

Connecting - August 20, 2015

1 message

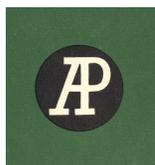
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Thu, Aug 20, 2015 at 9:08 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

August 20, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

The AP is a membership cooperative - and as many of you know, some members are more cooperative than others.

During my 19 years as bureau chief for Kansas and Missouri, one radio station member - **KTTS of Springfield, Missouri** - stood out like no other member in the state in the lengths it would go to make sure the AP was protected in the surprisingly newsy area of southwest Missouri and adjacent states.

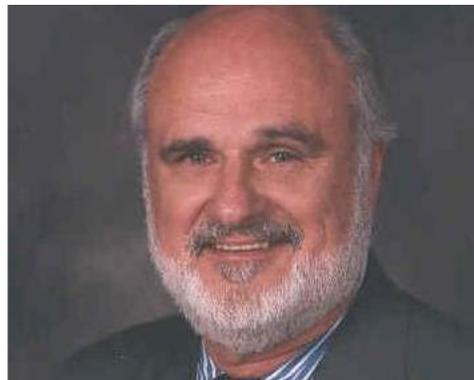
The general manager of KTTS at that time, **Curt Brown**, was sold on the importance of protecting AP and in his news director, **Dan Shelley**, had a strong ally. So it was with sorrow that I learned Wednesday of the death of Brown, and I asked Shelley - who is now senior vice president for Interactive One in New York - to share his memories. Here they are:

Curt Brown - A broadcast journalist's GM

Dan Shelley ([Email](#)) - Curt Brown was a broadcast journalist's general manager.

He was many other things, too -- a great leader, a great motivator, a great protector of a hard-won brand, and, most important, a great human being.

I had the privilege of being a reporter, an anchor and then a news director for Curt Brown at KTTS-AM/FM in Springfield, Mo., for 15 years, from 1980-1995. During that time, with Curt's enthusiastic support, we -- a large radio news department in a small market in the Midwest -- on several occasions became one of the largest contributors of news stories to the Associated Press in the country.



It was no surprise that Curt was a huge AP supporter. He was a true believer in the notion that local broadcasters should serve their communities around the clock, every day of the year. And he was, for a time, a member of the national Associated Press Broadcasters Association. He was also a member of the National Association of Broadcasters board and was president of the Missouri Broadcasters Association, which inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 2012.

Curt loved having one of the biggest radio news departments in the state. He loved competing with, and winning against, other radio stations in the market. And he loved being on the air himself. He did hundreds of broadcast editorials during the 30 years he led KTTS (1969-1999) and he even recorded tornado safety tips that the station would broadcast during frequent severe weather coverage, one of the hallmarks of Curt's tenure as general manager.

Curt's legacy will live on, through his family -- which consists of a widow, two children and several grandchildren -- through the hundreds of journalists and broadcasters he mentored and inspired, and, of paramount importance to me, through the fact he was a broadcast journalist's general manager.

(Since leaving KTTS in 1995, Curt's inspiration has lived on in my career at WTMJ-AM in Milwaukee -- where I was news director, assistant program director and helped run operations for the Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers and Milwaukee Bucks Radio Networks -- as chairman of the Radio-Television Digital News Association and Foundation, as Director of Digital Media at CBS in New York, and now as SVP for Interactive One, where

I oversee the digital platforms for parent company Radio One's radio stations, syndicated radio programs and cable network, TV One.)

Click [here](#) for a link to Curt's obituary.

Colleagues - If you have or had a newspaper or broadcast member who served the AP above and beyond, consistently or on certain stories, send along your story to Connecting.

Paul

More memories of Jon Kellogg

Jane Harrigan - Once Jon hired you or worked with you and decided you had something to offer, he was your loyal fan and supporter forevermore. For instance, he nominated me for the Yankee Quill award for contributions to New England journalism this year -- 36 years after he hired an inexperienced 25-year-old, new to New Hampshire, as a reporter in Concord.

(After that I worked at the Concord Monitor -- he sent me flowers when I became city editor -- and then became a journalism professor at UNH. I'd tried not to let anyone know I was applying to UNH but found out later that the hiring profs who saw my resume immediately called Jon, a UNH grad, and he told them they'd better hire me.)

Since not many journalists understand how a professor contributes to journalism, I have no doubt it was Jon's powers of persuasion that led to my getting the award. I was so looking forward to the Oct. 8 dinner, where Jon would introduce me and I'd get to say publicly what I hope I told him privately often enough: I'd have had no New England journalism career if not for him. Thanks, Jon, for everything you did for so many of us, and for each community you lived in.

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Mike Putzel - Like so many, Ann and I were shocked to learn of Jon Kellogg's death. He was one of the best in the business. I met Jon in 1974 when I was on an AP Special Assignment Team investigation of Aristotle Onassis' plan to build a deepwater port for oil tankers just off the pristine coast of Maine and New Hampshire. I'm not sure what I expected when I made the obligatory call to the Concord bureau to let the CoB know I was in his territory, but I sure got more than I bargained for. Jon came to meet me with more background material on the Onassis project than I could have found in a month and a list



Jon Kellogg - 1978

of contacts, including memorable names such as Dudley Dudley, and advice for dealing with William Loeb, should the Manchester Union-Leader take an interest in the AP's probe.

I was struck that Jon not only knew his territory but was up on national politics as well, and I encouraged him to seek a post in the Washington bureau. As far as I know, he never did. Jon was immersed from birth in New England, and his quiet, unassuming management style made him popular wherever he went, from New Hampshire to Maine to Massachusetts to Connecticut. We are terribly sorry to lose him so soon.

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Nancy Shulins - In the nearly 40 years that I knew him, I never heard Jon say an unkind word about anyone. No one could ask for a better editor, or hope for a better friend, as the perpetual line of reporters outside his office door could attest.

Jon was the best kind of editor - the kind who truly liked and respected writers. He was generous with his praise, his time, and his expertise, and he taught me invaluable lessons about journalistic ethics with characteristic grace, wit, and charm.

Long after we'd both left The AP, busy as he was, Jon was still reading and commenting on my work. And couple of years ago, at my first book-signing for my memoir, I had people lined up waiting for me because of a story that ran in Jon's paper. I tried to send him a signed copy of my memoir but he wouldn't let me. He said, "If you really love someone, you buy the book."

Connecting mailbox

John Willis- I have one very distinct memory of meeting Bob Weller. It still boggles my mind. I think there was some sort of APME meeting in Portland, OR, and I had to attend from Spokane and Weller was down from Anchorage. As we talked in the hotel bar, he mentioned that he was getting a transfer.....to South Africa, for crying out loud.....Lots of folks thought I was in for culture shock when I transferred from Omaha to become the Vegas correspondent, but Anchorage to Capetown is one whale of a transfer, I thought.

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Arnold Garson - To the journalists who are covering Donald Trump:

The next time he begins or reinforces a position statement by saying, "Many people believe . . ." or "Many lawyers say . . ." or "Many of my friends have told me . . ." please stop him cold and say, "Name three." This is one of his favorite media and interview management techniques. He uses it in almost every interview and press conference and it works every time. It provides an air of authenticity and it can't get him in trouble because

it can't be disproved. But worst of all, the media has become complicit. They just let it slide by. No one ever follows up.

Connecting profile - Randy Picht (and his beard)



Randy Picht ([Email](#)) - Since some of you haven't seen me in a while, I thought I would send along a photo taken Wednesday. The beard is a means to an end. We went to spring training this year and I was so excited about the New York Mets' upcoming season that I made a resolution: as long as the Mets have an above-.500 record in the regular season I wouldn't shave. (One friend, a Cardinals' fan, noted that seems like setting the bar pretty low but the last time the Mets finished a season with a winning record was 2008).

There was one hiccup at the outset and I gave the team one mulligan when they fell to 2-3 at the start of the season. But then they had an 11-game winning streak and, as they say, the rest is history. The beard is starting to take on a life of its own. The new dean of the (University of Missouri) journalism school is threatening to auction off the rights to dye it or, better yet he says, have the Yankees' insignia cut into it as a fundraising effort and lots of folks are wondering what happens if the Mets win it all. That would be a happy, happy bridge to cross if I get there.

The beard is even getting some attention inside the halls of the world's greatest news service. During a visit to NYC in July, I met several AP folks at an industry panel discussion and I received an email the next day that started like this: "Hi Randy, It was great seeing

you last night, and I think you should know that your beard was a hot discussion topic this morning at AP!" And that's before it grew even further out of control.

For me, I'm in my fourth year of running the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute at Missouri School of Journalism and couldn't be happier. I'm not in academia, I'm next to it and that's a wonderful place to be. I work with terrific folks on a variety of initiatives that include handing out fellowships to folks with the same passion for journalism, collaborating with great partners, like the AP!, and coordinating interesting research studies and industry events.

I bump into many of the same folks I knew when I worked at AP and definitely use many of the skills and experience I developed while working for almost 29 years in various places for AP. In fact, when I interviewed for this job I told Dean Dean Mills, who retired last month, that I liked working for AP because I had the opportunity to do many different things, some on the editorial side and some on the business side of the company. I said I never really had a career destination in mind, like Moscow bureau chief or White House correspondent, and this may sound corny, but now I knew why I took the career path I did - so I would have the experience and background to be the executive director of RJI. He hired me despite that clever line!!

(Randy joined AP as a newsman in Albany, then served as Rochester correspondent, St. Louis correspondent, Assistant Business Editor/Stock Tables - St. Louis and Kansas City, Business Editor - New York, Director, Markets Information - New York, Director, Capitolwire (Internet startup that was an AP subsidiary) - Harrisburg, Kansas City chief of bureau, Product Manager, News Products - Kansas City, and Minneapolis chief of bureau.)



"Why did they do this to this little girl? She didn't do anything to nobody. My heart just sank. I felt like I was handcuffed, because I couldn't do anything to save her."

That's Sgt. Marshall Powell, a former Army nurse, speaking in a powerful AP report about the little Iraqi girl, perhaps 6 years old, who died before his eyes as he tried to ease her pain from devastating injuries she suffered in an explosion. The child died in 2007, but now, in 2015, Powell remained haunted. Like others who suffer from "moral injury" _ a newly recognized psychological scar of war _ he had spent years anguished by guilt: Did he cause the girl's death when he injected her with painkillers?

Powell's struggle to come to terms with the event that shook his faith was movingly captured by San Diego reporter Julie Watson, Denver photographer Brennan Linsley, San Francisco videojournalist Haven Daley and New York interactives producer Roque Ruiz. In text, photos, video and an elegant interactive, they not only shined a light on a little-known condition, but advanced AP's mission of offering customers distinctive, all-formats

enterprise. They earn the Beat of the Week.

The piece began with Watson, a military beat reporter, chatting with a spokesman about a program to treat moral injury _ wounds that stem from doing or seeing something that goes against one's values. Introduced to Powell through the military, Watson talked with him several times by phone before he agreed to allow AP to visit him at home in Oklahoma.

Powell wanted to tell his story, but there were other considerations. He firmly believed he was responsible for the girl's death. AP learned via legal experts that it was possible the military could still pursue an investigation. That led the team to interview three independent medical experts, all of whom said Powell's actions likely did not cause the death. Editors also consulted AP legal counsel, then went back to Powell and shared what had been learned.

There were ethical concerns, too. Would the story harm Powell further? On that point, AP consulted with leading experts on moral injury, then returned to Powell to ensure he knew how far and wide the story might run, and what that might mean for him.

There was a particular vision for the piece from the beginning: It wouldn't be just a traditional text story but an interactive experience combining narrative storytelling with compelling, clickable video and other visuals. Watson earned Powell's trust, and her reporting was exhaustive. She obtained copies of handwritten personal letters, readable in the interactive, notes from his time in therapy, and personal photographs. He so believed in her and the story that he persuaded other veterans who went through therapy with him to also talk with Watson.

Photographer Linsley had previously covered conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and had experience talking with soldiers suffering emotionally. But his understanding also stems from his own personal experiences: His father, a fighter pilot in Vietnam, had suffered from what then was considered PTSD. Linsley now believes it was moral injury.

The story, which took months to produce and edit, garnered terrific online and newspaper play nationwide. It was the most-shared story on AP Mobile on the day it ran and won a huge display in the military publication Stars and Stripes, among other print play.

Interactive: <http://tinyurl.com/oh7lqb7>

Photos/Video/Text: <http://tinyurl.com/nvk4vv5>

For determined work on a project that serves as a model for customers and staff of the type of all-formats, high-end enterprise the AP can produce, Watson, Linsley, Daley and Ruiz win this week's \$500 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Welcome to Connecting



Jane Margareta Anderson ([Email](#))

Jane Harrigan ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

The Unwelcome Return of 'Illegals' (New York Times)

Ten years ago, the political strategist Frank Luntz issued a proclamation about the language of immigration. "Always refer to people crossing the border illegally as 'illegal immigrants' - NOT as 'illegals,'" Luntz instructed fellow conservatives. "Illegals" sounds harsh and spiky. As with "fatties" in high school, or "thugs," it's a way to write off a group and justify its mistreatment. Luntz says his research showed that "if you used the word 'illegals,' you didn't get a chance to say anything else - Latino audiences would turn you off." Republicans have long respected Luntz's messaging skills: This is the man who helped them write the Contract With America and pioneer the phrase "death tax." Yet G.O.P. candidates for president have repeatedly ignored his warning.



The slight has become a primary-season refrain, brandished like a conservative calling card. "We need to keep illegals out," Donald Trump said at the Republican presidential debate earlier this month after being reminded of his earlier claims that Mexico is sending rapists and other criminals across the border. The Fox News anchor Chris Wallace picked up the term in a question, and Mike Huckabee volleyed it back, claiming that the solvency of Social Security and Medicare was under threat from "illegals, prostitutes, pimps, drug dealers, all the people that are freeloading off the system now." In 2007, Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani deployed "illegals" while debating the rights of undocumented workers, and Romney and Rick Perry used it four years later while tangling over who was mowing Romney's lawn. "I'm running for office, for Pete's sake, I can't have illegals," Romney sputtered.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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After 13 months in Iranian jail, Post reporter 'steeling himself' for verdict

(Washington Post)

Tuesday is visitors' day for Jason Rezaian, the day that Iranian authorities permit the imprisoned Washington Post journalist to see his mother and his wife.

As they have every Tuesday for the past few weeks, Mary Rezaian and Yeganeh Salehi arrived at Tehran's Evin Prison in the morning and walked through a labyrinth of halls to a waiting car that drove them to another building housing a small salon furnished with chairs around a coffee table.

There they met, the two women sitting on either side of Rezaian, each holding one of his hands.

But this Tuesday's visit was unlike any other over the past month and a half that Mary Rezaian has been in Iran for her son. They are waiting for an imminent verdict in the case against The Post's Tehran bureau chief, who has been held for 13 months and is accused of espionage and other crimes.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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How Black Reporters Report On Black Death (NPR)

By GENE DEMBY

On an unbearably hot August afternoon last summer, I was walking along West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, Mo., notebook in hand, when I ran into two good friends who were also on the clock, Joel Anderson of BuzzFeed and Jamelle Bouie of Slate. A few nights later, we got dinner with a couple of other black journos from D.C. We'd all known each other for years, and joked about how we rarely get together back home and here we were, eating wings at a gastropub in St. Louis. But this was a strange reunion: We weren't gathered for a birthday, or happy hour, but because a young black man's body had lain out for four hours on a sweltering street.

In the 12 months since, the national conversation about police brutality has reached a higher pitch than we could have imagined. We've all become part-time cops reporters and part-time criminal justice reporters. We've interviewed weeping family members, scrutinized dash cam footage and witnesses' YouTube uploads, and wrestled with the long-term political implications of what this moment might mean. At this point, I'm probably approaching 30,000 words on the subject of race and policing. It's everything you

want in a story - consequential, evolving, complicated. This work will matter in a way that so many other stories don't or won't.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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12 basics of interviewing, listening and note-taking (Poynter)

By ROY PETER CLARK

As a writer I would NOT give myself high marks for the crafts of interviewing, listening, and note-taking. But I have sat at the knees of journalists who are experts at these elements of craft: John Sawatsky of ESPN, Jacqui Banaszynski of the University of Missouri, and Tom French of Indiana University - all of whom have taught at Poynter.

Not long ago, I taught a workshop on these topics to the young men of Poynter's Write Field program, about 40 minority students attending middle school and high school. They found my lessons useful, so I thought I would pass them on to a larger audience.

I realize these dozen strategies constitute the basics. But when I am struggling with a craft - golf, music, writing - I find it helpful to remind myself of those basics, to climb down from the penthouse and visit the ground floor.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Tampa Bay Times' investigation is a model for how to report on school resegregation (Columbia Journalism Review)

THE RESEGREGATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS around the country, and the often willful failure of communities to maintain the gains of integration, is a national story. As Nikole Hannah-Jones reported for ProPublica and The Atlantic last year, federal officials and the courts have stepped back from enforcing integration mandates in many places, sometimes returning control to indifferent local officials. The result: pockets of resegregation, a rise in so-called "apartheid schools," and a legacy of neglect that may be felt for decades.

But this is also a local story, one that needs to be told by local papers around the country, with a focus on local children and the adults who shape their education. One of those papers, the Tampa Bay Times, rolled out an impressive investigation into the resegregation of five elementary schools in Florida's Pinellas County this week, and journalists around the country should take a look.

I spoke with the reporting team at the Times-education beat reporters Cara Fitzpatrick and Lisa Gartner, I-Team reporter Michael LaForgia, data director Adam Playford, and data reporter Nathaniel Lash-to gather some tips other journalists can draw on.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Len Iwanski.

Today in History - August 20, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, August 20, the 232nd day of 2015. There are 133 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On August 20, 1940, during **World War II**, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill paid tribute to the Royal Air Force before the House of Commons, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." Exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky was assassinated in Coyoacan, Mexico by Ramon Mercader, a Spanish Communist agent working at the behest of Josef Stalin. (Trotsky died the next day.)

On this date:

In 1833, Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president of the United States, was born in North Bend, Ohio.

In 1866, President Andrew Johnson formally declared the Civil War over, months after fighting had stopped.

In 1882, Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" had its premiere in Moscow.

In 1910, a series of forest fires swept through parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington, killing at least 85 people and burning some 3 million acres.

In 1914, German forces occupied Brussels, Belgium, during World War I.

In 1953, the Soviet Union publicly acknowledged it had tested a hydrogen bomb.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.

In 1968, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations began invading Czechoslovakia to crush the "Prague Spring" liberalization drive.

In 1972, the Wattstax concert took place at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

In 1977, the U.S. launched Voyager 2, an unmanned spacecraft carrying a 12-inch copper phonograph record containing greetings in dozens of languages, samples of music and sounds of nature.

In 1989, entertainment executive Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, were shot to death in their Beverly Hills mansion by their sons, Lyle and Erik. Fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames (tehms) in London after colliding with a dredger.

In 1994, Benjamin Chavis Jr. was fired as head of the NAACP after a turbulent 16-month tenure.

Ten years ago: Northwest Airlines mechanics went on strike rather than accept pay cuts and layoffs; Northwest ended up hiring replacement workers. San Francisco 49ers offensive lineman Thomas Herrion, 23, died of a heart attack shortly after a preseason game against the **Denver Broncos**. With a deafening boom, the ashes of gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson were blown into the sky above Woody Creek, Colorado.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama invited Israel and the Palestinians to meet face-to-face in Washington the following month for talks aimed at achieving an agreement to establish an independent Palestinian state and secure peace for Israel.

One year ago: The United States launched a new barrage of airstrikes against Islamic State extremists and weighed sending more troops to Iraq as President Barack Obama vowed to be relentless in pursuit of a terrorist group that beheaded American journalist James Foley. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder arrived in Ferguson, Missouri, to meet with federal investigators and reassure residents of the community torn by several nights of racial unrest since the fatal shooting of a black 18-year-old by a white police officer.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter Bernstein is 96. Boxing promoter Don King is 84. Former Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, is 82. Former U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 80. Former MLB All-Star Graig Nettles is 71. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 69. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 68. Actor Ray Wise is 68. Actor John Noble is 67. Rock singer Robert Plant (**Led Zeppelin**) is 67. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 63. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 63. Actor-director Peter Horton is 62. TV weatherman Al Roker is 61. Actor Jay Acovone is 60. Actress Joan Allen is 59. Movie director David O. Russell is 57. TV personality Asha Blake is 54. Actor James Marsters is 53. Rapper KRS-One is 50. Actor Colin Cunningham is 49. Actor Billy Gardell is 46. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 45. Rock musician Brad Avery is 44. Actor Jonathan Ke Quan is 44. Actor Misha Collins is 41. Rock singer Monique Powell (Save Ferris) is 40. Jazz/pop singer-pianist Jamie Cullum is 36. Actor Ben Barnes is 34. Actress Meghan Ory is 33. Actor Andrew Garfield is 32. Actor Brant Daugherty is 30. Actress-singer Demi Lovato is 23.

Thought for Today: "Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity." - Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian author (1918-2008).

Got a story to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"My boo boos - A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Life after AP** for those of you who have moved on to another job or profession.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
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