
From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 31, 2014 9:54 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - December 31, 2014

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Connecting

December 31, 2014

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning. Here's the final issue of Connecting for 2014.

Let me extend my thanks to all of you who have contributed stories and memories to Connecting over the past year. Our readership has nearly doubled since a year ago and now numbers nearly 600. We regularly add new members to the newsletter, almost entirely through word of mouth. If you know of someone who isn't getting Connecting, share their name with me and I will drop them the latest Connecting and an invitation to join us.

Borrowing my old bureau chief hat, I remind that Connecting is like an AP state wire. It is only as strong as the participation of its members. So in 2015, please keep all of us in mind when you spot a story of interest or a memory to share, tied to the news like many comments of late have been to Cuba, or not. And if you have any thoughts on how we can improve Connecting, let me know.

While much of Connecting's content focuses on the rich history of our Associated Press, we will continue to share links on the future of the AP

and the business of journalism.

Happy New Year!

Paul

In memoriam...

We remember these AP people who were on staff when they died in 2014:

Ali Abu Afash , freelance translator, killed on Gaza Strip.

Simone Camilli, AP video journalist, killed on Gaza Strip.

Christopher Duncan, AP sports reporter, Houston.

Juan Carlos Llorca, AP correspondent, El Paso.

Dave Martin, AP photographer, Montgomery.

Anja Niedringhaus, AP photographer, Middle East.

Franklin Reyes, AP photographer, Havana.

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We remember these former AP people who died in 2014:

Harvey Breuscher, AP correspondent, Madison.

Phil Emanuel, AP Communications executive, New York.

Anne FitzHenry, AP news editor, Atlanta.

Bill Greer, AP correspondent, El Paso, and broadcast executive.

Jim Hatton, AP newsman, India and Philippines.

Robert Heard, AP newsman, Austin.

Bill Heath, AP chief of bureau in Buenos Aires and Caracas.

Bruce Edward Hodgman, AP correspondent, editor and supervisor.

Bill Hornby, AP newsman and Denver Post editor.

Harry Koundakjian, AP photographer and photo editor, Middle East and New York.

Toby Massey, AP photographer and photo editor, Washington.

Mike Mokrzycki, founding director of AP Polling Unit.

Dan Scanlan, AP Radio newsman, Washington.

Michael Shanahan, AP and Newhouse political reporter, Washington.

Richard Sheinwald, AP photographer, Detroit.

Tom Simoneaux, AP newsman.

Ed Stephens, AP photo editor.

Lloyd Swan, AP chief of communications, Louisville and Richmond.

Bob Thomas, AP entertainment reporter, Los Angeles.

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We also remember:

Molly May Baltzelle, daughter of AP Miami chief of bureau Jim Baltzelle.

Ben Bradlee, editor of The Washington Post and close friend and former boss of Connecting colleague Bill Snead.

John Britton, father in law of AP national security writer Bob Burns.

Sally Bowe Daubel, wife of former APME President Jim Daubel.

Alicia Davis, widow of Ken Davis who was AP bureau chief, New Orleans.

David Mark Gray, father of former AP Thailand chief of bureau Denis Gray.

Naomi Halperin, former AP Photo Managers president, Allentown Morning Call.

Jim Hayes, writing coach and editor, Tribune of San Luis Obispo,

California.

Joyce Lorraine Shaw, wife of former AP chief of bureau Robert Shaw, Little Rock.

Barbara Pressley Williams, mother of former AP Broadcast director Jim Williams.

(Editor's Note: These names were gleaned from issues of Connecting during the past year. If we missed someone, please send me an email.)

AP president's year-end message to the staff

AP President and CEO Gary Pruitt's message to the staff, transmitted Dec. 17:

Dear AP Staff:

As the holiday season begins and a New Year approaches, I want to thank all of you for the hard work, passion and commitment that made 2014 such a memorable year for AP.



Our mission to provide trusted news to the world was secured further last year as we grew revenue for the first time in six years. The sale of STATS, our sports data joint venture with Fox Sports, meanwhile allowed us to significantly pay down our pension obligations and thereby free up important funding for projects that will help us find new customers and keep existing ones.

At the same time, we made significant progress on key initiatives aimed at staying ahead competitively in the most important spaces, such as video news and U.S. state and national news. Video workflows in the U.S. were revamped for faster production and distribution, video coverage in the Middle East and Latin America was expanded, and we beefed up coverage in the states -- an area where it is vital that we keep competition at bay.

We broke important news throughout the year, from courageous reporting on Ebola in West Africa as well as exclusives on the first U.S. case of the disease to scooping the world on the nuptials of Brad Pitt

and Angelina Jolie. Our journalists uncovered misdeeds, wrongdoings and downright astonishing lapses in judgment-- like the discovery that the United States was paying Social Security to dozens of Nazi war criminals around the world who were forced to leave the country because of their crimes. We stood firm in holding government accountable, demanding answers and action when officials overreached, as they did when the FBI impersonated an AP reporter and wrote a fake story attributed to AP.

Our year was not without tragedy. Four staffers lost their lives this year while on assignment. All of us mourn the loss of photographers Anja Niedringhaus and Franklin Reyes, videographer Simone Camilli and translator Ali Abu Afash. Their deaths struck us deeply and serve as a reminder of the risks and dangers that accompany our mission. They are our heroes.

We head into 2015 with a slate of important new initiatives, a determination to continue to cover the news that matters and, most important, the wish that all of us stay safe in the New Year. My best to you and your loved ones during this holiday season.

AP overtakes New York Times as media outlet with most journalists on Twitter

The Associated Press has overtaken The New York Times as the media outlet with the most journalists on Twitter by adding an unprecedented 348 affiliated tweeting journalists to its roster in just one year. CNN also made significant additions to its team, growing by 75% in 2014.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Illegal,' 'undocumented,' or something else? No clear consensus yet

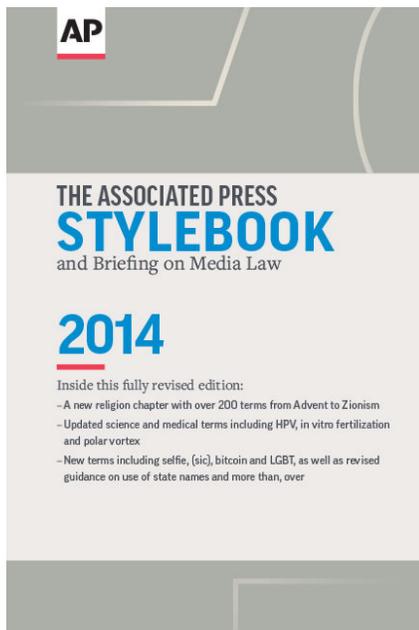
As style manual changes go, it was big news. "Illegal immigrant," a phrase long used for people living in the country without authorization, was no longer "sanctioned" in Associated Press copy, the wire service declared in April 2013. Its influential Stylebook was updated to read, in

part:

Except in direct quotes essential to the story, use illegal only to refer to an action, not a person: illegal immigration, but not illegal immigrant.

The change was part of a broader effort to avoid "labeling people," said Kathleen Carroll, AP's executive editor, but the move seemed clearly a concession to advocates for immigrants who argued it was offensive to describe a person or group of people as "illegal."

Click [here](#) to read more.



AP's year of freaking out language geeks

In March, the editors of the AP Stylebook changed a rule that may seem obscure to non-journalists: No longer would it enforce a distinction between "over" and "more than."

The news of this change was Poynter's most popular post of 2014, and reactions from journalists, many of whom had treasured the rule, were sometimes sad and often hilarious.

Click [here](#) to read more. (Shared by Bob Daugherty)

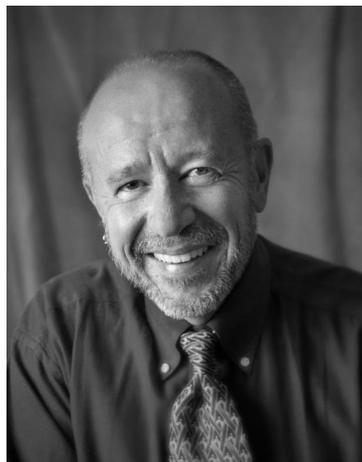
How I got my first journalism job



Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Here's my account of my first journalism job. It's tough to decide what criteria to use to determine my "first" job. First time I received money for a news photograph? First real paycheck with taxes deducted? First long-term job with benefits? I'll let your readers decide! (And feel free to whittle it down!)

The photo bug bit hard when I was in junior high thanks to my dad's Kodachrome slide shows of family vacations and a terrific photo club sponsor. By high school I was shooting assignments for "The Long Islander," the weekly newspaper founded by Walt Whitman in my hometown of Huntington, NY. Too young to drive, one of my parents would take me to and from assignments and then I would process the film and make prints in my basement darkroom to be delivered Tuesday afternoons (again, transport provided by my mom). The pay was \$15 per assignment, a few dollars more if I made extra prints.

One day in the parking lot of the weekly paper I happened upon Harvey Weber, a photo editor at Newsday. We talked about my college search and he said simply "go to Missouri!"



Before heading west, a friend of mine told me to call up Tommy diLustro at AP to ask if I could be a photo stringer in Columbia, Mo. I jumped on the Long Island Railroad for my first pilgrimage to 50 Rock with portfolio in hand and butterflies in my stomach. I met Hal Buell and he encouraged me to stop by whenever I'd return home for family visits.

Since Columbia is exactly halfway between St. Louis and Kansas City, I'd get assignments from News Editor Kent Zimmerman and photographer John Filo in KX and photographer Fred Waters in ST. It also allowed me to work with member photo editors around the country, contacts that would prove invaluable throughout my career.

I landed two summer internships in '79 and '80, both at the Providence (RI) Journal and worked with Chip Maury who one time took me for a drive to upstate New York to visit with his buddy Eddie Adams on his farm. I knew to keep quiet and use my ears and eyes to absorb everything that was said and done during our weekend visit, all very heady for a college kid to be hanging with such talent.

I graduated from MU in December '79 with no job lined up, so I became an employee of the University of Missouri as contest coordinator for Pictures of the Year, the world's largest photojournalism competition, working in Angus McDougall's office. One day a moppy-headed, confident young photographer stopped in to check out the school, his French accent filling the room. He decided to attend MU and for Jerome Delay, the rest is AP history.

On my drive to my second summer internship in Providence, I stopped by to visit Buell and he mentioned an opening for a staff photographer in Philadelphia and asked if I was interested. I would have given my right eyeball for an AP staff job, but citing my commitment to Providence, decided not to apply and Hal said that was the right decision, saying that if I reneged on Providence, he would never hire me at AP. Great life lesson.

Thanks to the contacts I made with member editors as an AP stringer, I applied for two jobs, one with Ken Paik at the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville and the other with Joe Coleman at The Kansas City Times. My desk editing experience at Providence cinched the job in Kansas City and this east coaster became a Midwesterner, making Kansas City home for 3 ½ years at The Times and 23 years at AP.

Connecting mailbox

Bob Berrellez had situation sized up right

Joe McGowan ([Email](#)) - Many thanks to **Ike Flores** for those great comments on one of the finest newsmen I ever worked with. He was always very unassuming, but right on target.



When I came home from India for vacation before going to my new assignment in Lima, Peru, my predecessor there had left AP and **Bob Berrellez** was sent to Lima keep things going until I got there. *(Bob is at left in this 1961 photo with UPI's Matt Kenny and dictator Gen.*

Ramfis Trujillo.)

Before flying to Lima, I had gone to the State Department for briefings by the Peru desk, Bolivia desk and Ecuador desk on conditions I would find in those countries. They were supposed to be accurate, but off-the-record. Regarding Peru, I was told everything was calm and I should enjoy my tour there.

When I got off the plane in Lima, Berrellez met me. We had a brief reunion with hugs (abrazos in Spanish) and then he blurted out, "you're in for some excitement. I think there will be a military coup very shortly, maybe in less than a month." In a couple days Bob flew out and I requested a meeting with the U.S. ambassador and charge d'affaires. They echoed the State Department people about how I was going to enjoy things after three years in India. Two weeks later, just before midnight, tanks rolled into the grounds of the presidential palace and the military took over. Berrellez, as usual, had it sized up right.

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Connecting sky shot - Cranbury, New Jersey



Jim Gerberich ([Email](#)) - As 2014 draws to a close, the sun sets creating a dramatic winter sky amidst jet contrails and clouds in Cranbury, New Jersey.

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Another match made - in Jefferson City

Joe Coleman - Great column, Paul (on matchmaking by hiring). Though you didn't introduce me to Kyoko, we got married on your watch, in Jefferson City in February 1991 - with **Scott Charton**, **Carl L. Manning** and **Dana Fields** in attendance.

Charton adds: Joe came to me at a busy point in the legislative session to ask for a weekday off; after I grumbled, he mentioned that he might not need the whole day, just a couple of hours to go to the courthouse and get married! Of course he got the day, and we arranged for "the highest-ranking judge in the province" to impress Kyoko's family - then Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Blakey Blackmar, who was delighted to officiate in his big ceremonial courtroom. A few tears, and then the champagne flowed, down High Street at Shawn's Cafe and Bar, our official AP drinkery.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Charlie A. Price

Former Seattle chief of communications

Stories of interest

[AP Images selects best U.S. News Photos of 2014](#)



Throughout the year, AP photojournalists capture critical events across the U.S. - from the massive drought that hit California, to the legalization of marijuana across the nation, to the the Fort Hood shooting.

As the editors of AP Images blog, we are proud to highlight the best photos from the top U.S. news stories of 2014.

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[Death Stalks the News Beat](#) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

The lethal hazards for journalists covering war zones have been made painfully clear in the latest death tally: At least 60 around the world were killed this year covering conflicts. And - in an alarming trend - 44 percent of those men and women were deliberately singled out for murder, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The gruesome beheadings of two news workers this year by Syrian extremists made the public aware of this. But casualties among correspondents trying to witness and report the facts from war fronts have been rising for years. At least 204 news media workers were killed in the last three years in a stretch the nonprofit journalists' organization described as the deadliest of the last two decades.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 31, the 365th and final day of 2014.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 1904, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

On this date:

In 1514, physician Andreas Vesalius, who wrote and illustrated the first comprehensive books on human anatomy, was born in Brussels.

In 1775, during the Revolutionary War, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

In 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

In 1909, the Manhattan Bridge, spanning the East River between Manhattan and Brooklyn, was officially opened to vehicular traffic.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman officially proclaimed the end of hostilities in World War II.

In 1951, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid.

In 1969, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was shot to death with his wife and daughter in their Clarksville, Pennsylvania, home by hitmen acting at the orders of UMWA president Tony Boyle.

In 1972, Major League baseball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he'd chartered and was traveling on to bring relief supplies to earthquake-devastated Nicaragua crashed shortly after takeoff from Puerto Rico.

In 1974, private U.S. citizens were allowed to buy and own gold for the first time in more than 40 years.

In 1985, singer Rick Nelson, 45, and six other people were killed when fire broke out aboard a DC-3 that was taking the group to a New Year's Eve performance in Dallas.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1999, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced his resignation (he was succeeded by Vladimir Putin).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush pledged \$350 million to help tsunami victims, and didn't rule out sending even more U.S. aid to help people recover from what he called an "epic disaster." Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich (yah-noo-KOH'-vich) resigned, admitting he had little hope of reversing the presidential election victory of his Western-leaning rival, Viktor Yushchenko (yoo-SHEN'-koh). Taiwan celebrated the official opening of what was then the world's tallest skyscraper, known as "Taipei 101."

Five years ago: A lone gunman dressed in black killed five people in Espoo, Finland, four of them at a crowded shopping mall, before returning home and taking his own life.

One year ago: Only hours before the law was to take effect, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, acting on a request from an organization of Catholic nuns in Denver, blocked implementation of part of President Barack Obama's health care law that would have forced some religion-affiliated organizations to provide health insurance for employees that included birth control. Character actor James Avery, who'd played the Honorable Philip Banks in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," died in Glendale, California, at age 68. Radio host Bob Grant, 84, died in Hillsborough, New Jersey.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer George Schlatter is 85. Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 77. Actor Tim Considine (TV: "My Three Sons") is 74. Actress Sarah Miles is 73. Rock musician Andy Summers is 72. Actor Sir Ben Kingsley is 71. Producer-director Taylor Hackford is 70. Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg is 68. Actor Tim Matheson is 67. Pop singer Burton Cummings is 67. Actor Joe Dallesandro is 66. Rock musician Tom Hamilton (Aerosmith) is 63. Actor James Remar is 61. Actress Bebe Neuwirth is 56. Actor Val Kilmer is 55. Singer Paul Westerberg is 55. Actor Don Diamont is 52. Rock musician Ric Ivanisevich (Oleander) is 52. Rock musician Scott Ian (Anthrax) is 51. Actress Gong Li is 49. Author Nicholas Sparks is 49. Actor Lance Reddick is 45. Pop singer Joe McIntyre is 42. Rock musician Mikko Siren (Apocalyptica) is 39. Rapper PSY (Park Jae-sang) is 37. Rock musician Bob Bryar is 35. Actor/singer Erich Bergen (Film/stage: "Jersey Boys") is 29. Olympic gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas is 19.

Thought for Today: "Though the past haunt me as a spirit, I do not ask to forget." - Felicia Dorothea Browne Hemans, English poet (1793-1835).

Paul Stevens
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stevenspl@live.com

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