
Connecting - September 2, 2015

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Connecting

September 2, 2015

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70 years ago: Surrender of Japan



Photo # SC 213700 Foreign Minister Shigemitsu signs Japanese surrender instrument

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Seventy years ago today, on September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, Japanese representatives signed the official Instrument of Surrender, prepared by the War Department and approved by President Truman.

Marking the end of World War II, it set out in eight short paragraphs the complete capitulation of Japan. The opening words, "We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan," signified the importance attached to the Emperor's role by the Americans who drafted the document. The short second paragraph went straight to the heart of the matter: "We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated."

Japanese envoys Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshijiro Umezu signed their names on the Instrument of Surrender. The time was recorded as 4 minutes past 9 o'clock. Afterward, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Commander in the Southwest Pacific and Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, also signed. He accepted the Japanese surrender "for the United States, Republic of China, United Kingdom, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and in the interests of the other United Nations at war with Japan."

On September 6, Col. Bernard Thielen brought the surrender document and a second imperial rescript back to Washington, DC. The following day, Thielen presented the documents to President Truman in a formal White House ceremony. The documents were then exhibited at the National Archives after a dignified ceremony led by General Wainwright. Finally, on October 1, 1945, they were formally received (accessioned) into the holdings of the National Archives.



None of our current Connecting colleagues was present on the day of the signing - but one of them, **Gene Herrick**, was aboard the U.S.S. Missouri five years later when, in the midst of the Korean War he was covering for the AP, recognition of the signing of the surrender document took place.

We lead today's issue with his recollections.

Memories of the Battleship Missouri off the Korean coast

Editor's Note:

The following story by Gene Herrick, about his memories of being on the battleship U.S.S. Missouri, also includes his reflection on the recognition of the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty aboard Big MO's honored deck. Even though it wasn't on exactly the same day as the original signing on Sept.2, 1945, the recognition ceremony Herrick refers to was in the middle of October, 1950, off the Korean shore.

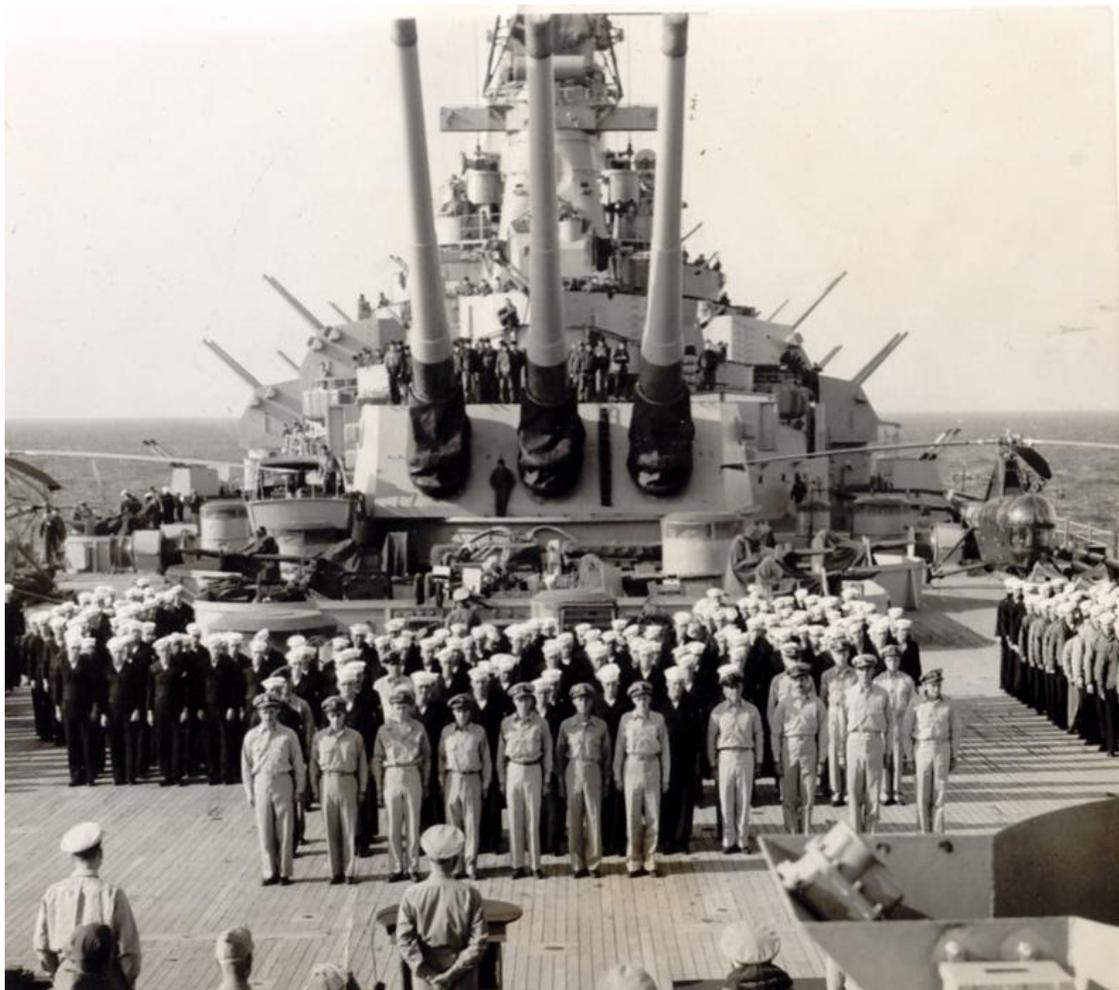
The waters of the Sea of Japan were rather calm. The Battleship U.S.S. Missouri perked along on a northern course next to the eastern shore of South Korea, as we awaited the minesweepers working hard to clear the harbor of enemy mines. There was to be an amphibious landing at Wonsan, but we were delayed for many days. A few days into the trip, we had a couple of other news events, one of which was the recognition of the signing of the Japanese Peace Treaty on Big Mo's deck, but not on the exact date of the original signing. I'll relate this a little later in this story.

The battleship was the 7th fleet command ship, and aboard were high-brass military commanders from the various U.S.



military groups. We all were nervous about the delay. There were only six journalist-correspondents aboard this ship, probably due to the limited space because of all of the battle leaders. All of the other correspondents were aboard another ship, the U.S.S. Mount McKinley.

I had been covering the war amid the Korean rice paddies, but had to return to Tokyo to get an infected toe nail removed. Chief of Bureau Russ Brines called me, despite my foot in the air to keep the pain tolerable (Doctors removed said nail without anesthesia; just used pliers and wham). He asked me to quickly take a bus to Sasebo, on the southern end of Japan, and get on board the Missouri, the flagship of the 7th fleet. Brines said, "You can both write stories and take pictures, so I want you on the Missouri as backup. The other correspondents will be on the Mount McKinley." There were five other correspondents; none of them were wire-service reps with immediate deadline positions.



Officers and crew of the various minesweepers who cleared the mines in Wonsan Harbor.

After boarding the ship, I remember that a few weeks earlier the Missouri had used its 16-inch guns to bombard Po Hang Dung, an eastern coast city in Korea. However, the shells knocked out a bridge needed for advancing UN troops moving up the coast. Correspondents then wrote a song called, "Who Blew the Bridge at Po Hang Dung?" It was an embarrassing ditty for the proud ship Missouri. When I boarded the Missouri for the Wonsan operation, I laughingly sang the phrase to a couple of the ship's officers. They

blushed and asked me not to repeat that song.

After boarding, we had been given one cabin, in officer's quarters, which had six bunks with little desks. Much later, I found out that there had been six brand-new ensigns assigned there, but they had been dispatched to the hold of the battleship so we could take over their quarters. We also had been informed that the six had just recently graduated from Annapolis Navel Academy, sent to Honolulu with their white's and sabers, for their first assignments. The shine was still on the blades, when they were shipped out to the fleet, aboard the Missouri. They were in shock. The next shock was being kicked out of their quarters for a bunch of war correspondents, and sent to the hold of the ship and their hammocks. The third shock was at meal time. Everything in the military is by rank. They were "Lowly" ensigns. We correspondents out ranked them, as we were given the paper rank of Lt. Commander, which was just a rank in case were captured by the enemy, and also how we would be treated by our military. We were captains in the dry-land forces. Those ensigns gave us dirty looks at mealtime, when we sat at the commander's table eating fried pork chops, while they ate fried Spam alone at another far off table.

Between us six correspondents, there had been seven 5ths of whisky covertly brought aboard - just in case. ("In case" has never been clearly defined by Webster's Dictionary). It was surprising the attention we received from some of the naval officers, who would knock on our door about five in the afternoon to inquire of our well-being. They readily accepted our offer of a slight libation. All of this was against navy rules. When our "supply" was diminished, because of our generosity with the navy men, we almost had to ask the good and friendly admiral to replenish our supply. One correspondent messaged his Tokyo office to "Send supplies."

During our arduous wait for the amphib landing, the Missouri went further up north and used its 16-inch guns to bombard the northern Korean town of Chongjin, some 100 miles from Vladivostok, Russia.



Aerial view of landing at Wonsan

Remembering Russ Brines' directive about backing up the other correspondents on another ship, I filed a 600-word story about the shelling. As I handed the copy to a sailor to take to the radio room, I asked if it would cost a fortune to send the story. He replied he thought it was 5-cents a word. Gad, I thought, 5-cents a word and New York will kill me. But, I sent it anyway, and did an "over-nighter" rewrite for the next cycle. I assumed that all of the other correspondents, including AP's, on the other ship, had also filed copy. I later found out that the whole fleet, except for the flag ship Missouri, was on radio silence. Had I known that, I probably would have filed at least another 50 words! The next night I was watching a movie when a sailor handed me a radiogram. "KX for Frisco (relay Tokyo) HEARTIEST CONGRAGULATIONS GENE HERRICK'S BOMBARDMENT BEAT

WHICH AGAIN EMPHASIZES OUR FRONT LINE TEAM. FX; APPREC MESSAGE ANY OBTAINABLE ON CIRCUMSTANCES ETC FOR LOG. NY (AJG) OCT 12B 1015AES" In a later wire note, it was reported that my story had beat all opposition by an hour and a half, and was the only direct copy from the war zone. I later saw a newspaper which carried the by-lined story in column eight, accompanied by a picture of me. In those ancient days, AP reporters and photographers were lovingly referred in print as "By The Associated Press," or as AP Wirephoto."

Another night, a General Alarm sounded on board. All hands rushed to the deck and their positions. There were all sorts of blips on the radar. We were on high alert. However, it was soon found that the blips were a flight of seagulls. Questions were sheepishly cast aside.

Later, it was announced that there would be a ceremony aboard to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the historic "Signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender." The surrender was signed on a deck of the Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945, thus ending the World War II Pacific encounter, and also called "V-J Day." The ceremony I am recollecting was not a re-enactment, but an observance, and it was in the Middle of October, 1950, during the clearing of the Wonsan Harbor of mines, and the amphibious landing.

The Missouri was the flagship of the Pacific fleet, with Vice Admiral Arthur Struble the Fleet Commander. Captain Irving T. Duke was the ship's commander.

All of the aforementioned military brass, gathered around the seal in the deck to commemorate the original signing. The sun was shining brightly. Protocol among military brass is severe. One must be on one's best respectful behavior. I was a civilian war correspondent among them. The admiral asked if everything was okay. I spoke up to suggest to the admiral that the sun was not shining in the correct position for good pictures. The un-military comment sent a shock through the military brass. This guy, with no insignia, and wearing a combination of Army and Navy clothing, having the audacity to address the admiral in such a way -tsh, tsh. I suggested to the admiral that it would be better if the sun were to shine over there. I pointed to a position in the sky. The admiral shouted up to Capt. Duke in the tower, "Captain Duke, can you move the sun 10 degrees to the starboard bow?" The captain responded, "Aye, aye, sir." You could feel the huge ship chugging around a bit. "How's that?" asked the admiral. "Admiral," I said, "Could you move it another 10 degrees?" He again shouted up to the captain. More chug, chug. "Okay, and thanks," I said. I got the pictures, and another beat.

Shortly after that, I flew in a helicopter to cover the landing at Wonsan on Oct. 26. Two days later, I went, by a small boat, with Col. Herbert Powell, commander of the 17th regiment of the 7th Division, to stake out the harbor at Iwon. There were only four of us in the boat, and probably only two guns, as he inspected the area for an amphibious attack two days later. I covered two amphibious landings in just a few days, both by helicopter, and then going ashore. I stayed with the 17th until we reached Manchurian boarder on the Yalu River on Nov. 21, 1950.

WWII vet transmitted news of Japanese surrender 70 years ago



By CHRIS CAROLA
The Associated Press

MECHANICVILLE, N.Y. (AP) - Stephen Dennis enlisted in the Navy soon after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941. Less than a year later, the raw 19-year-old recruit was thrust into fighting off the Solomon Islands and survived one of the fiercest naval battles in the South Pacific.

By the end of the war, the young sailor from upstate New York was a shipboard radioman helping news organizations get the word out to the world that the Japanese had officially surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945.

As Wednesday's 70th anniversary of the surrender approached, Dennis reminisced recently about his military service, which began aboard the ill-fated USS Atlanta.

"I was fighting all the time," Dennis, 93, said inside the public library in Mechanicville, his hometown 18 miles north of Albany. "Either they were shooting at us or we were shooting at them."

Dennis enlisted four days after the Dec. 7, 1941 aerial assault on Hawaii brought the U.S. into the war. After an accelerated boot camp that lasted just 14 days, he was assigned to the Atlanta, a newly commissioned light cruiser. By the spring of 1942 the Atlanta was in the Pacific, where the ship participated in the Battle of Midway.

On Nov. 13, 1942, the ship was hit by a torpedo and surface fire from enemy ships as well as friendly fire from the USS San Francisco during a chaotic night battle near the island of Guadalcanal, the largest in the Solomon Islands. Dennis was below deck in the forward part of the Atlanta, helping load powder for guns that got so hot "we had to hose them down," he said.

More than a third of the Atlanta's crew was killed, including the admiral commanding the ship, which was later scuttled because it was so severely damaged. The U.S. lost five other ships, casualties of the Japanese navy's superiority in night fighting early in the war.

Boats were sent out from Guadalcanal to rescue the surviving Atlanta crewmembers. When Dennis stepped on shore - "I didn't even get my feet wet," he recalled - a buddy from back home who was serving in the Marines spotted him.

"I spent three days in his foxhole, and he fed me, too," Dennis said.

Despite the drubbings the U.S. suffered in the sea battles, the outgunned and under-supplied Navy helped turn the tide of the war in the Pacific in the Allies' favor, said Mark Evans, historian at the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C.

"They fought on a shoe string," Evans said. "But Guadalcanal is where we turned the Japanese back."

Dennis was sent to the nearby island of Tulagi, where he was trained as a radio operator working with torpedo-equipped PT boats based there. He eventually was sent home for a brief leave before being assigned to a destroyer. A case of tonsillitis kept him from returning to the Pacific aboard the destroyer, so he was assigned to the USS Ancon, a communications command ship. The Ancon participated in the Okinawa campaign in the spring of 1945 and was later sent to Japan, where it anchored near the Missouri for the formal surrender ceremony.

Working in the Ancon's radio shack, Dennis spent Sept. 2, 1945, assisting U.S. wire service reporters by punching their stories of the surrender into a teletype machine and transmitting the accounts to their news organizations for distribution worldwide. "If I didn't send it, they didn't get it," Dennis said.

Hours later, when he was finally finished, Dennis said he told his commanding officer: "I'm done. You can't keep me anymore."

Back home after four years in the service, Dennis and his wife, Mary, raised three children while he worked more than 30 years at the local paper mill. In August 2014, Dennis was awarded six medals he was entitled to for his WWII service but never received. He considers himself fortunate to have survived some of the war's biggest sea battles, especially that horrific night when the Atlanta met its doom.

"I think how lucky I was to walk off of it with all the dead people around," he said.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Ralph Gage.

Little Rock's Danny Johnston retiring after 30-year AP photojournalism career



The following was contributed by Kelly Kissel, news editor based in Little Rock, Arkansas:

Little Rock-based photographer Danny Johnston is retiring at the end of the month, wrapping up a career that saw him cover every president since Ronald Reagan, every major Arkansas tornado since the early 1980s (and there have been a lot) and key sports figures.

Danny started stringing for us regularly during the 1982 gubernatorial campaign that put Bill Clinton back at the Arkansas Statehouse, then went part-time in 1984 and full-time in 1985. Until then, he had been a music teacher at a local parochial school and played trumpet in the symphony.

He was present when Clinton announced a run for the White House and the election night parties in Little Rock in 1992 and 1996. In 1993, Danny kept a camera trained on Clinton until he was out of sight and made a noted image of Clinton turning to the crowd and raising his saxophone during an inaugural party in Washington.

Other out-of-state assignments include the Yellowstone fires of 1988 and too many sports tournaments to count. Each year, it seemed, he was also out in all parts of Arkansas covering either tornadoes or ice storms, and in many years both.

He said that, during the Whitewater years, it was impossible to escape the long tentacles of the investigation. After checking into a Taos, N.M., hotel on vacation, he turned on the television to find a PBS Frontline investigation of Whitewater. Many of the still images used throughout the broadcast were his.

Kelly offers this anecdote about Danny serving as



translator and notes that one name has been removed to protect the guilty:

Bill Clinton with daughter Chelsea after he voted in 1986 election. This was among Danny Johnston's favorite photos.

I sent a new staffer to a fairly rural county during her first week in Arkansas and gave Danny instructions to head that way after another assignment. The place had just reached some milestone - the first whatever since Reconstruction - and this seemed like an early, easy test of how this new staffer could turn around a quick feature.

It wasn't long before she called me sobbing. It's been 20 years or so, but I recall the conversation going somewhere along these lines:

"I've been down here a half-hour, I've talked to about six or seven people, and I cannot understand a word they're saying," she said. Despite having recorded the interviews, she could make neither head nor tail of what anyone had said.

"Is Danny there yet," I asked.

"He just got here," she said.

"Take him along with you on the rest of your discussions, have him listen in while he shoots and then he can translate them for you afterward," I said.

That night, the AAA used 520 words, giving the writer her first national byline. She's stuck with the AP and was promoted to a correspondence she still holds.

Danny, meanwhile, will be missed. Not only has he served as a translator, his 30+ years with AP helped him make connections all over the state, proving himself a valuable resource for the local staff and the scores of visiting reporters we've had because of Bill Clinton, Whitewater, tornadoes, etc.

More memories of the AP Writing Test

Dale Leach - I once had an applicant who completed the test in longhand, although a typewriter was right next to her chair. (In those days, we didn't allow applicants to take tests on the old CRTs for fear they'd hit the wrong button and send it out on the wire.)

I was too busy to notice she was writing out the complete test but observed she was taking a really long time to complete it. I believe she finished in about four hours.

When she was finished and handed me the longhand version of the completed test, I asked why she hadn't used the typewriter. "I can go faster if I write it out," she said. I explained as diplomatically as I could that writing in longhand wouldn't be an option if she were hired and that - in any case - a four-hour completion time was in itself a disqualifying factor.

Robert Weller - Word has it that occasionally cobs would take the writing test for promising advocates who only had broadcast training, and it led to some great hires.

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Jim Salter - Regarding the test, I remember thinking I did well on the story construction sections. But it also included a 25-word spelling test, and it was tough. I remember telling my wife, "I'm lucky if I got half right." I was correct on 24 of the 25. Hooray for guessing! - Jim Salter, St. Louis correspondent since 1998, Paul Stevens hire in October 1993.

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Chris Connell - If memory serves, the cob-webbed test used in the 1960s posed some screwball situation that fittingly involved Lucille Ball. I faced it in New York as a college freshman hoping for a summer job in 1968. My chances went up in smoke as the minutes inexorably ticked by while I hunted and pecked. No problem the next summer in Newark. Not sure if they knew of that first, failed effort or if, like the College Board, they let you throw out your lower score. Of course, I also knew then how to quickly sort out Luci and Desi's tangled affair.

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John Willis - I was looking through all the comments about being hired and the one about being an office boy back in 1943 rang a bell for me.

While corresponding from Vegas, I got a chance to interview a singer who was born Anthony Benedetto. We've known him since the 1940s as Tony Bennett. The interview was in 1977, and Bennett was considered well past his prime, which was the 1950s. Oddly, he was in his early 50s at the time.

Over two evenings, between shows at the Sahara, we talked about lots of things, including his painting. On the second evening he suggested that I bring my wife, and we would have dinner in his dressing room.. I brought Connie along and she participated in the chat.

In preparation for the interview, I skimmed over a one page bio done by his publicist and found out that lo and behold, young Anthony Benedetto was an AP copy boy in his native New York City. Who could have predicted that he would be a bigger star than his heydays in the 50s, well into a new century. I still marvel at his talent. He does a pretty good rendition of "The Best is Yet to Come."

The story about the guy who took the test and said the girls laced the lemonade with poison is a real hoot. My best laugh of the day. I was so nervous taking the test on a Saturday morning in the Des Moines bureau in December, 1972, that I could never have been that "creative."

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Kristi Chew - I took the test in 1983 in the Memphis bureau. Correspondent Les Seago was out of the office -- at lunch, I believe -- and I was wringing out the sports story such as I could when the phone rang, so I rolled over and answered it (some PR guy). Then I wrestled with the test a little more and the phone rang, and I rolled over to answer it (K-9 dog class going to graduate and wear mortar boards; did we want a photo?), then a third time the phone rang and I rolled over and it was Kent Flanagan in Nashville wanting to know where the hell Les was, then wanting to know who the hell I was. I told him, and he said, "Well, now, good luck to you; I'm sure you'll do well." and I said, "I don't know how I'll do on the writing test but I think I passed the phone test, ha ha." I took the vocabulary test, too, and my favorite word was "gasometer" because I couldn't fathom ever using it in an AP story.

Connecting mailbox

A Glib Tongue

George Zucker - Next to dying and things that go bump in the night, what do people fear most? Public speaking. A glib tongue isn't always hooked to a facile mind. Yet we admire those who speak well. A fast talker is perceived as smart. Would you vote for a president who mumbles?

Many of us have been asked to face an audience and say something interesting. A recurring nightmare for a public speaker is walking to the lectern with nothing to say. I had dreams like that when I was a radio reporter.

In Savannah, Ga., my boss at a small radio station called me into his office one day in 1956 to meet actor James Whitmore, who was starring with future First Lady Nancy Davis in the movie, *The Next Voice You Hear*. He was the first movie star I ever met. My boss looked on, anxious to see his young reporter in action. I shook Whitmore's hand and he invited me to sit down. He was a pleasant, smiling man with bushy eyebrows. "Well," he said, "what would you like to ask me?" I couldn't think of single question.

Then there was the day a friend in the tower at the Savannah airport called me and said a plane with Burl Ives on board had just landed to refuel and would be there about 30 minutes. I jumped into the newsmobile and sped to the airport in a driving rain. All I knew about Burl Ives was he was a hefty folk singer who was going to New York to star in the Tennessee Williams play, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The fact that anyone important was in town was news. My job was to get his voice on tape. The old two-engine plane was about to taxi back onto the runway when I drove onto the tarmac. I ran through the rain, yelling to the ground crew to hold the plane. The startled singer sat belted in his seat as I held out my microphone, his fellow passengers wondering why I was delaying their flight to New York. They were more puzzled when they heard my dumb interview.

Another embarrassing episode in my brief radio career took place two years later in

Indianapolis when I was working for WIBC and dropped by to listen to U.S. Sen. Vance Hartke talk to a group of Iraqi Army officers at a downtown hotel. He was extolling the press freedoms enjoyed by Americans when he spotted me in the back of the room, and called me to join him on the stage.

"This is an excellent opportunity to show you what I mean," Hartke said. "This reporter is going to interview me right here in front of you and I have no idea at all what he's going to ask me." Neither did I.

Even top movie stars can be tongue-tied without a script. Three of them strolled into the AP bureau in Los Angeles in 1966 and stood in the newsroom, fairly shimmering in their own aura. Jack Quigg, our news editor, shook hands with Gregory Peck, Kirk Douglass and Hugh O'Brien. They had come to present AP with an anti-Vietnam war statement on behalf of Hollywood's elite.

I asked Quigg how it was talking to the three top stars. I had recently joined the LA staff and was still star struck by Hollywood celebrities.

"They were more nervous than I was," Quigg said.

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Here's what happened to George McArthur

Richard Pyle - As to Joe McKnight's question of "whatever happened to George McArthur," who Joe numerically replaced in the Atlanta bureau in 1950:

McArthur became one of the "boy correspondents" who covered the Korean war to its conclusion in 1953. He was then assigned to Paris for several years, and from there to Cairo and still later to Manila, both times as AP chief of bureau.

After temporary assignments in Vietnam in the early 1960s, McArthur joined the Saigon war staff full-time, and served as chief of bureau from mid-1968 to late 1969 when he left to join the LA Times in Saigon.

I described him in the book, "Lost Over Laos," as "central casting's version of a foreign correspondent, - a fast, fluid writer, hard-drinking bachelor and bon vivant who once lived in a houseboat on the Nile and had recorded a string of romantic escapades from Paris to the Philippines."

As North Vietnamese attackers forced Americans and South Vietnamese into a chaotic evacuation from Saigon on April 30, 1975, McArthur and his fiancée, diplomatic secretary Eva Kim, escaped aboard one of the last helicopters off the embassy roof, with the US ambassador carrying his folded flag and McArthur holding the ambassador's poodle that otherwise would have been left behind.

George and Eva McArthur retired to Vienna VA in suburban Washington. He died April 13,

2013, age 88, from effects of a stroke. In one of our many conversations in those later years, George told me that the ``biggest regret '' of his long career was having left the AP.

Profiles of new Connecting members

Chuck Burton - Currently, the AP photo staffer based in Charlotte, N.C. (since 1997). Covered everything from hurricanes, ACC basketball/football, Carolina Panthers (NFL), Charlotte Hornets (NBA), and local politics, to Super Bowls, Olympics, national political conventions, and major golf tournaments.

I live in Matthews, NC, with my wife Jane and our temperamental 35-year-old Mexican Red-Headed Parrot (Nacho). Enjoy riding my Harley and scuba diving when not working.

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John Winn Miller - An award-winning investigative reporter, foreign correspondent, editor and publisher. He has worked for The Associated Press, the Wall Street Journal/Europe, The Lexington Herald-Leader, the Centre Daily Times, the Tallahassee Democrat, The (WA) Olympian and the Concord Monitor. He started his AP career in the Louisville bureau in 1979 then moved to the Foreign Desk (under Nate Polowetzky) and then the Rome bureau from 1982-86. He served on The Associated Press board of directors and has been a Pulitzer Prize juror. He is currently journalist in residence at the University of Kentucky. He is also an independent movie producer and chief strategy

officer of Friends2Follow an internet start-up that helps more than 180 media organizations make money from their advertisers' social media.

Jim Richards, longtime AP sports freelance writer, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Jim Richards, a veteran freelance writer who covered the Los Angeles Angels at spring training for The Associated Press, has died. He was 57.

He died in his sleep on Aug. 17 at his home in Buckeye, Arizona, of undetermined causes, according to his sister Noreen Richards. He was buried Monday in Johnston City, Illinois.

Richards covered the Angels at their spring training home in Tempe for the AP for nearly 20 years, writing game and feature stories. He freelanced for newspapers in Arizona, Illinois and Texas during his career, covering high school, college and professional sports.

He worked as an official scorer for minor league baseball's Arizona League for 17 years. Richards' other passion was music. He was a self-taught keytar player and an avid Beatles fan who created and managed an online chat room dedicated to the band.



He moved to Arizona from his hometown of Chicago in 1989. He graduated from Arizona State in 1992 with a degree in broadcasting and political science.

Besides his sister, he is survived by his father Herbert and brother Michael.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

AP raises the standard in live video for customers

AP announced Monday a significant expansion of its live video content offering for broadcasters.

Since the launch of AP Direct in 2003, AP has been the market leader in delivering live content. Technology transformations mean that now, besides AP Direct, broadcasters can access three additional live content channels from AP Video Hub, its online video delivery platform. Previously only available to digital publishers, the three channels will offer a wide range of scheduled live global and regional events on top of breaking news. This will enable extended coverage of live news for broadcasters, as well as a wider choice of additional content.

"The needs of broadcasters continue to change along with the audiences they serve," said Derl McCrudden, head of international video news for AP. "Not only do they now have more television channels to fill, but many of them also have a digital offering -- reaching consumers across several platforms. The changes will allow them to offer variety and add value to their audiences however they are viewing."

Today's audiences expect live video coverage on multiple devices and platforms. They are still looking for breaking and key news events but now they also want to see political, cultural and religious events, red carpet coverage, product launches, technology shows,

sports news and more. To ensure that its customers are well equipped to meet this demand, AP is also investing in additional live newsgathering capacity.

"AP revolutionized how live content was delivered to broadcasters when it launched AP Direct in 2003," concluded McCrudden. "Since then we have continued to strengthen our offering across the board, working closely with customers and responding to their needs wherever possible. Live video is clearly playing a significant role in broadcasters' strategies and the latest changes help strengthen their ability to retain and attract audiences across all their platforms.

McCrudden added: "We've already increased our AP Direct output by nearly 50 percent in the last two years. However, while we will be increasing the volume further still, this is about offering broadcasters a much broader choice and the ability to offer live content genres that go much wider than simply news."

These changes are part of a broader initiative by AP, which will implement ongoing changes to its video offering. Due to the consistent demand for increased live content from all of its customers, this will remain a focus of the initiative through 2015. As part of this effort, AP plans to switch off its Global Video Wire at the end of March 2016, moving all customers to digital delivery ahead of that time."

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Stories of interest

DoD manual allows journalists to be held as 'belligerents'

WASHINGTON (AP) - New Defense Department guidelines allow commanders to punish journalists and treat them as "unprivileged belligerents" if they believe journalists are sympathizing or cooperating with the enemy.

The Law of War manual, updated to apply for the first time to all branches of the military, contains a vaguely worded provision that military commanders could interpret broadly, experts in military law and journalism say. Commanders could ask journalists to leave military bases or detain journalists for any number of perceived offenses.



"In general, journalists are civilians," the 1,180 page manual says, but it adds that "journalists may be members of the armed forces, persons authorized to accompany the armed forces, or unprivileged belligerents."

A person deemed "unprivileged belligerent" is not entitled to the rights afforded by the

Geneva Convention so a commander could restrict from certain coverage areas or even hold indefinitely without charges any reporter considered an "unprivileged belligerent."

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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Jorge Ramos Is Not Walter Cronkite (New York Times Magazine)



Shortly after Donald Trump's bodyguard forcibly removed him from a press conference in Dubuque, Iowa, the Univision news anchor Jorge Ramos declared that the ejection had caught him by surprise. As he told George Stephanopoulos on "Good Morning America," "Never in my life, and I've been a journalist more than 30 years, have I been thrown out of a press conference." Technically, Ramos's statement is true. But anyone who has read his books knows that he has tangled with bodyguards before, even if they weren't at a press conference.

In his 2002 memoir, "No Borders: A Journalist's Search for Home," Ramos recounts that in 1991 he was elbowed in the stomach and knocked to the ground by a bodyguard after accosting a politician, peppering him with questions and making an uncomfortable declaration. This time, the politician was President Fidel Castro of Cuba, and what Ramos said was, "Many people believe that this is the time for you to call for an election." At the last word, the bodyguard's elbow struck.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Bloomberg Editor Lays Out Newsroom's Vision After Layoffs (Huffington Post)

NEW YORK - Just hours after laying off roughly 80 staffers, Bloomberg editor John Micklethwait said Tuesday afternoon that he wanted the media company to become the definitive "chronicle of capitalism," according to a memo obtained by The Huffington Post.



He also attributed the layoffs to a need to refocus resources, and said they weren't about downsizing.

"It always hurts to let talented, dedicated people go, and no journalist likes to tell other journalists that they are losing their jobs," Micklethwait wrote in the memo to staffers.

"But this is not about downsizing; it is about refocusing our considerable resources."

Micklethwait, who was hired by CEO Michael Bloomberg from The Economist late last year and officially began in February, has said in recent months that the company must focus its efforts around six core topics: business, finance, markets, technology, economics and power, which encompasses government and politics.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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News Guild starts \$500,000 campaign to organize digital newsrooms

(Politico)

The News Guild - known until recently as the Newspaper Guild - has traditionally been the union for American journalists who produce written work. Lately, though, in the digital-media business, it has been overshadowed by the Writers Guild of America-East union, which has organized the editorial staffs at digital-only news outlets Gawker Media, Salon and Vice Media.

It's something the News Guild wants to change.

"I think we've been there slugging away and we haven't perhaps got as much attention, but we're going to change that," News Guild president Bernie Lunzer told POLITICO in a recent interview. "We're going to make sure people understand who we are and what we have to offer."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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As giant platforms rise, local news is getting crushed (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

This has not been a good year for local news.

That's a sentence I could have written any year for the past decade, for a host of reasons now numbingly familiar. But 2015 has felt like a turning point for the most threatened sector of the American news ecosystem. And I'm worried that some of what hopefulness remains in the system is being wrung out by changes in the larger digital world.



There will still be success stories, sure. But the most important job that local news has

done for decades - providing a degree of accountability to thousands of local communities across the country - is increasingly going undone. And the chances of any true digital substitute arising seem to be on the decline. It's worth stepping back for a moment to consider why things have gotten as bad as they have - and why I suspect they'll get substantially worse in the next few years.

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

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CNN Alters Debate Criteria, Which Could Help Carly Fiorina (New York Times)

CNN announced on Tuesday that it would amend the criteria for picking candidates for the next Republican debate, scheduled for Sept. 16. The move followed criticism from supporters of Carly Fiorina and others that she was being unfairly excluded.

The switch effectively helps candidates who have moved up in the polls since the first Republican debate - chiefly Mrs. Fiorina, whose performance in the non-prime-time debate in Cleveland last month impressed some donors and conservative leaders.

Even some who support other candidates have argued that the party would benefit from the presence of Mrs. Fiorina, a former Hewlett-Packard executive and the only woman in the field.

In a statement, CNN said it was changing the original criteria because of a paucity of new national polls being taken between the Republicans' first presidential debate and the planned September debate.

Click [here](#) to read more.

The Final Word

Today, Google introduces a new logo. Google Google to find out why...



Today in History - September 2, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, September 2, the 245th day of 2015. There are 120 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II.

On this date:

In 1666, the Great Fire of London broke out.

In 1789, the United States Treasury Department was established.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman's forces occupied Atlanta.

In 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt offered the advice, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" in a speech at the Minnesota State Fair.

In 1924, the Rudolf Friml operetta "Rose Marie" opened on Broadway.

In 1935, a Labor Day hurricane slammed into the Florida Keys, claiming more than 400 lives.

In 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam an independent republic. (Ho died on this date in 1969.)

In 1963, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace prevented the integration of Tuskegee High School by encircling the building with state troopers. "The CBS Evening News" with Walter Cronkite was lengthened from 15 to 30 minutes, becoming network television's first half-hour nightly newscast.

In 1969, in what some regard as the birth of the Internet, two connected computers at the University of California, Los Angeles, passed test data through a 15-foot cable.

In 1972, Dave Wottle of the United States won the men's 800-meter race at the Munich Summer Olympics.

In 1986, a judge in Los Angeles sentenced Cathy Evelyn Smith to three years in prison for involuntary manslaughter for her role in the 1982 drug overdose death of comedian **John Belushi**. (Smith served 18 months.)

In 1998, a Swissair MD-11 jetliner crashed off Nova Scotia, killing all 229 people aboard.

Ten years ago: A National Guard convoy packed with food, water and medicine rolled into New Orleans four days after Hurricane Katrina. Scorched by criticism about sluggish federal help, President George W. Bush toured the Gulf Coast and met with state and local officials, including New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin; at one point, Bush praised FEMA Director Michael Brown, telling him, "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job." During a live

TV benefit concert, rapper **Kanye West** went off-script to sharply criticize President Bush, saying he "doesn't care about black people." The Labor Department reported the August unemployment rate was 4.9 percent, a four-year low. Machinists at Boeing Co. went on a nearly month-long strike. Actor Bob Denver, 70, died in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Five years ago: Israeli and Palestinian leaders pledged in a first round of renewed peace talks in Washington to keep meeting at regular intervals. Seattle Storm forward Lauren Jackson was selected the WNBA's most valuable player for the third time in her career.

One year ago: Islamic State group extremists released a video showing the beheading of American journalist Steven Sotloff, and warned President Barack Obama against further U.S. airstrikes on the group. Apple said that hackers had obtained nude photos of actress Jennifer Lawrence and other female celebrities by pilfering images from individual accounts rather than through a broader attack on the company's services.

Today's Birthdays: Dancer-actress Marge Champion is 96. Former Sen. Alan K. Simpson, R-Wyo., is 84. Actor-comedian Chuck McCann is 81. Former United States Olympic Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth is 78. Actor Derek Fowlds (TV: "Yes, Minister"; "Yes, Prime Minister") is 78. Singer Jimmy Clanton is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sam Gooden (The Impressions) is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rosalind Ashford (Martha & the Vandellas) is 72. Singer Joe Simon is 72. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw is 67. Basketball Hall of Famer Nate Archibald is 67. Actor Mark Harmon is 64. Former Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., is 64. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jimmy Connors is 63. Actress Linda Purl is 60. Rock musician Jerry Augustyniak (10,000 Maniacs) is 57. Country musician Paul Deakin (The Mavericks) is 56. Pro Football Hall of Famer Eric Dickerson is 55. Actor **Keanu Reeves** is 51. International Boxing Hall of Famer Lennox Lewis is 50. Actress Salma Hayek is 49. Actor Tuc Watkins is 49. Actress Kristen Cloke is 47. Actress Cynthia Watros is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer K-Ci is 46. Actor-comedian Katt Williams is 42. Actor Michael Lombardi is 41. Actress Tiffany Hines is 38. Rock musician Sam Rivers (Limp Bizkit) is 38. Actor Jonathan Kite is 36. Actress Allison Miller is 30. Rock musician Spencer Smith is 28. Electronic music DJ/producer Zedd is 26.

Thought for Today: "Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." - Margaret Mead, American anthropologist (1901-1978).

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.

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