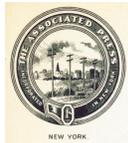


From: Paul Stevens [stevenspl@live.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:43 AM
To: stevenspl@live.com
Subject: Connecting - February 5, 2015

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Connecting

February 5, 2015

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Good Thursday morning!

The Associated Press this month is undertaking a national reporting project coordinated with member newspapers and other news organization, this one focusing on the country's aging and deteriorating roads, bridges and other infrastructure.



Alan Miller, managing editor of the Columbus Dispatch and president of the Associated Press Media Editors, said in an e-mail sent to member editors Wednesday the first stories in the ongoing series will come this month. "I encourage you to do your own stories or team up with other news organizations in your state APME organization to report on our nation's crumbling infrastructure," he wrote.

Miller outlined a plan in which AP and members will tackle, once a quarter, "a topic of national concern related to infrastructure. The main stories will be data driven, provide a national perspective, and can stand alone or act as a platform for localization at the local or state level." AP is engaging its own news editors and state government reporters on the project.

The first topic is roads and bridges. In the initial step, AP is sharing with members spreadsheets on declining level of federal funding for highway and bridge projects in each state. Members will be able to use the information to develop their own local stories.

AP and APME have teamed up in the past for similar projects, including "Broken Budgets" on crippled state budgets and "Aging America" on the societal effects of aging baby boomers.

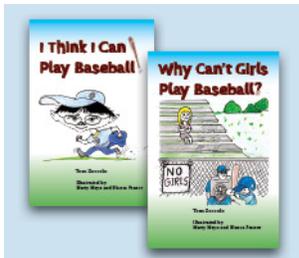
[AP's Nick Ut, other 'lunartics,' shoot the moon](#)

As his Facebook friends knick, **Nick Ut** has shared a photo or two of jet aircraft passing in front of a full moon as it prepares to land at Los Angeles International Airport. The geography is such that on occasion the moon's position and the airport's flight path combine to produce dramatic images. Nature's photo opportunity has drawn a cadre of shooters, some of them press photographers in the area, including Ut and **Raul Roa**. Their interests and activities were chronicled this week on the New York Times photography blog "LENS."



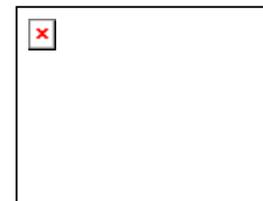
(Photo by Nick Ut)

[Former AP supervisory editor Tom Zoccolo releases two children's books](#)



Tom Zoccolo, a long-time sports coach whose passion is baseball, wrote his first selection about a boy who struggled with playing Little League Baseball for the first time but later succeeded. The second story was about a talented athletic girl not permitted to play Little League Baseball and chose softball instead, and knocked it out of the park. Tom decided to self-publish his stories with Mira Digital Publishing. Tom's future projects include the third book in the baseball series entitled The B Team, other children's stories, a collection of poetry, a science fiction selection, a murder mystery and a screenplay. Tom has coached numerous sports teams in New York City and New Jersey for more than 35 years. He is also the co-founder, owner and instructor of a baseball academy in central New Jersey. He currently teaches at a public school in Jersey City, N.J.

[AP: Amid 'Mockingbird' sequel buzz, worries about author's wishes](#)



May 19, 2010 photo provided by Penny Weaver shows author

*Nelle Harper Lee in
her assisted living
room in Montoenville,
Ala.*

The glee many journalists and others felt upon hearing this week that a second **Harper Lee** novel may be released is being tempered with concerns about her health and mental conditions. As reported by AP's **Jay Reeves**, hometown friends and fans of the "To Kill A Mockingbird" author are struggling to reconcile the publisher's sensational announcement -- that her decades-old manuscript for a sequel had been rediscovered and will be released -- with the image of the elderly writer at her sister's recent funeral. "Grieving, ill and seated in a wheelchair, Lee talked loudly to herself at awkward times during the service for her beloved older sister and attorney, Alice, according to two family friends who attended the November service," Reeves reported. "Lee mumbled in a manner that shocked some in attendance, said one of the friends."

[Former AP Springfield, Ill., statehouse reporter to be inducted into Public Affairs Reporting Hall of Fame at University of Illinois-Springfield](#)

Deborah Peterson started her career as an AP statehouse reporter in Springfield, Ill., and worked at the Kansas City Star before joining the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1985. Her husband, Mark, was AP St. Louis correspondent. He left and became assistant business editor at the Post-Dispatch. He died unexpectedly in 1999.

Connecting readers weigh in ...

...South Pacific Paradise

Richard Horwitz ([E-mail](#)) - There are two things of note in my den. One is a 1992 AP World News Map on the wall. The other is a magnifying glass so I can point out to visitors something very unusual in the South Pacific. There, near American Samoa, are the Goldstein Islands, named for **Norm Goldstein**, editor of AP Newsfeatures. APN produced these maps for member newspapers to distribute to readers.

Cartographers call it a "key trap." They make a slight change in a river or road to protect their copyright should a rival map-maker steal their work.

(That's why there is a fictitious town of Agloe on Esso gas station maps of New York in the 1930s.)

Norm says: "We decided, in 1992, to update the AP World Map with the recent changes in Yugoslavia, Germany and the Soviet Union and made a deal with a Swedish map-producing company with which we had worked before, pleasantly and successfully. When it was done, they told me the map had a 'surprise,' but wouldn't tell me what it was, assuring me, however, that it would do no harm to the project, the AP -- or me.

"Even after it was published, they wouldn't tell me, just urged me to find it myself. I had proofread that map a thousand times (figuratively, but perhaps literally too) -- and couldn't locate the entry.

"It took me two weeks before I did.

"When I stopped laughing, I felt embarrassed by it and tried to keep it my secret. Obviously, that didn't work."

Jim Donna, then assistant to **Lou Boccardi**, says the CEO was not amused. "He had a compulsion for accuracy, and accuracy always trumped humor. Eventually all was forgiven. Norm kept his job and a little piece of the South Pacific."

And the map on my wall will never be updated.



...covering celebrity deaths

Peggy Walsh ([E-mail](#)) - **George Zucker's** story on **Frank Rizzo's** death (Wednesday Connecting) brought up something I hadn't thought of in years. I was news editor in Atlanta, which had responsibility for the Alabama bureaus. The great Alabama coach **Bear Bryant** retired and I (I'm sure I was a pest) bugged **Hoyt Harwell** for a preparedness obit even though Bryant was fine at the time. We got it in. Less than a month later Bryant was taken to the hospital. Hoyt had great sources including, if I remember correctly, Bryant's daughter. There was no indication that anything was imminent.

I got one of those gut feelings. Since "Bear" was like the president of Alabama, I called Hoyt and told him to head to Tuscaloosa. He was going to check his sources but I insisted

he go. When he arrived, he was the only one there when the hospital announced that Bryant had suffered a massive heart attack and died. (Hope I'm remembering all this right). I do remember that after it was all over, Hoyt was really spooked about my gut feelings!

Coverage of Bryant's death, notably Hoyt's work, was as extensive as the death of a U.S. president.

...service gifts

Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) - **Mark Mittelstadt's** mention of a Nambe plate given to him by the New Mexico staff when he left Albuquerque for New Jersey reminds me of a Nambe story of my own:

In 1979 AP president **Keith Fuller** appointed me as Albuquerque chief of bureau and instructed me to "hand me New Mexico on a platter."

At the time I took over from **Burt Wittrup**, 18 of the state's 20 daily newspapers took AP services and two -- the Las Cruces Sun-News and the Roswell Daily Record -- had UPI-only service. So my campaign began immediately to make New Mexico a 100 percent AP state. Sales and membership were new to me -- I had served in only news positions up until then -- but a year or so later, I succeeded in signing both newspapers into the AP fold.

So I went out and purchased a Nambe plate, had it appropriately engraved "New Mexico - 100 percent AP," and mailed it to Fuller ... who rewarded me in 1982 by appointing me chief of bureau for Indiana, a state where nearly half the dailies were UPI. No mention of a platter, thankfully.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Mike Doan ([E-mail](#))

Also, a belated Happy Birthday to **Don Deibler** (Jan. 31), who among his other duties with AP made sure bureau chiefs kept rolling.

Welcome to Connecting



Tamer Fakahany ([E-mail](#))

Stories of Interest

[NBC News anchor Williams admits he was never on helicopter forced down in Iraq](#)

NBC Nightly News anchor **Brian Williams** admitted Wednesday he was not aboard a helicopter hit and forced down by RPG fire during the invasion of Iraq in 2003, a false claim that has been repeated by the network for years. Williams repeated the claim Friday during NBC's coverage of a public tribute at a New York Rangers hockey game for a retired soldier that had provided ground security for the grounded helicopters, a game to which Williams accompanied him. In an interview with Stars and Stripes, he said he had mis-remembered the events and was sorry. The admission came after crew members on the 159th Aviation Regiment's Chinook that was hit by two rockets and small arms fire told Stars and Stripes that the NBC anchor was nowhere near that aircraft or two other Chinooks flying in the formation that took fire. Williams arrived in the area about an hour later on another helicopter after the other three had made an emergency landing, the crew members said.



New York Rangers Fans Break Out In Applause For Veteran | NBC Nightly News

Related:

[Williams misleads viewers in his apology for misleading viewers](#)

NBC News anchor **Brian Williams** delivered a 60-second apology to his viewers Wednesday night for "mis-remembering" an incident during his reporting on the Iraq War 12 years ago. However, he misled his viewers while apologizing for misleading them.

[WSJ: How White House thwarted FCC chief on Internet rules](#)

In November, the White House's top economic adviser dropped by the Federal Communications Commission with a heads-up for the agency's chairman, **Tom Wheeler**. President **Barack Obama** was ready to unveil his vision for regulating high-speed Internet traffic. The specifics came four days later in an announcement that blindsided officials at the FCC. Mr. Obama said the Internet should be overseen as a public utility, with the "strongest possible rules" forcing broadband providers such as AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. to treat all Internet traffic equally. The president's words swept aside more than a decade of light-touch regulation of the Internet and months of work by Mr. Wheeler toward a compromise. On Wednesday, Mr. Wheeler lined up behind Mr. Obama.

[Bruce Jenner story goes from gossip to news](#)

For the last few years, there have been rumors and anonymously sourced tabloid items suggesting that **Bruce Jenner**, the former Olympic champion and somewhat comically befuddled patriarchal figure on "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," was transitioning from male to female.



[The 'minimal job requirements' of a self-directed reporter at The Des Moines Register](#)

A tipster shared with media blogger **Jim Romenesko** a document given at Gannett's Des Moines Register. It's an interesting read.

[Post-Dispatch packages six months of Ferguson shooting coverage into one location](#)

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has launched "Ferguson," a project that brings together nearly six months of coverage since police officer **Darren Wilson** shot and killed **Michael Brown** on Aug. 9. The project gathers content from the Post-Dispatch into several categories, including "The Shooting," "Protests," "Policing," "Civil Rights" and "Solutions."

[Britt Brown, former publisher of The Wichita Eagle, dies](#)

Harry Britton "Britt" Brown, a longtime Wichita booster, philanthropist and former publisher of The Wichita Eagle, has died. He was 87 years old. Mr. Brown -- great-grandson of **Col. Marshall Murdock**, who founded The Eagle in 1872 - was one of the family owners of The Wichita Eagle & Beacon Publishing Co. He also served as publisher before retiring as board chairman in 1979.

[Kansas City Star columnist pens moving tribute to his father](#)

Lewis Diuguid tells the wonderful story of his father, **Lincoln I. Diuguid**, "who enriched the lives of many."

[Sandy Socolow, CBS Newsman During Heady Days, Dies at 86](#)

Sandy Socolow, a longtime executive at CBS News who worked closely with **Walter Cronkite** and helped shape television coverage of the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal, died on Saturday in Manhattan. He was 86. The cause was complications of cancer, his sons, Michael and Jonathan, said.

[World Press Photo to become a think tank for photography](#)

Last month, **Lars Boering** took the reins of World Press Photo, the non-profit organization that manages the world's most important press photography competition. A former managing director of the Dutch Federation of Photographers and owner of the Lux photo gallery in Amsterdam, Boering has spent the last two decades working to promote the work of photographers and improve their chances in an ever-evolving media landscape. In an interview with TIME LightBox's Editor **Olivier Laurent**, he reveals his plans to transform World Press Photo into an unparalleled think tank for photojournalism.

Finally...



Today in History, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015

Today is Thursday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2015. There are 329 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 1940, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra recorded "Tuxedo Junction" for RCA Victor's Bluebird label.

On this date:

In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.

In 1897, the Indiana House of Representatives passed, 67-0, a measure offering a new (as

well as hopelessly flawed) method for determining the area of a circle, which would have effectively redefined the value of pi as 3.2. (The bill died in the Indiana Senate.)

In 1919, movie studio United Artists was incorporated by Mary Pickford, Douglas Fairbanks, D.W. Griffith and Charles Chaplin.

In 1922, the first edition of Reader's Digest was published.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

In 1953, Walt Disney's animated feature "Peter Pan" was first released.

In 1967, "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell stepped onto the surface of the moon in the first of two lunar excursions.

In 1973, services were held at Arlington National Cemetery for U.S. Army Col. William B. Nolde, the last official American combat casualty before the Vietnam cease-fire took effect.

In 1985, Ugo Vetere, the mayor of modern Rome, and Chedli Klibi, the mayor of modern Carthage, signed a treaty ending the Punic Wars after more than 20 centuries.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that all but a small rear-guard contingent of its troops had left Afghanistan.

In 1994, white separatist Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in Jackson, Mississippi, of murdering civil rights leader Medgar Evers in 1963, and was immediately sentenced to life in prison. (Beckwith died Jan. 21, 2001 at age 80.) Sixty-eight people were killed when a mortar shell exploded in a marketplace in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ten years ago: Togo President Gnassingbe Eyadema (nyah-SING'-bay ee-yah-DEE'-mah) died after 38 years in power; he was 69. Steve Young and Dan Marino were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: Toyota's president, Akio Toyoda, emerged from seclusion to apologize and address criticism that the automaker had mishandled a crisis over sticking gas pedals.

One year ago: A U.N. human rights committee denounced the Vatican for adopting policies that it said allowed priests to rape and molest tens of thousands of children over decades. CVS Caremark announced it would pull cigarettes and other tobacco products from its stores. The state of Texas executed Suzanne Basso for torturing and killing Louis "Buddy" Musso, a mentally impaired man she'd lured to suburban Houston with the promise of marriage.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Hank Aaron is 81. Actor Stuart Damon is 78. Tony-winning playwright John Guare (gwayr) is 77. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is

76. Actor David Selby is 74. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 74. Football Hall-of-Famer Roger Staubach is 73. Singer Cory Wells (Three Dog Night) is 73. Movie director Michael Mann is 72. Rock singer Al Kooper is 71. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 69. Racing Hall-of-Famer Darrell Waltrip is 68. Actress Barbara Hershey is 67. Actor Christopher Guest is 67. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 67. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 54. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 53. Actress Laura Linney is 51. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 51. World Golf Hall-of-Famer Jose Maria Olazabal is 49. Actor-comedian Chris Parnell is 48. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 47. Singer Bobby Brown is 46. Actor Michael Sheen is 46. Actor David Chisum (TV: "Black Box") is 45. Country singer Sara Evans is 44. Country singer Tyler Farr is 31. Actor-singer Darren Criss (TV: "Glee") is 28. Rock musician Kyle Simmons (Bastille) is 27. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 26.

Thought for Today: "Many excellent words are ruined by too definite a knowledge of their meaning." - Aline Kilmer, American poet (1888-1941).

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