

Connecting - September 9, 2015

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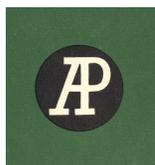
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Wed, Sep 9, 2015 at 9:06 AM

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Connecting

September 9, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

"Venus and Serena would have been proud of how Jim died; they should have given him a moment of silence tonight."

Connecting colleague **Bobbie Seril**, who worked with **Jim Mangan** for seven years in New York Membership, concluded her memory of Jim with this sentence - referring to the Williams sisters' battle on Tuesday night in the U.S. Open quarterfinals (won by Serena).

Jim died of a heart attack last Friday in San Antonio while playing tennis - a game he loved.



Serena Williams AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Jim's son **Andy Mangan** was certain his father "would be watching this fantastic sisters' match, cheering them both. He had huge respect for the Williams clan and its accomplishments. My dad took up tennis as a young man and played for 60 years. He had a consistent and strong serve, but his driving forehand was his go-to weapon.

"He had a little trouble covering the court in recent years, but still played some singles with me and Katie from time to time. A few weeks ago, my son Danny visited on his way back to Yale's School of Management. Danny

played tennis for Austin Westlake High School and was traveling with his close girlfriend, Evgeniya Kim, a former number-one tennis player in Uzbekistan and another Yale SOM second-year student. My dad couldn't wait to get these 27-year-olds out on his neighborhood courts for some pointers, which they did, and he loved it, saying he may have "found the secret," a familiar comment.

"Stan Wawrinka, Roger Federer's former practice partner, was a favorite of his."

Bobbie's was among a number of fond memories shared by Connecting members about Jim, who was vice president for Membership after bureau chief assignments in Frankfurt, Dallas and New Orleans and a great career as an AP journalist in earlier years. She noted that they had been out of touch with one another for a number of years but were brought together by email through Connecting.



Jim and Bev, after tennis match with grandson Danny

We lead off with the AP wire obituary that moved Tuesday - shared by colleague **Tom Berman**, AP Central regional editor in Chicago and a Connecting colleague.

Paul

AP wire story on death of Jim Mangan

By **JAMIE STENGLE**
The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) - James W. Mangan, whose 36-year

career with The Associated Press included covering President John F. Kennedy's assassination and getting an exclusive interview with a former Texas election judge who said he certified enough fictitious ballots to steal a 1948 primary runoff election for the U.S. Senate for Lyndon B. Johnson, has died. Mangan, who spent the last decade of his AP career as vice president in charge of membership, was 87.

Andrew Mangan said his father died of a heart ailment Friday while playing tennis in San Antonio.

"If you look at his career history, AP tossed a lot of different challenges to Jim. He did well in every one of them," said Louis D. Boccardi, former AP president and CEO.



1988 photo

James Mangan started with AP in San Francisco in 1952 and went to work at the World Services operation in New York in 1954. He went to Dallas as assistant bureau chief in 1963 and was among those who covered the Kennedy assassination. In 1965 he became the bureau chief in New Orleans before returning to Dallas, where he served as bureau chief from 1969-1977. He moved to Europe in 1977 to head AP's operations in Germany, Switzerland and Eastern Europe.

Upon returning to the U.S., he served as a vice president in charge of membership in New York City from 1978 until his retirement on Jan. 1, 1989.

"He rose to the top revenue position in AP as a corporate vice president, but his heart never left the newsroom. He was also indispensable as a mentor to many future AP reporters and managers," said John O. Lumpkin, the AP's former vice president for newspaper markets and a former Dallas chief of bureau.

Boccardi said Mangan took the helm in dealing with members at a transitional time in the company.

"It was a period where UPI (United Press International) was going to make it or not make it. It was a time when the newspapers began to feel financial pressures," he said, adding, "It was also a time when we had to develop whole new ways of doing things within AP and his job was to be sort of the ambassador to the membership about the changes we were making."

"He carried it out wonderfully," Boccardi said.

Mangan's 1977 story on the LBJ election came after he got an exclusive interview with Luis Salas, the election judge for Jim Wells County's Box 13, which produced enough votes in the 1948 Texas Democratic primary run-off to give Johnson the nomination to the U.S. Senate. Salas is quoted in Mangan's story saying, "Johnson did not win that election; it was

stolen for him. And I know exactly how it was done."

Andrew Mangan said his father had pursued the election judge for several years, all while performing his administrative duties as bureau chief.

As assistant bureau chief in Dallas in 1963, his father was among reporters waiting for the arrival of Kennedy at the Trade Mart following the motorcade procession downtown, Andrew Mangan said. He said his father knew something was wrong when he heard police radio traffic "going crazy," then saw police speeding away.

James Mangan then went into the bureau, filing to the wire continually for thirteen hours after the president's assassination.

Mangan was born on July 25, 1928, in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, growing up there and in Binghamton, New York. After high school, he joined the Army and served in Italy following World War II. He then returned to the U.S. and graduated from Columbia University in New York.

His survived by his wife, Bev, and sons Andrew, Charles and Peter.

Connecting members remember Jim Mangan

Joseph Benham - Jim Mangan and former Texas Governor Coke Stevenson had this in common: they both were entitled to claim, "We wuz robbed!!" after Lyndon Johnson's 97-vote "landslide" victory in a 1948 Senate race.

Stevenson (in photo at right) won the Democrat primary (the only election that counted in the years that Texas was a one-party state), only to see himself counted out when 200 votes were added -- in green ink in the same handwriting -- to the tally from the infamous Box 13 in a South Texas county controlled by an ally of LBJ.

Mangan was passed over by the Pulitzer judges after he found the election judge from that precinct and persuaded him to confirm that he had tampered with the ballot box.

Jim's exclusive story got page-one treatment in papers throughout the country and even overseas.. His failure to win a Pulitzer for investigative reporting is as puzzling as the U.S. Supreme Court's barring an investigation of that election by a lower federal court.



Coke Stevenson

After leaving office, LBJ joked about the theft of that Senate seat. Among other examples, he told of one crew sent out to copy names off tombstones and add them to the election tally sheets. When they admitted that they had failed to get one name, LBJ sent them back out, insisting, "That man has just as much right to vote in this election as anyone else!"

When columnist and talk-show host William Buckley learned that I'm a fifth-generation Texan, he told me, "One of my grandfathers was a Texan, and he voted for Lyndon Johnson in 1948."

Then, with that famous twinkle in his eye, he added, "Of course, my grandfather died in 1938, but . . ."

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Mike Cochran - I left Dallas to open the Fort Worth AP office shortly before Jim Mangan was appointed assistant bureau chief in Texas and my most vivid early recollections of working with him occurred in the wake of the Kennedy assassination in 1963. As others have noted, Jim was membership dynamite besides being an outstanding newsman and administrator.

We did occasionally find time for golf outings and frosty brews, and he often complained that the AP had no staffers between Fort Worth and the New Mexico bureau in Albuquerque, leaving the vast area of West Texas uncovered. And he would, in 1969, change my life forever.

Dallas bureau chief Bob Johnson had ordered me to compose a letter maintaining in effect that I was ready to move on from my job as Fort Worth correspondent and take on new and greater responsibilities outside Texas. I didn't want to leave Texas but I did write him a letter, then headed to our Houston office at NASA to join my AP colleagues covering the Apollo 11 moon landing mission.

Shortly after my arrival, I received a telephone call from Johnson and he was more than a little disgruntled. My letter was unacceptable, he said, because it reflected little enthusiasm for moving up to a new job. He ordered me to write another one with a different tone, reminding me that he was requesting a job for me in San Francisco and that I should be grateful. I pointed out again that I wasn't eager to leave Texas but that I would get him the letter he demanded after the moon flight.

Two or three days later I received a call from Jim, who by then had been promoted to bureau chief in New Orleans. He told me he had been talking with Johnson and learned that I was headed to San Francisco. He joked with me for awhile, then revealed that Johnson had just been summoned to New York. And he said he had been selected to succeed him as bureau chief in Texas.

Reminding me of our conversations about West Texas, he asked me if I were given a company car, a plump expense account and the freedom to roam the state writing and calling on AP members, could I be persuaded to remain in Fort Worth and focus principally on West Texas.

"Don't toss me in that briar patch!" I shouted gleefully.

Thus began 30 years in the greatest job imaginable. Eventually the AP did assign staffers

in Lubbock and El Paso and I expanded my largely feature writing and membership activities considerably. I also became entrenched as host of the hospitality suites at the annual APME meetings around the state, a delightful task that I enjoy to this day.

And one final Mangan footnote: Most of the last two decades at the AP I was under the wings of Bureau Chief John Lumpkin, a longtime and multi-talented friend from his days at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram whom Jim had hired in the early '70s.

At my request.

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Steve Graham - I seem to remember that Linda Ellerbee, in her 1986 best-selling autobiography, *And So It Goes*, thanks Jim Mangan for firing her in Dallas when she wrote a less-than complimentary letter to a friend on the CRT and accidentally sent it out to Texas members. Otherwise, she might have spent her career doing Texas sports.... Unfortunately, I cannot find my copy.

Click [here](#) for a video of Ellerbee's interview about her firing from the AP in 1972.

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George Krinsky - I guess we have to get used to the passing of colleagues in a retirees' newsletter, but the death of Jim Mangan (in the Sept. 8 Connecting) was a particularly hard one to take.

Jim was an original. I never worked directly with him, but it was always good to know he was upstairs while I was laboring on the 4th floor back in the 1980s.

To me, he was "Gentleman Jim," a legend from his Dallas days who was always courteous and always interested, even in things that did not relate to his job in Membership. I was in World Services, a bit of a step child in those days, because U.S. newspaper membership definitely ruled the roost. But he always took the time to ask how the outside world was going.

The "two Jims" - Mangan and Lagier - were the daily face of AP in those days, and despite my obsession with international news, I had to say: Well, I guess the domestic service is in good hands.

As always, it's a bit disconcerting to have to wait for an obit to learn about the depth of colleagues one respected, but his son Andy's story was very welcome. Thank you.

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Bobbie Seril - The seven heady years I spent working for Jim Mangan in Membership were rigorous, as we were in the throes of the battle with UPI.

But they were also a lot of fun and rewarding because Jim was a great boss who didn't miss an opportunity to offer us praise or encouragement.

Because of my extra-curricular family real estate business, I think Jim and the others regarded me as a curiosity, a hobbyist. But that didn't stop him from giving me tremendous responsibility or letting me run with tough assignments.

For example, computerization of Membership data was in its infancy; Jim anointed me statistics czarina and official source of every possible permutation of membership services.

He was not without humor. On one occasion, an Arizona member had threatened cancellation, with the disconnect date a few days away. Jim called the paper's bluff by having me phone the small satellite paper receiving the service via the member. "Just pretend you're dumb and tell them you're calling to confirm the order to remove all AP equipment." (I thanked him for the pretend part.)

He sat there as I made the call --- I really got into it, too. The publisher was stunned, and the notice was lifted within a few hours. He later paid me a terrific compliment, saying how much he enjoyed seeing me profess utter ignorance of the procedures and policy I knew so well.

Another time after I had completed a major research project on the history of AP service to Alaska, Jim decided to say thanks with a department lunch. Since it was also my birthday, he let me pick the restaurant. I was about to open my mouth, when he said, "anywhere except a place that has pink tablecloths." Well, that ruled out my two favorite places, so I started to think of an alternative. Jim seized that rare moment of my silence to offer my choice of '21' or the Rainbow Room which worked out just fine.

I also remember with gratitude his understanding when I took a leave of absence because of family business obligations arising out of my father's sudden death.

Venus and Serena would have been proud of how Jim died; they should have given him a moment of silence tonight.

Jim Mangan was an officer and a gentleman.

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Marty Thompson - in a note to Jim's son Andrew Mangan -

It is a special privilege to be able to write the story about your father's life and the significant roles he played in the AP and American journalism.

It was a full life, but you knew that.

Jim was one of my heroes as a then young bureau chief in San Francisco. We met then on one of his visits to SF when you were in town - perhaps living there, I'm not sure.

While his role in covering JFK's assassination stands out, there aren't many stories around like "landslide Lyndon." I loved reading about your dad telling Burl he wasn't giving up the source's location, and was leaving the country in two days.

A proud man with guts.

Warm regards to you, Bev and the rest of your family as you celebrate Jim's life.

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Peggy Walsh - When I think of Jim Mangan there are several memories that come to mind.

One of the earliest was shortly after I was named San Francisco COB in 1986. Jim wasn't the only New York executive a little nervous about having a woman in charge of a territory with four major dailies, including one, the Oakland Tribune, where AP board member Bob Maynard was publisher. There were other women at other bureaus but as one person (not Jim), who shall remain unnamed, put it, "you're on the other side of the country. Don't screw this up."

One of my first duties was to attend an ASNE meeting several weeks after I arrived. Jim spent a lot of time talking to me about what I should do, that I should not take no for an answer but also that I should report to him each day about who I had had dinner with and what contacts I had made.

My second day I did the usual rounds but was coming up short on a dinner companion when I ran into two editor friends from my days in the Atlanta bureau. Both were on their way to a dinner hosted by Tom Johnson, then publisher of The Los Angeles Times, who began his newspaper career in Macon, Ga. Despite my protests that Johnson wouldn't appreciate an uninvited guest, they dragged me in and Johnson welcomed me warmly to what was the most amazing dinner I ever attended while working with AP.

The next morning I called Jim with my "dinner report" and he laughed and said I didn't need to call him anymore and that he couldn't wait to share the story.

At the same time, I was having trouble getting the publisher of The San Francisco Chronicle to meet with the "new woman" and, remembering Jim's advice, went through a receiving line at an event hosted by the publisher. When my time came to shake his hand I politely told him I had been trying to make an appointment to see him and that I'd get fired if I didn't. We had a meeting that week.

Still early in my days as COB, Dean Singleton was having a group meeting of Media News, of which he was head at the time. The meeting was in Napa, in my territory. AP was having trouble with the group and John Lumpkin and Hal Buell were meeting with them. I learned about it and called Jim, demanding to know why no one told me about it since I had several Media News newspapers and Singleton and his partner both knew my Dad so I was sure I could be of some help. He apologized for the oversight.

After I left the AP in 1990 to work at The New York Times I was at a group meeting on Amelia Island and called Jim to see if we could get together. He and his lovely wife, Bev, invited me to their home and then Jim and I went out for lunch, trading lots of good AP stories.

We've corresponded by email on and off since I left The Times. Jim was a reserved, tell-it-like-it-is man who cared deeply about the AP. He was a terrific yet demanding mentor and (forgive the term) man enough to admit a mistake. I mourn his loss but am so glad he died doing exactly what he wanted to do, playing tennis. I hope his family can take comfort in that and in the many people whose life he touched.

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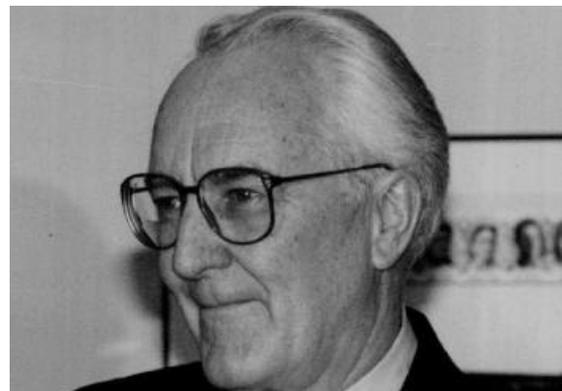
Kent Zimmerman - I was night city editor in the Chicago Bureau in early 1968 when Jim Mangan called COB Al Orton in search of a news editor to replace the departing Ron Thompson in New Orleans. I had been with the AP less than 18 months in Chicago, which I believe had no formal news editor position. So after Orton turned the phone over to me and after some initial pleasantries I asked what exactly a news editor does in the AP. Something must have clicked because Jim gave me a chance and brought me to New Orleans and my first news editor gig. He was a calming figure during big stories and a great mentor during the year or so we worked together.

Former AP director, Tribune exec Stanton Cook dies

Chicago Tribune:

Former Tribune Co. CEO Stanton R. Cook inherited an underperforming company and transformed it into a modern, diversified media corporation that broke with its conservative past, endured a lengthy union strike and bought a Major League Baseball team.

Cook, 90, died of natural causes on Thursday in his Kenilworth home, said his son, Doug.



"Stan Cook was a terrific leader and one of the pioneers in diversifying media companies," Tony Hunter, publisher and CEO of Chicago Tribune Media Group, said. "He always talked about the joy he got from working with so many talented, good people."

Cook's son said he "was the quintessential Midwestern gentleman" who had a very strong moral compass.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Lou Boccardi, former AP president and CEO, shared these thoughts about Cook, who served as an AP director for the maximum nine years:

"Stan was a man of easy personal grace but firm business principle. When controversial issues arose, his was a consistent voice for trying to find, among the choices, the "right" thing to do. He was an enthusiastic traveler on international board missions and on those trips his hands were rarely without a camera. He combined the qualities of a senior business executive with a reporter's curiosity. He remained a good friend long after his AP board time ended, a friendship which I will always appreciate."

EDITOR'S NOTE - I worked with Stan Cook's daughter Nancy in the Albuquerque bureau when she was an AP broadcast executive. A delightful person. If anyone knows how she can be reached, please drop me a note. Paul Stevens - stevenspl@live.com

UPI veteran Lawrence DeSantis dies at age of 85



Pat Benac, at left, wrote: The legendary UPI Newspictures Managing Editor Larry DeSantis passed away this past weekend. In better times, Michael Feldman (right), Denis Paquin and myself treated Larry to lunch at one of his favorite restaurants in Little Italy in 2007 (and yes that is spaghetti sauce on his sweatshirt). Larry gave us our careers with UPI (and then Reuters), so we bought him lunch. Denis and I both worked for Larry in New York in the early 1980's -- and yes, it is true that Larry used to cut his pizza with the same scissors he edited our negatives a few minutes later, but he always picked the right frame! One story, in my rookie year with UPI at a

World Series in the '70's, Larry gave some advice that I remember to this day. He asked me to do something and I said I will try, and he said, "Never say try, as that gives you a built-in excuse to fail -- tell me you will do it and then I know you tried". All best to his wife AnnMarie and family.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Lawrence DeSantis, 85, of Prince's Bay, a retired managing editor of United Press International and a respected figure in the fast-paced and competitive world of news agencies, died Saturday in Lutheran Hospital, Brooklyn.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, he had lived in the same house in Dyker Heights for 53 years before moving to Prince's Bay three years ago.

Mr. DeSantis graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School and earned his bachelor's degree in English from Brooklyn College.

He and AnnMarie Monteleone met while they were in elementary school, became high school sweethearts, and were married 64 years ago in Regina Pacis R.C. Church, Brooklyn.

Mr. DeSantis had a 40-year career with UPI, based in Manhattan but traveling the world to cover national and international events and breaking news. He retired in 1986.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Brooklyn.

Mr. DeSantis relished time spent with his family. A sports enthusiast, he rooted for the New York Yankees. He also enjoyed music, movies, MGM musicals, playing cards and literature.

He was a parishioner of St. Bernadette R.C. Church, Brooklyn.

His daughter, Deborah DeSantis, died in 2012.

Surviving, along with his wife, AnnMarie, are his daughters, Barbara Amari and Lorraine Boccia; his brother, Frank, and five grandchildren.

The funeral will be Wednesday from the Bedell-Pizzo Funeral Home, Tottenville, with a mass at 10:30 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle R.C. Church, Pleasant Plains. Burial will follow in Resurrection Cemetery, also Pleasant Plains.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story. Shared by Michael Feldman.

Connecting mailbox

Looking for a sexier dateline

John Nolan - It was another step in the education of a young AP newsman. I learned what was possible when a prominent, out-of-state AP reporter was assigned to "help out" on a major breaking story.

I was in my second year with AP as a staff newsman in the Nashville bureau in 1977, when James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from a remote state prison in the mountains of eastern Tennessee.

It was among the highlights of what became a monster news year in Tennessee, with the death of Elvis Presley and with yet another scandal for the administration of Gov. Ray Blanton, when state officials were accused of providing surplus state-owned cars at friendly rates to political allies.

Ray's escape became all-consuming for a few days, as authorities hunted for him before tracking him down in the rural, rugged landscape. The Tennessee staff was keeping the story running on the AAA wire when the General Desk decided to send in a reinforcement: Harry Rosenthal, the AP Washington reporter known for his coverage of the Watergate scandal.

The Tennessee staff had been using the dateline of Petros, Tenn., a small community that was the closest one to the institution from which Ray escaped, Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary. But after Rosenthal arrived to bolster our coverage, he decided that the dateline was somewhat lacking.

He told the General Desk that Petros wasn't "sexy." So, he suggested, "How about calling it Brushy Mountain, Tenn.?"

The General Desk went along. For the rest of the story's coverage, the dateline on the national and state wires was Brushy Mountain.

I can't recall witnessing anything similar during my nearly 29 years with the AP.

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Teletype name plate



Larry Hamlin - Here's another version of the Teletype name plate. I'm not sure, but I think it's the original version from the very early Teletype days. Maybe some of the older-timers can shed some light on its origins.

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Richard Pyle - One thing about living in New York City is that you never know what famous person you might encounter on the street or some other unexpected location.

I thought of this while watching the TV revival this week of Ken Burns' classic film documentary "The Civil War," which in beautifully re-edited form is showing over five nights on PBS.

Case in point: Around 1995, I was working a weekend schedule in the AP's NYC bureau and on returning from an assignment one Sunday morning I saw a stranger standing, and looking somewhat lost, in the 6th floor elevator lobby at 50 Rock.

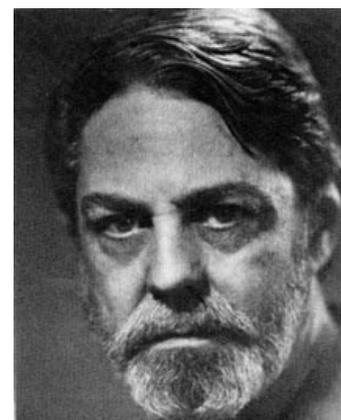
He didn't stay a stranger for long, as I recognized him, to my surprise, as Shelby Foote, the honey-voiced historian-author from Tennessee who had become a national TV celebrity for his thoughtfully pithy commentaries on the Civil War series.

I said, "You are." He smiled and said, "I am."

Inviting him into the bureau (and introducing him to the handful of astonished colleagues also working on a Sunday), I asked Shelby Foote what had brought him to New York and especially to the AP?

Foote replied that he was in town to meet with his editor or his agent (I forget which) and to "pick up a new supply of dip pens."

He added, "I also just wanted to drop by the AP to see how it has changed since the days that I worked here, right after the war." (Meaning of course,



WW2, not the one that made him famous). Despite the desktop computers and other differences, he said, it was still recognizable as a news bureau.

It was news to me that Shelby Foote had ever worked for AP and I don't know how many other people in the company knew that. He did say he had the NYC job only for a brief time, and didn't offer much other information, other than he had "enjoyed it."

Nor did he say much about his own military career - perhaps because he reportedly lost his commission as an Army artillery officer after borrowing a military vehicle, without permission, to visit a girlfriend.

We talked about our mutual interest in the Civil War and he told me his souvenirs included a sword that once belonged to Gen Nathan Bedford Forrest, the bloodthirsty Confederate cavalry leader. I found that slightly odd from a Southerner known as a critic of the Lost Cause.

But interviews and other published material about Shelby Foote depict an author comfortable in his own rebellion against many conventions - and not least, for a man of words, the typewriter.

Having read his early novel, "Shiloh" and large parts of his landmark 20-year project, the 3,000-page, 1.5 million-word trilogy, "The Civil War: A Narrative," I had to ask: Did you actually do all that writing with "dip pens?"

"Every word," said Shelby Foote. "It forces a writer to go slowly, to take the time to really think about how he wants to say something."

Postscript: Shelby Foote died in Memphis TN, in 2005, age 88.

Perhaps his most memorable comment, (as quoted in a New York Times obit), came when someone observed that it took him five times as long to write the history of the war as it did the soldiers to fight it. Said Foote: "There was a lot more of them than there was of me."

Welcome to Connecting



Chris Carola ([Email](#))

David Dow ([Email](#))

John Nolan ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Why the old-school 'live shot' is still the gold standard of local TV news

(Washington Post)

RICHMOND - The streetlight is Jake Burns's spotlight, and there's one minute till showtime. The 5 a.m. darkness always feels the same, whether on the side of the road, in front of a closed school or in this empty parking lot. He shifts his loafers over a handicap symbol on the asphalt and mumbles the mini-monologue scratched in his reporter's notebook.

Camerawoman Bria White adjusts the shot's frame around his face. "Hopefully we're not advertising for Wendy's," she says. ¶ Burns turns to the glow of the yet-to-open fast-food joint across the street. The franchise sits behind the sign that's brought them to this parking lot before dawn. It says "Richmond Police Second Precinct." It says, here we are, coming to you live.

The night before, one man was shot about a mile from this sign. Another was shot in a nearby county.

It's Burns's job to tell viewers of Richmond's WTVR CBS 6 News what happened. Or at least, relay the three bullet points of information that police would share. It's his job, at 5 a.m., to make the news sound like something a 40-year-old mom in a bathrobe should stop and watch for a minute.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Omission - Choosing what to leave out (New Yorker)

Time in the nineteen-fifties, the entry-level job for writers was a column called Miscellany. Filled with one-sentence oddities culled from newspapers and the wire services, Miscellany ran down its third of a page like a ladder, each wee story with its own title-traditionally, and almost invariably, a pun. Writers did not long endure there, and were not meant to, but just after I showed up a hiring freeze shut the door behind me, and I wrote Miscellany for a year and a half. That came to roughly a thousand one-sentence stories, a thousand puns.

I am going to illustrate this with one, and only one, example. A person riding a bicycle on a street in Detroit fell asleep at the handlebars. My title was "Two Tired."

If a writer were ever to look back on many decades of pun-free prose, Miscellany was a good place to be when you were young. Words are too easy to play on. When I joined The New Yorker, in 1965, I left puns behind. Not that I have never suffered a relapse. In the nineteen-seventies, I turned in a manuscript containing a pun so fetid I can't remember it. My editor then was Robert Bingham, who said, "We should take that out."

Click [here](#) to read more.

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Media General to Buy Meredith Corp. for \$2.4 Billion (Wall Street Journal)

Media General Inc. said it agreed to buy Meredith Corp. for about \$2.4 billion in cash and stock, continuing a trend of consolidation in the U.S. broadcast industry as local TV stations look for negotiating leverage against large cable and satellite providers.

The offer of \$51.53 a share is a 12% premium to Meredith's closing price on Friday. Including debt, the deal is valued at \$3.1 billion.

Meredith, which began as an agricultural publisher in 1902, is known for magazines such as Better Homes & Gardens and Family Circle. But its 17 local TV stations are the centerpiece of the deal. The combined company-Meredith Media General- will encompass 88 stations that reach 30% of U.S. households, or 34 million homes.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Carol Riha.

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L.A. Times shakeup: Tribune politics, not California politics, behind publisher's ouster (Politico)

Austin Beutner, who until Tuesday served as the publisher of The Los Angeles Times,

learned that he had been fired while listening to the radio on the drive to work.

Jack Griffin, the CEO of Tribune Publishing, the Times' parent company, hadn't told Beutner the news at that point, several sources with knowledge of Tuesday's events said. Though the news had been out since 3:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Instead, Beutner, who for 13 months had been making the daily commute to downtown from his home in Pacific Palisades, found out from KNX 1070 NewsRadio.

Beutner arrived at the Times headquarters on Tuesday, calm and collected by all accounts, and held his usual morning meeting with the editors. When the meeting concluded, he was summoned to meet with Griffin. The meeting lasted no more than a few minutes. Beutner went to his office to collect his belongings and was escorted out of the building. His Times email account was deleted -- he would be forced to write his farewell to staff on Facebook -- and his access to the building revoked.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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N.Y. Times D.C. shakeup: Carolyn Ryan out, Elisabeth Bumiller in as bureau chief (Politico)

New York Times Washington bureau chief Carolyn Ryan will step down and be replaced by current Washington Editor Elisabeth Bumiller, the Times said on Tuesday.

The change, which was announced by executive editor Dean Baquet, reflects the longstanding editorial arrangement that existed in everything but name, several Times sources said. Bumiller had served as the de facto bureau chief while Ryan, who also serves as political editor, had focused on the paper's 2016 coverage.

Bumiller took control of the day-to-day business at the bureau in January, when Ryan announced she was going to focus her attention on building out the Times' political desks, though Ryan retained the title of bureau chief. Ryan leaves the bureau chief role less than two years after replacing David Leonhardt, a Pulitzer Prize-winning economic columnist who now heads the Times' 'Upshot' column.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Today in History - September 9, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2015. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 9, 1965, Sandy Koufax of the **Los Angeles Dodgers** pitched a perfect game against the Chicago Cubs at Dodger Stadium. Final score: 1-0.

On this date:

In 1543, Mary Stuart was crowned Queen of Scots at Stirling Castle, nine months after she was born.

In 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, replacing "United Colonies."

In 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

In 1893, Frances Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland, gave birth to a daughter, Esther, in the White House; it was the first (and, to date, only) time a president's child was born in the executive mansion.

In 1919, some 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-man police force went on strike. (The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge with replacement officers.)

In 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC) was incorporated by the Radio Corp. of America.

In 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1956, **Elvis Presley** made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

In 1976, Communist Chinese leader Mao Zedong died in Beijing at age 82.

In 1986, Frank Reed, director of a private school in Lebanon, was taken hostage; he was released 44 months later.

In 1997, Sinn Fein (shin fayn), the IRA's political ally, formally renounced violence as it took its place in talks on Northern Ireland's future. Actor Burgess Meredith died in Malibu, California, at age 89.

Ten years ago: Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown, the principal target of harsh criticism of the Bush administration's response to Hurricane Katrina, was relieved of his onsite command. A Nevada couple pleaded guilty in San Jose, California, to all charges related to planting a human fingertip in a bowl of Wendy's chili in a scheme to extort money from the fast food chain. Hosni Mubarak was declared winner of Egypt's first contested presidential vote.

Five years ago: A natural gas pipeline explosion killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes in the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno, California. Iran said it would free Sarah Shourd, one of three American hikers held for more than 13 months on spying

accusations, as an act of clemency to mark the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. (Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal were sentenced in August 2011 to eight years in prison, but were released the following month.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama met privately with congressional leaders at the White House to discuss his plan for taking action against Islamic State militants. Former Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown glided to an easy win in the Republican primary for Senate in neighboring New Hampshire (he ended up losing in November to incumbent Sen. Jeanne Shaheen). Apple unveiled its long-anticipated smartwatch as well as the next generation of its iPhone.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sylvia Miles is 81. Actor Topol is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Luther Simmons is 73. Singer Inez Foxx is 73. Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 70. Rock singer-musician Doug Ingle is 69. Country singer Freddy Weller is 68. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Joe Theismann is 66. Rock musician John McFee (The Doobie Brothers) is 65. Actor Tom Wopat is 64. Actress Angela Cartwright is 63. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 63. Actor **Hugh Grant** is 55. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., is 52. Actor-comedian Charles Esten (formerly Chip) is 50. Actress Constance Marie is 50. Actor David Bennent is 49. Actor Adam Sandler is 49. Rock singer Paul Durham (Black Lab) is 47. Actress Julia Sawalha is 47. Model Rachel Hunter is 46. Actor Eric Stonestreet is 44. Actor Henry Thomas is 44. Actor Goran Visnjic (VEEZ'-nihch) is 43. Pop-jazz singer Michael Buble' (boo-BLAY') is 40. Country singer Joey Martin (Joey + Rory) is 40. Latin singer Maria Rita is 38. Actress Michelle Williams is 35. Actress Julie Gonzalo is 34. Neo-soul singer Paul Janeway (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 32. Actress Zoe Kazan (TV: "Olive Kitteridge") is 32. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 24.

Thought for Today: "A heretic is a man who sees with his own eyes. " - Gotthold Lessing, German dramatist-critic (1729-1781).

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

Editor

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