
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
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To: stevenspl@live.com
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Connecting

December 27, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

Ye Olde Connecting Editor never claimed that "matchmaker" was one of his duties when he served as an AP chief of bureau in New Mexico, Indiana and Missouri-Kansas, but it made me think about it when I got this note earlier in the month from **Walter Mears** on the occasion of my latest birthday:

"As you reach a milestone day," Walter wrote, "I want to thank you for the gift you didn't know you were giving 20 years ago. That was the invitation to speak to your state AP editors, and which you thoughtfully arranged to have **Fran (Richardson)** be my keeper. The assignment turned out to be for a lifetime."

Walter was the keynote speaker for our annual Missouri-Kansas AP Publishers and Editors meeting, and **Fran Richardson** was our assistant chief of bureau

who teamed with me to produce the program. Fran moved on to become Baltimore chief of bureau and managing editor of Gannett News Service before she retired. Today, they are both retired and live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where they do their best to spoil seven grandchildren - one of whom is pictured with them, Brynne, on her sixth birthday, in photo above.

Later in the month, as holiday greetings began arriving in the mail and online, it got me to thinking about how I might have played a role in some other AP matches - I call it Matchmaking By Hiring. Bear with me.

My first hire in my first chief of bureau position, Albuquerque, was **Betsy Brown**. She was a reporter for The Wichita Eagle. She applied for a news position in Albuquerque and, at my request, was administered the AP writing tests by **Scott Kraft**, my successor as Wichita correspondent (and one of the best writers I ever knew). That first meeting of Betsy and Scott led to a marriage that now finds them in Los Angeles, where Scott is a deputy managing editor with the Los Angeles Times. Now 32-plus years later, they are the parents of two children - one of them, Kevin, with Betsy and Scott at his graduation from Cal.



A few years after I moved to Kansas City as chief of bureau, Mercer Bailey retired as assistant chief of bureau and I hired **Eva Parziale** - then news editor in Columbia, S.C. - to take his place. It was Kansas City where Eva met her husband, then her next-door neighbor, **Dan Delehanty**.

Eva recalls, "Dan and I met in Kansas City in 1992 when I was

ACoB. He lived across the hall from me. We moved to Portland later that year, and stayed until I was named director of the AP Photo Archive in 1997. We moved to Columbus in 1999 when I became bureau chief for Ohio."

Today, Eva is the AP's East Regional director based in Columbus and they are the parents of two lovely daughters, one at Purdue University and the other in high school.

I hired **Jerry Nachtigal** to move from the Kansas City bureau to become Springfield, Missouri, correspondent. It was there that he met **Ann Andersen**, an anchor and reporter for KYTV in Springfield. A few moves later, Jerry and Ann landed in South Dakota where he is senior vice president for public affairs

for Citibank in Sioux Falls and they are parents of three children.



Jerry recalls, "We met in a farmer's kitchen outside of Springfield in the fall of 1993. President Clinton was conducting a conference call with farmers around the support to drum up ag support for the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which at the time was faltering. As usual, Clinton was running late so there was plenty of time to kill. I introduced myself to Ann, who had just recently joined KY-3.

I knew that she had worked in TV in Rapid City as well as in the attorney general's office in Pierre. When she mentioned she was originally from Minneapolis, was a Twins and Vikings fan, and had been on pheasant hunts in South Dakota -- all passions of mine -- her stock went way up (ha). But as Ann will gleefully tell you, I couldn't get up the nerve to ask her out. So she took the first step and invited me to the KYTV Christmas party. And the rest is history -- we were married about eight months later, on Aug. 13, 1994. Had son Reid in Springfield, son Jack in Phoenix, then added daughter Libby in 2001 after we returned to Missouri and I went to work in the governor's office."

I hired **Karen Testa** from the Miami bureau to be our Springfield (Missouri) correspondent, and it was Springfield where she met her future husband, **Peter Wong**. Today, they reside with their two children in suburban Philadelphia where Karen is the AP's East Regional editor.

Karen recalls, "If I have my math right, it was fall 1996 and I was the Springfield correspondent based in the News-Leader newsroom (OK, a converted closet off the newsroom library) Being based at the member helped me make friends with reporters there, and that fateful night I was trying to set one of them up with my ex-boyfriend's roommate. She wasn't so sure of the plan, so I went along with the two of them for a drink at a local sports bar. As luck would have it, a few good-looking guys were sitting at the bar next to us, watching college basketball on TV. Among them was Peter Wong, an Ecuadorian-born, Michigan-raised stock trader who somehow found his way to southwest Missouri for work at a broker-dealer. I was happy to strike up conversation with the guys, in hopes of finding a way out of my third-wheel situation. Next thing you know, at Pete's suggestion, we'd all dug out our \$1 bills to play Liar's Poker with the



serial numbers while seated at the bar. Later that night, Pete and I caught the midnight showing of "Reservoir Dogs." Romantic, huh? We have since moved from Springfield, to West Palm Beach, Fla., to Boston, where we lived for a decade and grew our family with Zack, now 12, and Sam, 9. And three years ago, assured the kids had been alive long enough to remain lifelong Red Sox fans, we moved to Philadelphia when I became the AP's East Region editor and Pete a regional branch consultant for Fidelity.

Over in St. Louis, I hired **Lori Dodge** onto the staff of our St. Louis bureau, then headed by **Mark Peterson**, and it was there that Lori - who eventually became correspondent - met her future husband, **Bob Rose**, now a deputy managing editor for the Post-Dispatch. They were married in 1991 and are parents of three children.

Lori recalls, "I was still a newswoman. I think it was '89. I had gotten to be friends with Vahe Gregorian who was then a sportswriter at the Post. I first got to know him from taking dictation when he was stringing short-course speed skating to us for some reason - Olympic trials maybe? Now he's a columnist at the Star. Anyway, Vahe kept talking about this guy Bob from sports. I think he was a sports designer then. Finally met him at the Missouri Bar and Grill, which as you know was a "popular watering hole" for Post employees and others."



And in Washington, I promoted **Libby Quaid** to become our Kansas-Missouri Washington regional, and Libby - who continues to work for the AP in Washington - takes it from there:

When we met: I was AP's Kansas-Missouri regional reporter in D.C. Dan was communications director for Sen. Kit Bond's 1998 re-election campaign in Missouri.

What was the spark: I was taken with Dan's green eyes. Dan was taken aback when I yelled, "What the f---?" about being blindsided by a controversial vote Bond cast.

When we got together: Sometime after I apologized for my language.

What happened next: Dan moved on to a PR firm. I left the regional beat for the national staff after 7 years. We married in 2004.

Where we are now: We live on Capitol Hill and have a 4 1/2-year-old daughter.

He's with a trade association and I work the editing desk and teach music classes.



So that's my story - and I am sticking to it!

I am sure there are many of my colleagues on Connecting who can tell similar stories. If you care to share, send them along.

Paul

Connecting mailbox

A tribute to teletype operators

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - George Krinsky is on target with his tribute to teletype operators and their great holiday art. More than once I worked a lonely Christmas shift that was lit up by the pictures they created at their keyboards. And Krinsky isn't the only one who got bailed out by a puncher catching an embarrassing mistake. Happened more than once in NY Sports.

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Chuck Green ([Email](#)) - George Krinsky's note on his remembrance of AP teletype operators brought back good memories here as well. The operators were never anonymous to me. They saved my bacon too many times for me to ever take them for granted. The men and women I worked with in Houston, San

Antonio, New York, Mexico City, Caracas, Albany and Detroit were the last line of defense before our copy fell into the hands of those on the other end of the line. They taught me to read tape, punch agate, balance box scores and dozens of other transmitting tasks The AP expected from those of us who worked when there was no operator available. What they taught me served well when I reported from points afield where my keyboard and tape skills on Siemens telex machines meant my story got out first.

I left the AP after 24 years and considered then - and now - operators and technicians great personal friends.

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Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - The "class system" of the AP teletype era that George Krimsky describes was exactly reversed in the Columbus Ohio bureau where I started out. The CO editors were still kids, whereas the teletype operators were middle-aged men with a lot more life experience and common sense than we had, were mostly polite enough not to openly patronize our pretensions, anxieties and careerist strivings, pitied us for the bad managers AP often inflicted on us, often caught lethal errors we missed and were a lot more fun at staff parties than we were. Tony Florio, Kenny Long, Billy Cheesebrew, Don Crouch and the rest of that memorable gang would have rolled their eyes at what George wrote.

A shocking experience

Paul Shane ([Email](#)) - Another Model 6000 transmitter story:

I was covering the National Snowmobile Championships in Rhinelander, very far north in cold Wisconsin and had a portable setup in my motel room. As many photographers from the era of Model 6000 transmitters will remember, we transmitted photos for AM members in evenings and had to get up early to send pictures for PMs.

One morning around 6 am, I had four photos to send. After the first one ended, I started the second and jumped into the shower. As it finished, I stepped out of the shower dripping wet and went to the transmitter to get the third picture. As I touched the medal machine, a jolt of electricity knocked me on my bare ass. After recovering somewhat, I dried off and dressed while the machine continued to go round and round and round. I wasn't going to touch it again.



Now dried and dressed and wearing shoes and thick gloves, I got up nerve to

stop the machine, load the third photo and recalled Chicago where the monitor laughed when I told the story. My arm and shoulder up ached for a week after.

This photo shows my portable darkroom setup consisting of a long-legged Omega enlarger, two cases of chemicals, trays, tanks and odds and ends, Toho transmitter and portable typewriter. It all weighed a couple hundred pounds. The Plymouth Fury in near background was my fast company car. Catch the pipe, mustache, boots and plaid pants.

AP video to feature in Times Square New Year's celebration



Amid the crowds and confetti, The Associated Press will once again take center stage at the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration in New York. *(Jan. 1, 2014, celebration in photo above, Photo by John Minchillo.)*

For the fourth consecutive year, AP will present a fast-paced video of 2014's defining moments captured by AP journalists around the world.

The video will be shown at approximately 11:15 p.m. ET on the Toshiba Vision Screen atop One Times Square and on the six mobile LED screens located throughout the event. The video will also play at various times throughout the evening on the official Times Square New Year's Eve worldwide webcast.

In addition, AP and the event's co-organizers, Times Square Alliance and Countdown Entertainment, collaborated on a poll that captured public sentiment about global events in news, entertainment, sports and pop culture in 2014. The AP-Times Square New Year's Eve Poll is nationally representative and meets AP's strong methodological standards, producing a scientifically

sound look at how Americans viewed the past year and highlights their expectations for the year ahead.

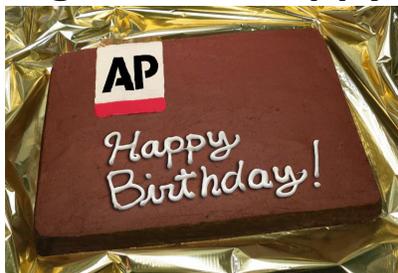
Read the AP news story on the poll's findings.

"We're thrilled that AP's compelling news video has become an anticipated feature at the annual Times Square celebration," said Ted Mendelsohn, AP's vice president of commercial and digital markets. "And we're pleased to once again present a poll that will help gauge public sentiment as we head into 2015."

The Times Square New Year's Eve 2015 webcast will be streamed on multiple websites including TimesSquareNYC.org, Ustream.tv/2015 and TimesSquareBall.net. According to event organizers, there were more than 1.5 million unique viewers of last year's webcast.

The AP year-end highlight video is available via AP Archive, the film and video archive of AP.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



(a day late) to

Tom Cohen [\(Email\)](#)

Welcome to Connecting



Mike Sniffen [\(Email\)](#)

Stories of interest

[New York Times Insider: Multi-Million Dollar Shortfall Causing Drastic Cuts](#)

Yesterday, New York Times readers were treated to a beautifully nuanced and balanced and richly detailed feature about a topic very much in the mix. Its author, Ariel Kaminer, came by her story and its scoop-the first interview with the accused (possibly falsely) rapist of the woman at Columbia who is carrying a mattress around campus to make a statement about campus sexual violence-by developing deep roots in a narrow beat, higher education. And now, Ms. Kaminer will join a hundred or so of her colleagues on the unemployment line as the Times once again cuts costs by cutting journalists.

The genius of the way The New York Times has structured itself is that lofty journalistic goals are protected from the short-term demands of grubby ordinary shareholders. Ironically-and distressingly, for those who care about journalism-it now appears that the financial demands of those holding the shares, and particularly the generous dividend they pay to the family members who hold large chunks of those shares, are now making it difficult to perform the very journalism the structure was created to protect.

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[3 lessons from covering Ebola in 2014](#)

In both the U.S. and abroad, one of the biggest stories of 2014 was Ebola. We covered it at Poynter, too, from style notes to profiles of journalists in the U.S. and West Africa who reported the unfolding story. I asked three journalists who've reported on Ebola about what they've learned.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2014. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 27, 1964, the Cleveland Browns defeated the Baltimore Colts 27-0 to win the NFL Championship Game played at Cleveland Municipal Stadium.

On this date:

In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.

In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.

In 1932, New York City's Radio City Music Hall first opened.

In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.

In 1947, the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made its TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin (hah-FEE'-zoo-lah ah-MEEN'), who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.

In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.

In 1994, four Roman Catholic priests - three French and a Belgian - were shot to death in their rectory in Algiers, a day after French commandos killed four radicals who'd hijacked an Air France jet from Algiers to Marseille.

In 2007, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated during a suicide bomb attack in Pakistan following a campaign rally.

Ten years ago: The death toll continued to rise in southern Asia in the wake of a huge tsunami triggered by a monster earthquake underneath the Indian Ocean. Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (yoo-SHEN'-koh) declared victory in Ukraine's fiercely contested presidential election. In an audiotape, a man purported to be Osama bin Laden endorsed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (AH'-boo MOO'-sahb ahl-zahr-KOW'-ee) as his deputy in Iraq and called for a boycott of January's elections.

Five years ago: Iranian security forces fired on Tehran protesters, killing at least eight and launching a new wave of arrests.

One year ago: Connecticut police released thousands of pages from their investigation into the Newtown massacre, providing the most detailed and disturbing picture yet of the Dec. 14, 2012, shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School that left 20 first-graders and six educators dead.

Today's Birthdays: Rockabilly musician Scotty Moore is 83. Actor John Amos is 75. Actress Charmian Carr (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 72. ABC News correspondent Cokie Roberts is 71. Rock musician Mick Jones (Foreigner) is 70. Singer Tracy Nelson is 70. Actor Gerard Depardieu is 66. Jazz singer-musician T.S. Monk is 65. Singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff is 63. Actress Tovah Feldshuh is 62. Rock musician David Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 62. Journalist-turned-politician Arthur Kent is 61. Actress Maryam D'Abo is 54. Country musician Jeff Bryant is 52. Actor Ian Gomez is 50. Actress Theresa Randle is 50. Actress Eva LaRue is 48. Former professional wrestler and actor Bill Goldberg is 48. Actress Tracey Cherelle Jones is 45. Bluegrass singer-musician Darrin Vincent (Dailey & Vincent) is 45. Rock musician Guthrie Govan is 43. Musician Matt Slocum is 42. Actor Wilson Cruz is 41. Singer Olu is 41. Actor Masi Oka is 40. Actor Aaron Stanford is 38. Actress Emilie de Ravin is 33. Christian rock musician James Mead (Kutless) is 32. Rock singer Hayley Williams (Paramore) is 26. Country singer Shay Mooney (Dan & Shay) is 23.

Thought for Today: "A dollar saved is a quarter earned." - Oscar Levant, American composer, musician, actor (born this date in 1906, died in 1972).

Paul Stevens
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