

Connecting - September 19, 2015

1 message

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Sat, Sep 19, 2015 at 8:58 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

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Connecting

September 19, 2015

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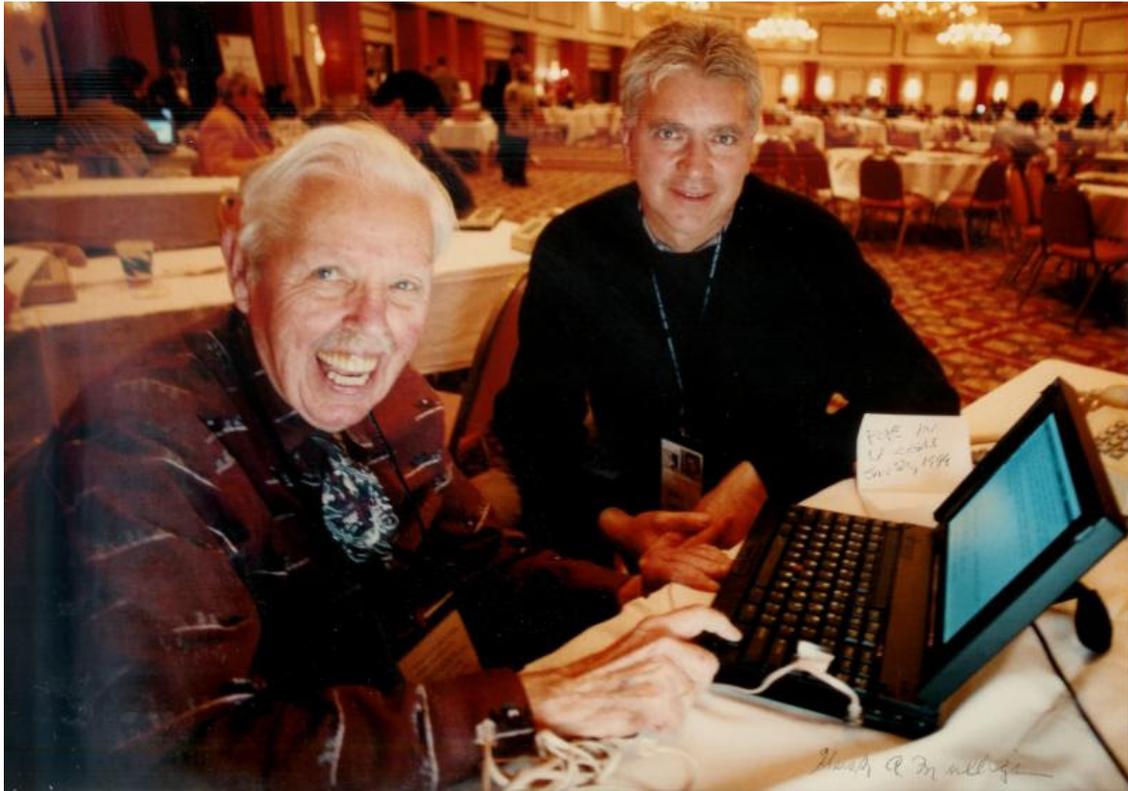


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Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

The first replies from your Connecting colleagues are in - recalling memories of covering popes past - as Pope Francis prepares for his first visit to the United States next week.

To me, you can't talk about popes and The Associated Press without recalling the memory of the late **Hugh Mulligan**, an AP special correspondent known to many of you who died in 2008 at the age of 83. Mulligan roamed the globe, visiting nearly 150 countries from Europe to equatorial Africa to Tibet. He made 28 trips with the pope and covered more than half a dozen wars, including three reporting tours in Vietnam.

In his AP obituary, it was noted: "Having studied early for the priesthood, Mulligan was more than prepared for his favorite assignments - trips with Pope John Paul II. Meeting the pontiff for the first time, he was so nervous that he dropped a bag of rosaries. But the pope blessed them, "even the broken ones," Mulligan wrote later. Colleagues joked that Mulligan could find a way to mention the Catholic church in any story, no matter the subject. He said the first person he visited in any new place was the local priest, because "they always know what's going on."

I had the privilege of serving as a go-fer for Hugh

when he came to St. Louis in 1999 for the visit of Pope John Paul II. I treasure the photo of Hugh and me above from the press room - it hung on a wall of my office until the day I retired. I recall that when Hugh's laptop failed on him on deadline, I let him borrow mine to write his story. That's as much of a papal coverage story that you'll get from Ye Olde Connecting Editor.



One other personal note - **George Bria's** lead-off memory below of covering Pope Pius XII shortly after the liberation of Rome calls to mind my father, **Walter Stevens**, who was an Army artillery captain who entered Rome with the liberation army in June 1944.

My dad and his fellow soldiers had an audience with the pope in St. Peter's Square. That's my dad at left.

Feel free to share your own memories of covering a pope, for Monday's edition.

Have a great weekend.

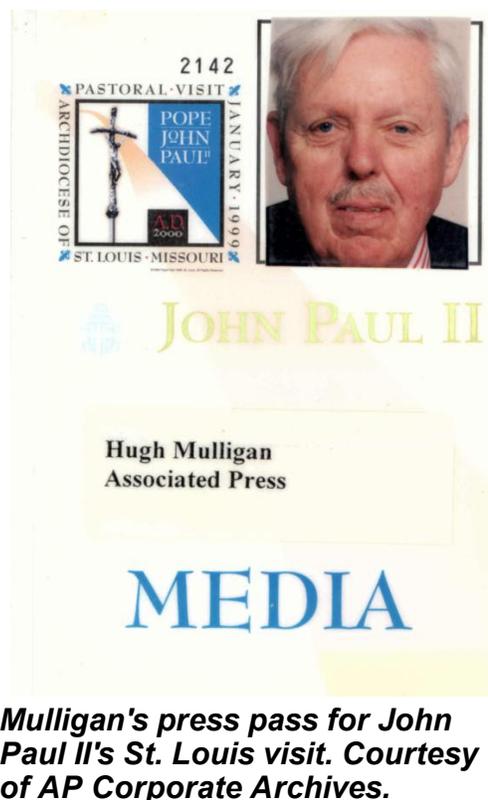
Paul

Memories of papal coverage

George Bria - Sometime after the liberation of Rome (don't remember exactly when, but the war was still on), Pope Pius XII made a speech over the Vatican radio. Nowadays, you have advance texts and all that sort of thing, but in those primitive times the only way you could cover it in a hurry was to listen to it. The Pope spoke in Italian. Since I had a grasp of the language, it fell to me to do the job. We turned on the radio in our office at Allied press headquarters and I listened in Italian and dictated takes in English to a colleague who filed them with the censor on their way to America. I'm sure highly skilled simultaneous translators would turn up their noses at my work. But we got a story out.

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Bryan Brumley - I covered the visit of Pope John Paul II back to his native Poland in August 1983. His earlier visit, in 1979, helped spark the independent Solidarity Trade



Mulligan's press pass for John Paul II's St. Louis visit. Courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.

Union the following year, so Communist authorities were wary. The Warsaw government cut a deal with the Vatican to allow the pope back to Poland and then end martial law, which they declared in December 1981 to suppress Solidarity.

Things were hopping under martial law, with many Solidarity activists still operating underground and organizing protests, which the authorities put down with varying degrees of force. The government was barely in control of the country, food and other goods were in short supply, and keeping up with it all was an athletic event. The police routinely detained Western journalists during Solidarity demonstrations. This wreaked havoc on AP deadlines; and a few hours in a communist jail, generally accompanied by questioning from the secret police, was not as restful as it might sound.



The run-up to the visit provided a great opportunity to interview Poles who had known Karol Wojtyla from his early childhood in Wadowice in the mountainous south, through his tenure as archbishop of Krakow, and beyond. Many maintained close contact after he became John Paul II. These were remarkable stories, told by steel town priests who were as tough as mill workers, by Roman Catholic intellectuals who spoke numerous languages and were instrumental in

forging and nurturing Solidarity. And of course, they were up against the police all of the time. A young Warsaw priest who became an especially good source and friend, the Rev. Jerzy Popieluszko, later was murdered by police, beaten then dumped into a frozen reservoir. But that was year after the pope's visit.

For the actual papal visit, AP sent a highly qualified team that included experts from Rome, an AP radio reporter and the legendary photo editor Horst Faas, who helped enormously with the preparations. As AP's sole correspondent in Poland, and with the government stingy on visas for other AP journalists, it fell on me to handle logistics beforehand. This while covering the unrest and the unending cat-and-mouse game between Lech Walesa and other Solidarity leaders on the one hand, and the martial law authorities on the other. The authorities were harassing those priests who most actively assisted Solidarity, and senior church officials were tight-lipped.

The Pope had drawn crowds of close to a million at each stop during his 1979 visit, and similar mobs were expected in 1983. The Poles did not disappoint. In venue after venue, as the pontiff moved around the country, millions of Poles gathered in peace and relative quiet to hear their revered countryman preach and conduct mass.

For the most part, I remained back in Warsaw, coordinating coverage and ironing out SNAFUS created by the Communist bureaucracy. I did grab the chance to cover a mass in a huge field not too far out of Warsaw, an event that was aimed at what was known as Rural Solidarity - the farmers who sympathized and helped the factory and shipyard workers of the main Solidarity union. Communications were a problem. This was long

before cell phones. And the location was so remote there were no phone lines. Polish workers strung a single-strand of wire through the trees around the field to the designated press area, and hooked up a wooden phone with a hand crank. AP had the only phone, so we were exclusive. To call AP editors back in Warsaw, I cranked the handle the way I imagined my grandparents did in the early 20th century. It worked. As at his other appearances, the crowd was estimated at close to a million. That's a lot of farmers. They were almost perfectly silent as the pope approached and during his sermon. The pontiff acknowledged the hard plight of the farmers and urged them to hang in there and keep the faith.

AP did extremely well in coverage overall. And shortly thereafter, Polish authorities kept their promise to lift martial law. Six years later, Solidarity won free elections, and the communists were out.

Here's a photo of JP II at one of the sermons.

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Hal Buell - Talk about memories of covering Papal trips. Every Papal visit is complicated and requires detailed planning. But Pope Paul VI's visit to the Holy Land present never before encountered problems.

I covered the visit which took place right after New Year's 1964. It was the first time a Pope visited the Holy Land since Peter, disciple of Jesus, left the area 2000 before. And it was the first time a Pope left the confines of the Vatican in some 150 years.

The biggest problem of this big story was that it took place in neighboring countries still legally at war - Israel and Jordan -- and, for the most part, in Jerusalem, likewise divided. The gate was the single checkpoint connection from Jordanian/Jerusalem to Israeli/Jerusalem. And passage through the gate was a one way trip, no return visa possible. It was like going from Manhattan to Brooklyn and never permitted a return to Manhattan.

On a good day, if the wind was favorable, a right fielder with a strong arm could pitch a baseball from our photo work place in Jordan to our work place in Israel but it took two days to get there in order to avoid the one-way Mandelbaum restriction. Those of us who planned the coverage traveled a circuitous route that involved Cyprus, (the Greeks and Turks were fighting so the Cyprus layover was always complicated) and Beirut and then either Tel Aviv or Amman. We communicated between work rooms via walkie-talkie radio most certainly monitored by both Israeli and Jordanian authorities who assured us that spies were everywhere.

The social highlight of our coverage was a spectacular dinner given for the AP staff - writers and photo people - in the home of AP's Amman photo stringer. It featured a whole roasted sheep stuffed with wonderfully spiced rice. Webb McKinley headed up the news team, and as honored guests we were each given an eye of the sheep staring up at us from a small cup. To be honest, I quaked at the thought and turned to our host with the comment that he was the host of honor and as such deserved the eye as his appetizer. I bowed gently, but gracefully in his direction. He smiled broadly and crunched away at the

delicacy. I never did learn how Webb handled it, though he was much more experienced at Middle Eastern social graces than I was.

Another highlight took place Christmas Eve (yes, we were there doing the planning that early) when Len Sealy (AP's Communications boss) and I thought we would visit Bethlehem. Our car drove us through Jordan's hilly country side. There really were shepherds tending their flock and the black night sky was filled with brilliant stars. As we turned atop a hill we looked down on the birthplace of Jesus. A huge flashing neon star trailing a wake of neon red told us that the Bethlehem Bar and Grill was open for business. And the tourist buses were stacked side by side as far as the eye could see. Alas, reality!

On the Pope's arrival AP shared a radio circuit (no satellite's in those days) to London from the Amman airport. Film was processed in a dark room with faint blinking lights monitoring circuitry and then washed in buckets of water (no running water available), We flipped a coin with UPI to see who would get the first half hour (worth two picture transmissions). I won the toss and chose the second half hour because these things always ran late. And sure enough the Pope's arrival ran late, late even into our half hour. I let George Cornell, AP Religion Writer (affectionately known as The Bishop) dictate a story via the picture circuit as the late arriving photos were processed. When the pictures were ready he refused to give up the phone. I yanked it from his hand and off we went with one photo - King Hussein reaching out to Pope Paul on the Amman tarmac.

The coverage was a mad house. The crowds were huge and not manageable despite baton swinging soldiers and police. Often the Pope was surrounded by soldiers but sometimes was literally dragged away from the pressing crowds. Assassination was a fear of the governments, though in the end there never was a dangerous moment other than crowd pressure.

We assembled a large staff from Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Lebanon and the U.S. At one point we hired a crop duster bi-plane and hid it behind a road billboard. Washington's Henry Burroughs made an early picture, then went to the plane, waited for the Pope to pass and then flew to the next stop in time to arrive ahead of the Pope. Years later when I interviewed him for AP's Oral History program he confessed that he thought the plan would never work. I confessed that I wasn't certain either, but it was worth a try. And it did work.

Jim Pringle, Rome's Irish staffer, covered Pope Paul VI at the Sea of Galilee, but was frustrated because the Pope was looking away from his position. He yelled, "Hey, Sui Sanctissima!" It was probably the first time the Pope heard the phrase delivered so loudly and with an Irish brogue. He turned and Pringle got his shot.

The key event in the visit was the meeting between Pope Paul VI and Athenagoras, the Patriarch of Constantinople.

The Pope's visit to the Via Dolorosa and its narrow, twisting streets was a special challenge. Authorities feared overhead windows being opened for photographers violated security and each camera man was overseen by a cop, or a soldier. The Pope moved slowly through the alley-like route more often hidden by the crowds than seen by

photographers or the crowd, but a couple of pictures were made.

Then it was off (literally across the street) to Israeli Jerusalem. History was made when the combined Jordan/Israel security allowed one -rpt one-person to make back and fourth trips through the Mandelbaum Gate to hand carry photo and news equipment to the new coverage site. I drew the straw. We assembled lenses, cameras, tripods, transmitters, darkroom gear on the Jordanian side and case by case I walked through the gate and delivered a package to an AP pal. Each time, each way, on each end, my passport was stamped. I cannot recall how many times I crossed that gate but my passport contains pages upon pages of stamped documentation that I made the journey. At the end I felt like the ancient bearers that carried their loads from East to West.

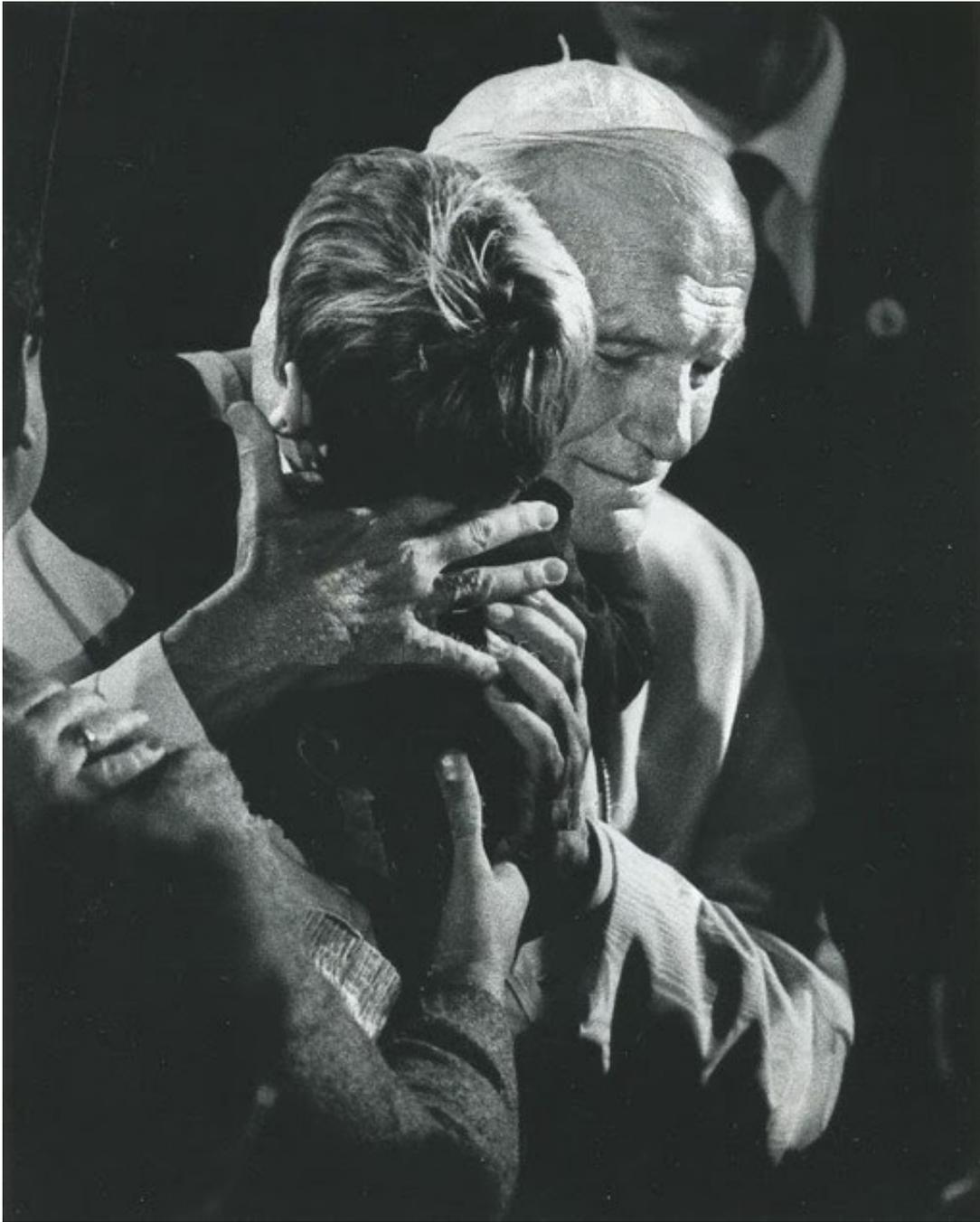
Once the Pope's visited Israeli/Jerusalem, passing through the concrete barriers and the barbed wire of the Mandelbaum gate, he met with the Israeli Prime Minister and the Mayor of Israeli Jerusalem.

Then back to Jordan and his flight to Rome, his visit complete and the AP staff bushed from the experience covering one of the great stories of the 60s.

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Chris Connell - Harry Rosenthal was the lead color writer during Pope John Paul II's first visit to the United States, when he barnstormed around the country (six stops) and wound up in Washington, where the press corps who'd accompanied the pontiff was invited to an informal, final night reception at the Apostolic Nunciature on Massachusetts Avenue opposite the Naval Observatory. When Harry got the pope's ear, he thanked John Paul for his hospitality, but added, "Next time, could you avoid scheduling the visit during Yom Kippur?"

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Bob Daugherty - I recall covering Pope John Paul II's eight-city tour across the United States in 1987. His first stop was Miami, where he was greeted by President Reagan. AP photo staffers leapfrogged across the country with some of us ending up in San Francisco. The highlight of his San Antonio was his drive-by of the Alamo (don't have the pix). High winds damaged the altar built for the pope's weekend appearance and toppled two nearby 12-story metal towers, but the planned Mass was went on as scheduled. I recall that Harry Cabluck had arranged for a photographer (me) to sit on the roof of a store across the street from the Alamo. After baking in the sun for a few hours, the pontiff cruised past. In San Francisco he visited a church where he hugged a young child stricken with AIDS.

Mike Holmes - I was a newsman in the Des Moines bureau when word came that Pope John Paul II was going to visit the U.S. Surprising almost everyone, the trip would include a stop in Iowa.

An Iowa farmer, Joe Hays, had read that the pope was from a farming area in Poland and thought he might want to see rural America. He wrote a letter that worked its way from the farmer to the parish priest to the bishop in Des Moines to the Vatican.

On Oct. 4, 1979, the pope arrived in Des Moines for a 350,000-person mass, which I believe was the largest gathering in the state's history.

He also paid a visit to tiny St. Patrick's in Cumming, a few miles southwest of Des Moines. St. Patrick's was a small white building with an adjacent cemetery that included gravestones for people born in every county in Ireland.



The visit was limited strictly to St. Patrick's 200 parishioners. I was one of a handful of pool reporters allowed inside. I recall the pope as a charismatic figure with an astonishing presence, and the 45-minute visit included some wonderful moments - particularly with the children.

What I remember most, though, were our arrangements for getting the news out in those pre-cellphone days. With the bureau located in downtown Des Moines and a huge crowd converging on Living History Farms, site of the big mass, we didn't want to risk getting stuck in traffic. So we had leased a motor home, convinced a farmer living across the road from the church to let us park it in his yard, and strung a single phone line for me and the photographers to share.

The problem was, while the photographers could get on the photo network just fine, when the call was transferred over to the General Desk editor to whom I was supposed to dictate, it was one-way only. They could hear me, but I couldn't hear them.

I dictated very slowly and hoped for the best. When we finally made it through the traffic and got back the bureau, the story was on the A Wire.

Everyone said it was a once-in-a-lifetime assignment. Turned out to be a once-in-eight-years assignment. As Austin correspondent, I wound up part the Texas AP team that covered the pope's visit to San Antonio in 1987.

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Robert Weller - I covered John Paul II several times, always in the Third World.

In Madagascar, while there for a trip to cover him, I heard about an aging priest from St. Louis. I think he was close to 90 years old, and lived in remote western Madagascar, far from the capital. He still traveled by ox cart.

I tracked him down, got quotes and asked the pope's spokesman for a reaction. This drew laughs from those who traveled regularly with him. "You want a pope quote." I never got one. But it was still fun writing the story.

Connecting mailbox

Greetings to all colleagues and AP retirees at upcoming Midwest reunion

Roy Bolch (Email) - I started working for AP in KX in 1958 as a copy boy for COB Frank Gorrie and TBC Randy Houghlin and spent almost five decades with AP as a staffer in KX,LA, NYC,EBCD,CTC retiring in 2006. I was hired as a copy boy then promoted to Head Office Boy in KX and trained as a Wirephoto operator extra and Trainee Technician under Roy Carter, from 1958 until 1962 transferring to LA Photo Bureau as a Wirephoto operator. In 1962 I was transferred to NYC for Technician Training in the Shop for eight months. Returning to LA photos as a Wirephoto Operator until 1967, accepted a Technician trainee in LA until 1968,accepting a regular Technician assignment in NYC Shop until 1970 as appointed as a Shop Supervisor in charge of AP parts distribution to the field, COC's and Technicians. NYC Shop relocated in 1972 to East Brunswick Communications' service center and training facility until 1994, and relocated to Cranbury AP Technical Center as the present Bureau for technical support.

I retired in 2006 as a staffer in CTC. Some of your guests at your reunion were TSM's in EB, Ron Belafatto and Larry Hamlin were colleagues.

The staffers in KX during the five years I was a staffer was a interesting list of characters to name a few: Leo O"Grady, Red Ulrickson, Cal Manon, Jerry Sullivan, Frank Raynor,Jor Bartlett, Rex Daily, Bob Ladish, Dutch VanKwagen, Jim Lacasio, Ed Campbell, Joe DeGeorge, Bob Galimore, Wes Cook, Ray Stephens, Mary Rutter, Jack Quaruar, Bud Wylie, Bob Seckinger, Bill Anderson, Harry Rosenthal, Clay Morgan, Dave Topey, Fred Moen, Butch Hayes, Clarence Johnson, Tom Carter, Betty LaSalle...to name a few I can remember from that timeline of staffers.

Sorry I can't make the reunion, I was a Kansas City boy now I live in the east I'm now a Jersey guy. My wife Margaret has health issues and I care for her needs daily. Also my three sons live in Jersey and we have four grandchildren we enjoy and keep us busy.

A toast to you all and have a great reunion.

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Parallels exist, but meaning arguable



Neal Ulevich - Regarding the exchange between my old bosses Hal Buell and Richard Pyle, as an AP photographer who was there in Saigon for the evacuation (and who made the above image), I'm hesitant to draw exact or close parallels between those images and photographs of late showing Syrians and others. Parallels do exist, but the extent and moreover the meaning of them...all arguable. Not long ago a McGurn op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal used the above image (or a very similar one) to trash current Middle East policy. I suspect memorable images encourage some to carry plus ça change a bit farther than it should.

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Regarding the refugee pictures

Linda Deutsch - None of us can help but be moved by the pictures coming out of Europe. But, as Richard Pyle said, all such groups are not the same. What struck me about these photos is that most of the masses are well dressed including kids with backpacks who look like they are on their way to school. Even the poor little boy whose body was washed up on a beach was wearing red shorts and a polo shirt, carefully dressed by his parents for this terrible journey. Teen-agers are sometimes smiling. Adults seem mostly dazed. It appears that the whole of Syria's middle class is running for their lives. Only the pictures of those being attacked, as in Hungary, and the barbed wire fences bring home the desperate straits of the refugees and the human tragedy. The detention of an AP photographer in Hungary shows how governments fear the most graphic evidence of

their cruelty - pictures. I pray for the safety of all the reporters and photographers. Like firefighters running into a burning building, they are brave and fearless, committed to bringing out the stories that will change history.

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More memories of chiefs of bureau

Brent Kallestad and **Martha Malan** - Re Minneapolis bureau chiefs, we need to include Ben Brown in Minneapolis, roughly 1970-75, succeeding George Moses.

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Darrell Christian - The COBs I worked for:

Ed Tunstall
Joe McGowan
John Marlow
Dave Swearingen
Walter Mears

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Mike Cochran - Starting in 1960, I worked under a string of great Texas COBs:

Bill Barnard
Bob Johnson
Jim Mangan
Dorman Cordell
John Lumpkin

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Brent Kallestad - Bureau chiefs I worked for during my career:

1972-75 Ben Brown
1976-78 Joe Dill
1979-1984 VP Roy Steinfort Broadcast sales)
1985-86 Paul Stevens
1987-1993 Gary Clark
1994-1996 Jim Reindl
1997-2005 Kevin Walsh
2006-2013 Jim Baltzelle

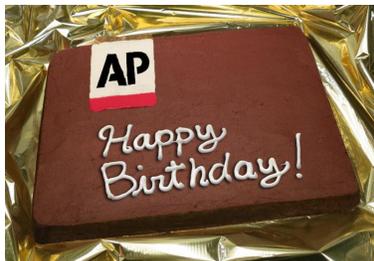
Had some good news editors along the way as well. The late Jim Wilson was my first.

Barry Bedlan honored on 20th AP anniversary



Dale Leach - Barry Bedlan holds his 20th anniversary certificate Friday. September 18, at a surprise party held in Dallas to mark Bedlan's milestone. Bedlan, deputy director of sports products, joined the AP in Omaha September 19, 1995, as an editorial assistant.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Julie Inskeep ([Email](#))

Terry Petty ([Email](#))

Teresa Walker ([Email](#))

Welcome to Connecting



Tom Watson ([Email](#))

Terry Wolkerstorfer ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

As Print Fades, Part 2: Push Alerts Bring Readership - and Sometimes Annoyance (New York Times)

By **MARGARET SULLIVAN**

This is the second post in an occasional series looking at The Times's efforts to survive and thrive in the digital age.

Jon Morrow of New York City was taking an afternoon nap last week when a New York Times news alert appeared on his phone and, with the usual beep and vibration, woke him. There was no breaking news, though. The "push alert," in media parlance, was for a long enterprise article titled "A Dying Young Woman's Hope in Cryonics and a Future."

Mr. Morrow, who calls the news alerts the modern equivalent of broadcast TV's "We interrupt this program," was annoyed, although he admired the story itself.

This was not news, and it should not have been a breaking news alert. This was an advertisement for a feature article in tomorrow's Times. (A very good article, indeed, but not something worthy of waking people up for - especially on 9/11, when we're all expecting "We Interrupt This Program" to be followed by something truly awful.) There was also an alert recently for the emergency of Serena Williams losing her match at the US Open. Please.

In recent months, The Times has greatly increased the use of push alerts to let readers know about investigative projects, feature stories and other journalism that isn't breaking news. Since then, I've been hearing from readers who aren't happy with some of those choices, including an alert that spoiled the end of the HBO series "The Jinx."

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

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Times-Picayune lays off 37 journalists in latest shakeup; New Orleans Advocate says it's expanding its staff (Advocate)

In its third major restructuring in as many years, The Times-Picayune laid off 37 journalists Thursday in its latest push to cut costs three years after its controversial move to end daily home delivery.

Previous announced layoffs have claimed more than 300 workers.

The move Thursday trimmed the remaining news staff by a fifth, according to an announcement by NOLA Media Group President Ricky Mathews, and leaves 118 full-time journalists on staff.

Reporters at the paper said some who were spared the ax instead took a pay cut.

In a major retrenchment in Baton Rouge, The Times-Picayune laid off or transferred its journalists covering that city, with the exception of those reporting on state government and LSU athletics.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Life on the Papal Beat (New York Times)

In the two short years since his election, Pope Francis has managed an unusual feat: He has become as beloved by the international news media and the secular intelligentsia as by his own flock of 1.2 billion. I got a taste of what has been called "the Francis effect" when, on a sweltering July day, I watched dozens of mayors from around the world gather at the Vatican for a two-day conference on climate change.

Just weeks before, Francis' encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si," had landed with an impact rarely seen from a 40,000-word papal document. The New York Times and other news outlets covered the encyclical as a developing story, posting continual updates online as reactions poured in from environmentalists, from industrialists and from the faithful around the world. The conference had been hastily organized by the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences and Jeffrey Sachs, the prominent economist and director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Such a collaboration would have been rare in the past but represents the kind of bridge Francis is building between the church and the wider world.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - September 19, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, September 19, the 262nd day of 2015. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 19, 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

On this date:

In 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although

British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published.

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2½ months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1915, vaudeville performer W.C. Fields made his movie debut as "Pool Sharks," a one-reel silent comedy, was released.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested in New York and charged with the kidnap-murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

In 1945, Nazi radio propagandist William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was convicted of treason and sentenced to death by a British court.

In 1955, President Juan Peron of Argentina was ousted after a revolt by the army and navy.

In 1959, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, visiting Los Angeles, reacted angrily upon being told that, for security reasons, he wouldn't get to visit Disneyland.

In 1960, Cuban leader [Fidel Castro](#), in New York to visit the [United Nations](#), angrily checked out of the Shelburne Hotel in a dispute with the management; Castro ended up staying at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

In 1970, the situation comedy "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1989, a Paris-bound DC-10 belonging to French airline UTA was destroyed by a bomb over Niger, killing all 170 people on board. (A French court later convicted six Libyans in absentia for the bombing; Libya agreed in 2004 to pay \$170 million in compensation, although it stopped short of acknowledging responsibility.)

In 1995, The New York Times and The Washington Post published the manifesto of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, which proved instrumental in identifying and capturing him.

Ten years ago: North Korea pledged to drop its nuclear weapons development and rejoin international arms treaties, but its leaders backpedaled the next day, demanding civilian nuclear reactors from the U.S. In a statement aired on a pan-Arab TV station, Al-Qaida deputy Ayman al-Zawahri (AY'-muhn ahl-ZWAH'-ree) said his terror network had carried out the July 7 London bombings that killed 52 people. Former Tyco CEO L. Dennis

Kozlowski was sentenced in New York to 8 1/3 to 25 years in prison for looting the company of hundreds of millions of dollars; Tyco's former finance chief, Mark Swartz, received the same sentence. (Both men were later paroled, Swartz in 2013, Kozlowski in 2014.)

Five years ago: The BP oil well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico was declared "effectively dead" by retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man on the blowout disaster, after it was sealed with a permanent cement plug. On the final day of his four-day visit to Britain, Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass to beatify Cardinal John Henry Newman, the 19th century Anglican convert.

One year ago: President Barack Obama signed legislation authorizing the military to arm and train moderate Syrian rebels fighting Islamic State militants in the Middle East. Shortly after President Obama and his daughters left the White House by helicopter, a man with a knife jumped the fence and made it into the presidential residence before being tackled. (Omar Gonzalez, an Army veteran with mental health issues, was later sentenced to 17 months in prison.) A federal jury in Albany, Georgia, convicted the owner of a peanut plant and two others in a salmonella outbreak linked to several deaths that prompted one of the largest U.S. food recalls. (Peanut Corporation of America owner Stewart Parnell is scheduled to be sentenced on September 21.) Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba debuted as a publicly traded company and swiftly climbed nearly 40 percent in a mammoth IPO.

Today's Birthdays: Author Roger Angell is 95. Host James Lipton (TV: "Inside the Actors Studio") is 89. Actress Rosemary Harris is 88. Former Defense Secretary Harold Brown is 88. Actor Adam West is 87. Actor David McCallum is 82. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 75. Singer Bill Medley is 75. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 75. R&B singer Freda Payne is 73. Golfer Jane Blalock is 70. Singer David Bromberg is 70. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 70. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 68. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 68. Actor [Jeremy Irons](#) is 67. Actress Twiggy Lawson is 66. TV personality Joan Lunden is 65. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois (Ian-WAH') is 64. Actor Scott Colomby is 63. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 63. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Reggie Williams is 61. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 60. Rock singer Lita Ford is 57. Actor Kevin Hooks is 57. Actress Carolyn McCormick is 56. Celebrity chef Mario Batali is 55. Country singer Jeff Bates is 52. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 51. Actress-comedian Cheri Oteri is 50. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Espraronza Griffin (Society of Soul) is 46. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 46. Actress Sanaa Lathan (suh-NAH' LAY'-thun) is 44. Actress Stephanie J. Block is 43. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 42. "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon is 41. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 39. Actress-TV host Alison Sweeney is 39. Rock musician Ryan Dusick is 38. Folk-rock singers-musicians Sara and Tegan (TEE'-gan) Quin are 35. Actor Columbus Short is 33. Rapper Eamon is 32. Christian rock musician JD Frazier is 32. Actor Kevin Zegers is 31. Actress

Danielle Panabaker is 28.

Thought for Today: "Do not let yourself be tainted with a barren skepticism." - Louis Pasteur, French scientist (1822-1895).

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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