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Connecting - May 6, 2015

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Connecting

May 6, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

To the list of Connecting story ideas shared with you Tuesday, colleague **Mike Feinsilber** offers these suggestions:

*What books are on your night table? What was the last book you read? What are you reading now? What after that?
*If you had to recommend one book to a youngster considering going into journalism, what would it be?
*What book was most influential in driving you toward journalism?
*What journocentric books do you recommend to others?

Pick one, or pick more if you wish, and send to me to share with your colleagues.

And finally, you will note in today's Today in History that this is the 84th birthday of

baseball Hall of Famer Willie Mays. Willie Mays, 84, really? Where does the time go?

Paul

AP Academy:
New training initiative for members, customers

Nancy Nussbaum trained 75 editors and reporters at NJ Advance Media in Iselin, New Jersey, on April 15. Similar sessions have been held this year at Newsday and Yahoo! in New York. The Academy will work with broadcast, digital and newspaper members and customers globally on platforms and products. The Academy's training calendar will be updated through the year as market needs change.

The Associated Press announced Tuesday to members and customers the launch of a new training initiative: AP Academy.

It will be led by **Nancy Nussbaum** (Email), a Connecting colleague, who is stationed in the Columbus bureau.

As Director of Training and Engagement, she will oversee this new one-stop resource for training on AP platforms and products. Training through the Academy will be designed to help AP members and customers maximize the potential of their AP services and customize content to reach their target audiences. The academy "will offer on-demand

videos on AP Exchange and other platforms, as well as live, online sessions throughout the year on emerging trends in the digital marketplace, AP's distinctive news coverage and other timely topics. We will expand the successful Definitive Source calls."

Nussbaum, who had been assistant bureau chief for Ohio and Michigan, joined the AP in 1992 in Charleston, West Virginia, and transferred to Columbus in 1998. She became broadcast editor later that year and news editor in 2001. She was named assistant bureau chief in 2004 for Ohio, adding Michigan responsibilities in 2012. Before joining AP, Nussbaum worked for The Times-Picayune in New Orleans and the Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria, Ohio. She is a native of Fairview Park in suburban Cleveland and a graduate of Bowling Green State University.

Nussbaum was part of an AP team that conducted deep-dive research with members and customers in 2014, the results of which will help shape our product offerings for years to come. She also is involved in the redesign of AP Exchange and other platforms, and has trained more than 1,000 editors, reporters, technical and advertising staff on AP services.

AP Academy begins with online tutorials for AP Exchange, AP Images and AP WebFeeds, which can be found **here**.

Bartimus, Thompson among new Reynolds Institute fellows

Tad Bartimus and **Anne Thompson**, both former journalists for the AP, are among the fellows for the Class of 2015-16 at the Reynolds Journalism Institute in Columbia, Missouri.

The institute announced Tuesday that "from exploring journalistic opportunities for wearable technology to helping smaller community newspapers provide digital services for advertisers, the ninth fellowship class of the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute continues RJI's commitment to nurturing and strengthening journalism's service to citizens and their communities."

This year's residential, nonresidential and institutional fellowships were chosen from among 225 applicants from around the world. The fellowship class also includes three faculty members from the University of Missouri.

"This year's group of fellows continues the tradition of bringing great expertise and enthusiasm to RJI," said **Randy Picht**, RJI's executive director and a 30-year AP veteran. "We can't wait to get their projects started."

Tad Bartimus: Expanding upon her success in building skills and confidence in students from disadvantaged circumstances, Tad Bartimus, founder of Talk Story, Write Story, will pilot her personal writing workshop with a newspaper in a Missouri community. She will explore ways to spread the program to other communities as an opportunity for newspapers to foster engagement with and within the community.

Bartimus (Email), a Connecting colleague, worked for the AP from 1969-1994 as special correspondent, roving national correspondent, roving Latin American correspondent, London-based European correspondent, Alaska chief of bureau, correspondent in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, and reporter in Miami, Kennedy Space Center and the Caribbean. From 1998-2000, she wrote a nationally syndicated column, Among Friends, distributed by United Features Syndicate. She served as president and CEO of THE WOMEN SYNDICATE, a media syndication company, from 1998-2010.

Tad, who lives in Hana, Hawaii, and her husband, retired journalist-teacher Dean Wariner, launched CREATOR, TALK STORY, WRITE STORY, a personal essay writing program, in 1998 as a volunteer effort to help disadvantaged Native Hawaiian students in Hana write their way into college and earn scholarships to pay for it. More than 200 Hana students have now participated, including 12 who became Gates Millennium Scholar. At the request of Alaska officials, TALK STORY, WRITE STORY's workshops were modified in 2013 to help Native Alaska students and also train teachers in remote villages how to coach financially disadvantaged Native Alaskan students to the same success as their Hawaiian counterparts. In the first year of the Alaska program, three of the four students she and Dean mentored became three of the four Alaska winners of the Gates.

Anne Thompson: As journalism continues to explore new ways to engage and define its audience, a natural place to look for innovation and insight is the world of visual arts. Anne Thompson, an adjunct assistant professor in the University of Missouri's Art Department, will conduct several "news-art" experiments and also continue her nationally recognized "I-70 Sign Show" billboard project as an RJI fellow.

Thompson (Email) worked for AP from 1993 to 1999, when she left to pursue a master's degree in fine arts at the Yale School of Art (MFA 2002). During her AP career, she was a reporter in Boston, an editor on the foreign desk in New York, and a correspondent based in Berlin. While overseas, she covered stories including the war in Kosovo, the debate over Germany's Holocaust memorial, the move of the capital from Bonn to Berlin, and the introduction of the Euro. She worked for the NY foreign desk after art school and in 2006 moved to Columbia, where she teaches a visual art seminar at

the University of Missouri for journalism students.

As an artist, she has had solo exhibitions and projects in New York and Berlin. Her work has been reviewed in The New York Times. She was NEA Book Artist-in-Residence at the Women's Studio Workshop (2013) and artist-in-residence at The Writer's Room at The Betsy, Miami (2012). She received a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Fellowship in 2009 to research color theory at the Bauhaus Archive. Her work is in public collections including the New York Public Library, the Yale Art Gallery, Vassar College, Indiana University, and the University of Michigan. She is a contributing reviewer to Artforum and currently is the curator of the "I-70 Sign Show," a billboard project along the Missouri interstate, that she launched in April 2014.

Click **here** for the Reynolds Institute news release.

My boo-boo: mistakes we made (and survived)

Sue Price Johnson (Email) - When I was a vacation reliefer in Charlotte in the summer of 1974 (between my junior and senior years in college), I rented a furnished apartment in what the other residents referred to as "Flowe's Ghetto." Most of the residents were down-on-their-luck folks in their 40s and 50s with a few exceptions.

One Saturday morning, I awoke to too much light in the room. No power. I reached for the phone to let the overnight guy, Nate Wegodsky, know I'd be late. The phone line was dead.

I hurriedly dressed and rushed to my car. One of the tires was flat. I wandered the complex until I found a unit with kids and cartoons on TV. I called Nate to let him know I was calling a cab.

"Not to worry," Nate said. "I'll pick you up." A bit later, I find myself in the car with Nate, who is driving with his broken arm and showing me the sights with the other hand.

I was a wreck.

The very first story I wrote that day transposed the names of a sheriff and a deputy who had been arrested. Within a few minutes, I had my first bulletin kill. CoB Joe Dill called me to chew me out. "What the hell happened?!" I explained. By the end of the story, he was laughing and finished with "You're forgiven -- but don't let it happen again or I'm sending you to Fargo!"

-0-

John Willis (Email) -My first college football season with The AP in the Omaha bureau was 1973, having been assigned there in June. While the Nebraska games were staffed by our Lincoln correspondent, one of my jobs as the broadcast writer was to keep track of the score of the Nebraska home games from the radio on our desk, and to send it to NY at the end of each quarter for redistribution nationally.

The Huskers, ranked 11th, were hosting Kansas and were favored. The Jayhawks, #18, apparently hadn't read the newspapers. They gave no quarter. The Huskers jumped in front 7-0 in the first quarter, and I dutifully sent the score to NY when the first stanza ended, "1st: Nebraska 7, Kansas 0."

Kansas got a field goal in the second, so I sent it to NY, "Half: Nebraska 7, Kansas 3."

The visitors hit paydirt in the third, but the extra point was blocked and the quarter ended. I sent the new score east: "Kansas 9, Nebraska 7."

I had forgotten the "3rd" designation.

Realizing my error a few moments later, instead of calling NY Sports to fix things, I resent the score, "3rd: Kansas 9, Nebraska 7," and went about my business. When a score reached NY without a designation, it was considered "Final."

The desk at NY Sports figured somehow the scores got juxtaposed by the computer, and decided there had been a major upset. Across the nation went the sports bulletin, Kansas had beaten the mighty Huskers in Lincoln. The game was actually still in the fourth period, and Nebraska managed a field goal to edge Kansas 10-9, which was the final, I sent later.

But for a few minutes, all the radio and television networks and those in the press boxes of all the major games across the country thought Kansas was an upset winner on Oct. 20, 1973.

As soon as I saw the upset bulletin clear the radio wire in the bureau, I knew I was in deep trouble. I called NY and explained my error, and as you might expect, there was some strong language coming from the other end. The error was fixed, and I learned just how valuable one tiny piece of information can be; particularly if it's left out..

I related the story of my epic error several years ago in an e-publication I produce irregularly for Ohio State football fans, The Buckeye Weekly. My readers got a big laugh out of it. I sure wasn't laughing when it happened. I told my wife that evening that I might be looking for a new job the following Monday. Luckily, I was forgiven.

Remember what the style book says about the trial verdicts? Leaving out one small word by accident in the midst of rapid dictation under deadline pressure can change the story entirely.

Connecting mailbox

An obituary still remembered

Henry Bradsher (Email) - Is there a category for stories that one did not write but still remember? Obits the other day for Maya Plisetskaya, one of the 20th-century's greatest ballerinas, call to mind my decision not to write about an incident in Moscow.

As AP bureau chief, I was able to get seats for my wife and me at a gala performance at the Bolshoi Theater on Nov. 6, 1967, part of massive celebrations for the next day's 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Our seats were at the extreme right end of about the sixth orchestra row, giving an angled view of the stage.

Soviet security being at its usual suffocating tightness, it was not possible to interview Plisetskaya in order to make the story more complete. So here's what I might have written -- but decided was a bit too impertinent for the stuffy Soviet leadership and the general pressure on the foreign press:

MOSCOW (AP) - With the Soviet Union's top leaders sitting in the front row of the Bolshoi Theater, star ballerina Maya Plisetskaya tauntingly stuck out her tongue tonight.

Communist Party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, and other leaders and their wives apparently did not see her do so, however.

They were attending a gala performance on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. Plisetskaya, one of the world's most celebrated dancers, performed in Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky's classic ballet "Swan Lake."

Plisetskaya, almost 42 years old, is still a leading soloist when most ballerinas her age have retired. She danced the dual roles of Odette, an enchanted swan queen with whom a prince falls in love, and Odile, a black swan who seeks to lure the prince away.

The black swan choreography includes circling the stage in repeated graceful leaps, called a fouette en tournant. A challenge to ballerinas is how many times they can circle, with 28 being considered excellent.

Plisetskaya circled at least that many times, if not more. As she completed the leaps and exited stage right, she could be seen from the extreme right side of the audience to stick out her tongue toward someone in the wings.

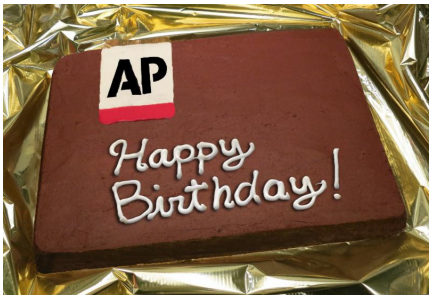
The gesture seemed to be saying proudly, "There, I can still do it!"

From the center of the theater, Brezhnev and his comrades probably could not see her quick gesture. The command performance crowd applauded Plisetskaya's solo enthusiastically.

Welcome to Connecting

Dao Spencer (Email)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Greg Nokes (Email)

Stories of interest

A Free Life in Iraq (New Yorker)

Tonight, PEN American Center, the writers' organization, will honor the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and the jailed Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova. I'll be there to celebrate them both, but I'll also be remembering my Iraqi friend Ammar al-Shahbander.

Ammar was born in Iraq in 1973, but when he was young his parents fled to Tehran, Damascus, and finally Sweden, where he became a citizen and went to college. After college, he moved to London and worked for a small news network that focussed on Iraq. We met in December of 2002, at a conference of various Iraqi opposition groups in London, just a few months before the American invasion. Ammar had strong views about the coming war: he believed that it would be a good and necessary thing, that it would free his countrymen from their long imprisonment under the regime of Saddam Hussein, and that the Iraqi best equipped to lead the country into a democratic future was a banker named Ahmed Chalabi. This was the thinking-passionate and wishful-of an exile offered a glimpse of the promised land.

Click **here** to read more.

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Charlie Hebdo Editor Seeks to Distance Newspaper From Anti-Islam Causes (New York Times) (Shared by Sibby Christensen)

The top editor at Charlie Hebdo, the satirical Paris newspaper that was attacked four months ago by militant gunmen over its cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, sought on Tuesday to reject attempts by right-wing activists to exploit that attack for their own agendas.

In an interview with members of the editorial board of The New York Times, the editor, Gérard Biard, disputed any analogies drawn between the Charlie Hebdo attack and the assault on Sunday against an art contest in Texas organized by Pamela Geller, a conservative activist and blogger.

"We have nothing to do with Pamela Geller's work," Mr. Biard said. "When Islam or the Prophet Muhammad jump out of the news, we comment on it, we mock it, maybe. But we are not obsessed about it."

Click **here** to read more.

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Why journalists should (at least sometimes) be activists (Blog)

At the International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy, this week, I gave a talk entitled "Why Journalists Should be Activists," and apart from a few departures from the text below, here's what I said:

Two months ago, a New York Times journalist, investigative reporter James Risen, went on Twitter to denounce the Obama administration's attitude toward the press. The administration, he said, was the "greatest enemy of press freedom in a generation."

Risen's tirade became a topic of conversation in the community of people who watch and

comment on journalism. Some said a reporter shouldn't be expressing such thoughts publicly, because it might cause readers to question his - and his newspaper's - commitment to objective reporting. But the newspaper's editor in charge of of journalism standards told Margaret Sullivan, the Times' public editor, that Risen had done the right thing.

"In general," this editor said, "our reporters understand that they don't and shouldn't editorialize on issues we cover....I would put this in a different category."

What category? Freedom of the press, of course. And he was right.

Click **here** to read more.

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Andrea Mitchell: The pit bull is back (Politico)

In the usual scrum of reporters crowded around Hillary Clinton, sticking microphones, cameras and phones in the Democratic front-runner's face on her campaign trips to early states, one face and voice in particular stands out.

Over and over again she calls out: "Mrs. Clinton!" "Hillary!" "Ma'am!"

It's Andrea Mitchell, host of "Andrea Mitchell Reports" on MSNBC, a top correspondent for NBC News, and a veteran of the Clinton beat who will spearhead the network's Clinton coverage for 2016 - years after driving coverage on big stories like Whitewater, Bill's impeachment, and Hillary's first forays as a candidate.

Mitchell, 68, is back on the trail, acting more like a cub reporter hungry for her first scoop than a star television journalist with her own show or a Washington insider married to former Fed chair Alan Greenspan. She's one of the most senior reporters covering the race, and one of the most outwardly aggressive, calling Clinton out, chasing her down, asking her questions - and occasionally getting a roundabout answer. Some sources suggest she's getting under the Clinton camp's skin, a rope-line irritant constantly shouting after the former secretary of state to answer questions. For Mitchell, it's second nature.

Click **here** to read more.

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Fire, Football and the Story of a Renowned Photograph (New York Times) (Shared by Ralph Gage)

In Robert Van Fleet's well-known photograph, spectators in Massachusetts divided their attention as the Mount Hermon football team hosted Deerfield Academy while a fire burned in a Mount Hermon science building on Nov. 20, 1965. Credit Robert S. Van Fleet/Associated Press.

GILL, Mass. - The photograph, nearly 50 years old, is a social media favorite, a perennial entry on top-10 lists of strange-but-true sports images. And it is certainly strange. Fans watch a football game from the stands as a building burns behind them, failing to look even mildly alarmed at the flames shooting out and the black smoke billowing into the sky.

Even at the time, when the photograph was reprinted around the world, people thought it was too weird to be real. "My colleagues maintain it is a real picture, but I believe it is of the April fool type," wrote Phil F. Brogan, an editor at The Bulletin newspaper in Bend, Ore. ("I can assure you that the picture was not faked," replied Arthur H. Kiendl Jr., the headmaster of Mount Hermon, the Massachusetts prep school where the game took place.)

In fact, the photograph, of the Mount Hermon game against Deerfield Academy on Nov. 20, 1965, was an instant classic. Though the photographer, Robert Van Fleet, never received much in the way of payment for it, it was named The Associated Press sports photograph of the year. It was featured on the back page of Life magazine. It was reproduced in dozens of newspapers and magazines across the United States, including The New York Times, often accompanied by supposedly amusing captions about Rome

burning, the teams' "red-hot rivalry" and the like.

Click **here** to read more.

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A classy farewell from a laid-off journalist (Romenesko)

Mark Hinojosa joined the Detroit News in 2008 after being laid off by the Chicago Tribune. He's now been laid off by the Detroit News. He writes on Facebook:

A couple of weeks ago The Detroit News decided it did not need my services. Here is the note I send to the newsroom.

To my friends at The News:

There is one constant in life; things go on. I know you all will continue to tell Detroit's story through an unblinking, yet compassionate, eye. You will find the beauty in its revival, but not be blinded by the radiance of the new. You will continue to fight for the entire city, rich and poor alike. Unfortunately, I will not be there to add my small contribution to your efforts, and that is a great sadness for me.

I joined The News six years and seven months ago. I came as a refugee and was received as a friend by so many. You did me many kindnesses, too many to list here, but all of them are remembered and cherished.
Once, after one particularly difficult week, my children asked me why I stayed in newspapers. I flippantly answered, "If I don't do it, who will?" But isn't that the truth of it? If we don't do it, who will? Who else will stand for the readers? Who else will stand against wrongs and corruption in this city? I know it sounds corny, but I believe what we do matters in the lives of our readers.

Somewhere in the city, someone is putting a dollar on a counter and walking way with what should be our best efforts. They don't care how hard it was to get the story, how crappy our software is or how mean your editor was to you. They choose us because they trust us to tell them what is important. It is a trust that has been built for nearly 100 years. That is why I did this job.

These last six years and seven months were not always easy or fun, but they were always good. They were good because I spent them you, the staff of The Detroit News.

Much fondness,

Mark

Click **here** for a link to the above.

Today in History - May 6, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 6, the 126th day of 2015. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1965, after a Rolling Stones concert in Clearwater, Florida, was cut short by rowdy fans, Keith Richards composed the opening guitar riff of "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," which he co-wrote with Mick Jagger. (The song was recorded less than a week later, and the single was released in the United States on June 6.)

On this date:

In 1840, Britain's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, officially went into circulation five days after its introduction.

In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1915, Babe Ruth hit his first major-league home run as a player for the Boston Red Sox. Actor-writer-director Orson Welles was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Political writer and historian Theodore H. White was born in Boston.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

In 1942, during World War II some 15,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1981, Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin was named winner of a competition to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In 1994, former Arkansas state worker Paula Jones filed suit against President Bill Clinton, alleging he'd sexually harassed her in 1991. (Jones reached a settlement with Clinton in November 1998.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand (frahn-SWAH' mee-teh-RAHN') formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

In 2002, Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn (pihm fohr-TOWN') was shot and killed in Hilversum, Netherlands. (Volkert van der Graaf was later convicted of killing Fortuyn and was sentenced to 18 years in prison - he was released on May 2, 2014.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush arrived in Riga, Latvia, as he opened a fast-paced, four-country journey to mark the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. British Prime Minister Tony Blair unveiled his Cabinet, changing leadership in defense and health but keeping mostly familiar faces after a third term victory dampened by a reduced majority in Parliament. Audioslave became the first U.S. rock band to play an outdoor concert in Cuba.

Five years ago: A computerized sell order triggered a "flash crash" on Wall Street, sending the Dow Jones industrials to a loss of nearly 1,000 points in less than half an hour. Conservatives captured the largest number of seats in Britain's national election but fell short of a majority. (Conservative leader David Cameron ended up heading a coalition government.) A court in India sentenced to death the only surviving Pakistani gunman in the bloody 2008 Mumbai attacks. (Mohammed Ajmal Kasab was hanged on November 21, 2012.)

One year ago: A federal report said that global warming was rapidly affecting the United States in both visible and invisible ways; shortly after the report came out, President Barack Obama used several television weathermen to call for action to curb carbon pollution before it was too late. The Vatican disclosed that over the past decade, it had defrocked 848 priests who raped or molested children and sanctioned another 2,572 with lesser penalties. Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant won his first NBA MVP award.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays is 84. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 81. Rock singer Bob Seger is 70. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 70. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 69. Actor Alan Dale is 68. Actor Ben Masters is 68. Actor Richard Cox is 67. Actor Gregg Henry is 63. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 62. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 60. Actress Roma Downey is 55. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 55. Actress Julianne Phillips is 55. Actor-director George Clooney is 54. Actor Clay O'Brien is 54. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 51. Actress Leslie Hope is 50. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 48. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 44. Actress Stacey Oristano is 36. Actress Adrianne Palicki is 32. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 32. Actress-comedian Sasheer Zamata is 29. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 22.

Thought for Today: "Form ever follows function." - Louis Sullivan, American architect (1856-1924).

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