ensuring the safe return of that individual."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 1, the 335th day of 2014. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 1, 1974, TWA Flight 514, a Washington-bound Boeing 727, crashed in Virginia after being diverted from National Airport to Dulles International Airport; all 92 people on board were killed. Northwest Orient Airlines Flight 6231, a Boeing 727, crashed near Stony Point, New York, with the loss of its three crew members (the plane had been chartered to pick up the Baltimore Colts football team in Buffalo, New York).

On this date:

In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives when a deadlock developed between John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay. (Adams ended up the winner.)

In 1860, the Charles Dickens novel "Great Expectations" was first published in weekly serial form.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his Second Annual Message to Congress, in which he called for the abolition of slavery, and went on to say, "Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves."

In 1921, the Navy flew the first nonrigid dirigible to use helium; the C-7 traveled from Hampton Roads, Virginia, to Washington, D.C.

In 1934, Soviet communist official Sergei M. Kirov, an associate of Josef Stalin, was assassinated in Leningrad, resulting in a massive purge.

In 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands after his government rejected U.S. demands contained in the Hull Note.

In 1942, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in the United States.

In 1944, Bela Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra was premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Serge Koussevitzky.

In 1955, Rosa Parks, a black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a year-long boycott of the buses by blacks.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II.

In 1973, David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, died in Tel Aviv at age 87.

In 1989, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Ten years ago: Tom Brokaw signed off for the last time as principal anchor of the "NBC Nightly News"; he was succeeded by Brian Williams. Texas Gov. Rick Perry blocked the execution of Frances Newton two hours before she was to be lethally injected for the deaths of her husband and two young children so her lawyers could conduct new tests on evidence in the 17-year-old murder case. (Newton was executed in September 2005.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 more U.S. troops into the war in Afghanistan but promised during a speech to cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to begin withdrawal in 18 months. General Motors Co. CEO Frederick "Fritz" Henderson stepped down after the board determined that the company hadn't been changing quickly enough.

One year ago: A New York City commuter train rounding a riverside curve derailed, killing four people and injuring more than 70 (federal regulators later said a sleep-deprived engineer had nodded off at the controls just before taking the 30 mph curve at 82 mph, causing the derailment). Edward J. "Babe" Heffron, 90, whose World War II service as a member of Easy Company was recounted in the book and television miniseries "Band of Brothers," died in Stratford, New Jersey.

Today's Birthdays: Former CIA director Stansfield Turner is 91. Singer Billy Paul is 79. Actor-director Woody Allen is 79. World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 75. Singer Dianne Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 75. Country musician Casey Van Beek (The Tractors) is 72. Television producer David Salzman is 71. Rock singer-musician Eric Bloom (Blue Oyster Cult) is 70. Rock musician John Densmore (The Doors) is 70. Actress-singer Bette Midler is 69. Singer Gilbert O'Sullivan is 68. Former child actor Keith Thibodeaux (TV: "I Love Lucy") is 64. Actor Treat Williams is 63. Country singer Kim Richey is 58. Actress Charlene Tilton is 56. Actress-model Carol Alt is 54. Actor Jeremy Northam is 53. Actress Katherine LaNasa is 48. Producer-director Andrew Adamson is 48. Actor Nestor Carbonell is 47. Actress Golden Brooks is 44. Actress-comedian Sarah Silverman is 44. Actor Ron Melendez is 42. Contemporary Christian singer Bart Millard (MIL'urd) is 42. Actor-writer-producer David Hornsby is 39. Singer Sarah Masen is 39. Rock musician Brad Delson (Linkin Park) is 37. Actor Nate Torrence is 37. Rock/Christian music singer-songwriter Mat Kearney is 36. Rock musician Mika Fineo (Filter) is 33. R&B singer Janelle Monae is 29. Actress Ashley Monique Clark is 26. Pop singer Nico Sereba (Nico & Vinz) is 24. Actor Jackson Nicoll is 11.

Thought for Today: "The only people who attain power are those who crave it." - Erich Kastner, German author and poet (1899-1974).

Paul Stevens
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