

Connecting - September 28, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>
Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Mon, Sep 28, 2015 at 9:37 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

September 28, 2015

Click [here](#) for sound
of the Teletype



For the latest news and photos from the AP, click these:



[Top AP news](#)

[Top AP photos](#)



Connecting colleague Peter Leabo shares the blood moon as it enters a full eclipse over Kansas City at 9:30 p.m. Sunday. Stars in the constellation Pisces can be seen behind the moon.



Clint Brown of Mason City, Iowa, mounts the head on his father's combine as the so-called supermoon rises on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. It was the first time Sunday since 1982 that a total lunar eclipse was combined with a supermoon. (Arian Schuessler/Globe-Gazette via AP)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Did you get a look at the super blood moon last night or early this morning? If not, you've got another 18 years to wait for when the next total lunar eclipse combines with the supermoon.

According to AP's story, it was the first time the events have made a twin appearance since 1982. When a full moon makes its closest approach to Earth, it appears bigger and brighter than usual and is known as a supermoon.

Last night and this morning, depending on where you live, this coincided with a full lunar eclipse where the moon, Earth and sun were lined up, with Earth's shadow totally obscuring the moon. The result was what many call a super blood moon, which means an extra-large moon that appears with a reddish hue.

With that, your assignment for the start of the new week:

Role of sports in your career

Has sports played a role in your AP career? Get you a job, a promotion, a big story, a big

sale?

For Ye Olde Connecting Editor, the answer is yes. My dad got into the newspaper business as a new high school graduate when he played tennis with the editor of his hometown Nebraska weekly. It was a game he taught me and one that I have played throughout my life. Tennis was the ice-breaker that got me to know the publisher of the Roswell (New Mexico) Daily Record, **Robert Beck**, whose newspaper was served by UPI when I arrived as Albuquerque bureau chief. Tennis helped me get to know publishers of the Stauffer group (including President **John Stauffer**) when as Kansas City CoB I was invited to group meetings. I carried my racket and tennis gear on road trips and played under the night skies with folks such as **Jon Rust** of Cape Girardeau, Missouri; **Greg Halling** of Hays, Kansas, and St. Louis correspondents Randy Picht and **Jim Salter** on member visits to Southeast Missouri (playing in Kennett on the same courts that a famous native, singer Sheryl Crow, once played on).



In Albuquerque in the early 1980s, I was a member of the Tribune's city-league softball team, called the Nukes. The Tribune, a Scripps newspaper, had the AP under notice and when **Bill Tanner**, the new publisher came to town, I engaged him in a bet in which if I hit a certain number of home runs, he would lift the notice. Neither event happened, at least on my watch, but he came to some games and we got to be friends. A number of my teammates - **Tim Gallagher**, **Jack McElroy**, **Steve Lambert**, to name a few - moved on to editorships in other cities. Jack (sitting, at left, in above Nukes photo) is editor of the Knoxville (Tennessee) News Sentinel. One of my AP teammates on the Nukes, **Kent Walz**, (not pictured in the photo), the bureau's news editor at the time and later AP chief of bureau in Albuquerque and Portland, Oregon, today is editor of The Albuquerque Journal.

Got a story involving sports and your career? Send it along to Connecting, with a photo if possible.

Paul

Spare me the stylebook fundamentalist

By John E. McIntyre
The Baltimore Sun

A student told me this week that the journalism school in which he is studying has a universal quasi-religious devotion (my formulation) to the Associated Press Stylebook.

Struggling to keep this side of apoplexy, I pointed out that the AP Stylebook is a stylebook, one of many, each with different perspectives, merits, and uses. And it is a book of guidelines for writers and editors. Fire from heaven will not consume you if you write okay for OK, or hotline as two words. The AP Stylebook does not partake of the authority of the Deuteronomic Code. It has no statutory force in the United States of America and its protectorates. Its editors - I have met them - give every appearance of being mortal.

Moreover, it offers some advice that is dated and unsound, giving rise to scoffers and scofflaws. I am one, having had the temerity to lecture the editors about their manual's shortcomings here and here.

In 2014 the editors discarded the utterly discredited over/more than distinction (which I had advised them to do here), and there was weeping and wailing, gnashing of teeth and rending of garments throughout the land.

What this ludicrous spectacle-people pinning their professional qualifications and integrity on having enforced a meaningless distinction-points out is that AP Stylebook fundamentalists are more dogmatic than the AP Stylebook itself.

I was instructed years ago always to write a half-mile, because "AP says so." But as my formidable colleague Bill Walsh points out, it says no such thing. You are free to write half a mile, but if you write a half-mile, AP wants you to hyphenate. That is all.

Similarly, opponents of the Oxford comma might be taken aback to read the entry on commas and find that AP is perfectly fine with using the final comma in a series if it is advisable to avoid ambiguity. And writers and editors who reflexively omit, or strike out, that as a conjunction might take the time to look at the actual entry and see how often AP says that it is necessary.*

This tendency to turn mere guidelines or preferences into mechanically applied Rules crops up generally when grammar and usage are discussed. It is particularly regrettable



when the use of the stylebook becomes a matter of blind obedience rather than judgment.

* It would be mildly interesting to discover how many journalists operate on what they have been told the AP Stylebook says rather than what they have read in the AP Stylebook.

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

Connecting mailbox

Commenting on photographer survey

Gene Herrick - As you asked, I would like to respond to your request for comment on the photographer survey in Friday's Connecting,

The survey was current; I can only report on my experiences some million years ago.

As to bootlegging (stealing) photos), AP always handled this problem. "CAUTION: USE CREDIT / Associated PRESS WIREPHOTO"

As to danger: If one worked for The Associated Press as a photographer, you faced danger, and life-threatening situations a lot. I've had shotguns put on my chest in S.W. Virginia; covered many mobs with squirrel guns in East Tennessee; guns of anger and bayonets of death in Korea; plus other dangers adherent to war coverage; facing death in floods, forest fires, tornadoes, and angry politicians.

Working alone - AP photographers normally work alone.

Pay - We got paid a going rate. Was it enough; of course not. However, I survived, but always proud that I worked for the greatest news agency in the world. That was something. I was a war correspondent making \$87.50 per week. However, the GI's got much less.

Posing / setting up pix - show me a news photographer who has never set up a shot, and I'll call him/her a liar. I've known photographers who found Bibles in tornadoes and placed them in an appropriately damaged area; or one who nailed a wooden duck on a board and floated it in a flood. Good feature pictures often need "Setting up." The elements were there, but by rearranging the picture was greatly improved. I've placed a little hamburger meat in a daffodil flower to make a "Sniffing" picture better.

We didn't cheat; we just made a mediocre picture better.

Continuing the conversation regarding news photographers being virginal, and only shooting what they see, or sometimes taking the liberty of being creative, and posing, or

setting up a good feature picture.

I believe in non-tampering with spot news pictures, except where moving a couple of people closer together for the sake of a better shot. I also believe in being creative by putting people or things together to create a more newsworthy and attractive picture, i.e., pulling two or three baseball players, who have great records, together for a shot. Good animal features most often just don't happen. Holiday feature pictures are another example of creativity.



While an AP photographer in Memphis during the middle 50's, I took the examples of the monkeys in a patch of daffodils, and the puppy in a bowl of daffodils. The AP was situated in the Memphis Commercial Appeals building, and every Spring the city editor, remembering my penchant for daffodil pictures, would shout out, "Okay Herrick, where is your G..Damn daffodil picture for the spring?" The Halloween shot shows a young lady with a hip-hugging decorated pumpkin on corn stocks, in a field. I bought the large pumpkin, carved it out, had an artist friend do the painting scrunched the beauty into the pumpkin, and took the picture. I had just finished this shot when I looked up to see three nuns coming toward me. The

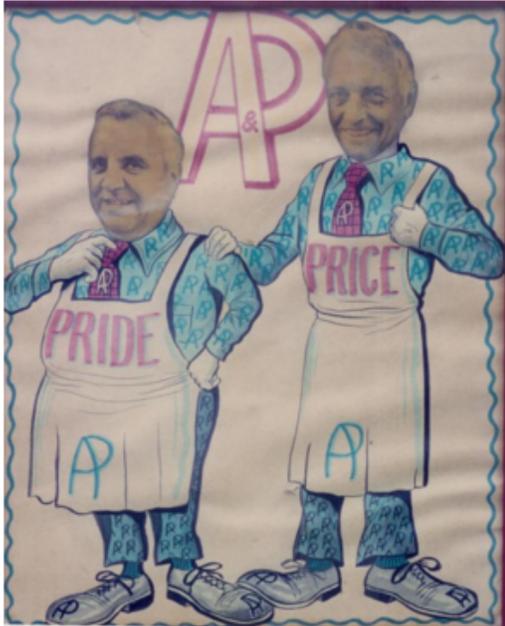
Mother Superior informed me that this was a Catholic convent, and that she had been receiving telephone calls from neighbors asking if the model was one of her nuns? Wow. I informed her I thought it was just a farmer's field of corn. With red face, I quickly and quietly left. But, I had the picture.

While in Minneapolis, during the 60's, I took the feature pictures of the zoo attendant, with a stick of chewing gum in his mouth, and sharing with a chimp. Zoo director John Fletcher said he knew why I took the picture. "They look alike!" I also liked the picture of the cat, in a stocking cap, looking at the thermometer at well below zero. Then there is the two-picture combo of two children and a turkey leg. It was near Thanksgiving. I went to a big restaurant and begged for a big turkey leg for a picture. They gave it to me, and I immediately went to the home of Gerri and Bill Chevalier, who was an AP news staffer in the MP bureau, and with whom I covered a lot of stories. The two Chevalier children, Cindy and Greg were the subjects. I had no idea what would happen. Soon Gerri, being a dutiful mother, wanted to make certain everything was just perfect. I immediately escorted Gerri into another room, and closed the door. I gave the turkey leg to Cindy, but Greg soon took it away from her, thus making for good feature photography.



-0-

The REAL story behind Price and Pride



Len Iwanski - Apologies to Doug Tucker, but the "Price and Pride" ad campaign (Saturday's Connecting) featuring AP Kansas City veterans Herb Mundt and Fred Moen had nothing to do with the wine cooler Bartles and James.

As the art you featured in Connecting plainly shows, "Price and Pride" was created for the A&P supermarket chain, which launched the campaign in 1975. The poster you depicted is a play on the similarity of AP and A&P, which was originally known as the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company.

Its stores are in the northeast, so I guess it's understandable that people in Kansas City might not be familiar with A&P.

Doug Tucker agreed that Len is correct and that he was wrong, but added - "It does rekindle an ancient memory of when I told someone back in the last century that I had just got a job with AP. "Are you going to be a checker?" he asked.

-0-

Yogi's death rekindles favorite boyhood yarn

Chris Connell - The death (last week) of Lawrence Peter Berra and the Pope's visit bring to mind a favorite yarn from boyhood.

At an alehouse in Brooklyn a guy named Joe boasts to the barflies that he knows everybody in the world. 'What?! Are you nuts? Bet you don't know Yogi Berra.' They take the subway to the Bronx, get seats behind the backstop and when Yogi catches a foul pop he looks up and calls out, 'Joe! How ya been?' Barfly says, 'Well, you don't know the mayor.' They stop at Gracie Mansion on the way home and, sure enough, Mayor Lindsay has a big greeting for Joe. The president's in town; he recognizes Joe, too. Flabbergasted, the second guy says, 'I'll bet my last dollar you don't know the Pope.' So they fly to Rome but can't get an audience, so they join the thousands' standing out in St. Peter's Square awaiting the weekly blessing. All of a sudden Joe is climbing the wall and hopping onto the balcony just as the pope emerges. 'Giuseppe, my friend,' the smiling pontiff says. And down on the square a distant voice shouts, 'Hey! Who's that guy up there with Joe?'

-0-

Howard Goldberg launching new company



Howard Goldberg, recently retired New York bureau chief, sent this photo to his Facebook followers with this message: Thanks #ona15 for the perfect platform to soft-launch my new company, NewsDigits #GravityRoom. The photo was made at an Instagram-sponsored booth at the Online News Association conference in Los Angeles last week. Goldberg was using the conference to get background information and make contacts for a freelance editing and digital strategy consulting company he had just formed (www.newsdigits.com). The conference attracted about 2,100 participants. AP had a large booth at the conference promoting 2016 election services, and AP provided several speakers, including standards editor Tom Kent. Kent gave an update on a "do-it-yourself" ethics code project aimed at helping news organizations, startups and individual bloggers and journalists create their own codes. (<http://journalists.org/2014/05/02/ona-launches-crowdsourcing-for-diy-ethics-code/>)

Moscow Malady

George Zucker - For John Marion, a small town Iowa newspaper editor, the biggest story of his career was his own bizarre stay in a Russian hospital, a medical adventure that landed him on a popular TV game show. Marion was on a tour with the Smithsonian Institution in 1976 when a friend took him to a Moscow hospital to treat a cold and a slight fever. He spent the next three days trying to convince Soviet physicians he had not suffered a heart attack.

Marion, 58, told the doctors he had a heart attack the previous year and that's what they were seeing on the EKG. "They got me so mad I was afraid I'd have another!" he told me. Marion felt well enough to leave the hospital the next morning, but the Russian doctors wouldn't release him. "Patient care has always been our primary concern, even before the Revolution," a woman doctor who spoke English told Marion. "You can print that in your newspaper."

Marion was editor of the Keokuk Daily Gate City, the only daily paper in that Mississippi River town of 15,000. "I hadn't told anyone there that I was with a newspaper. I guess that says something about Soviet intelligence."

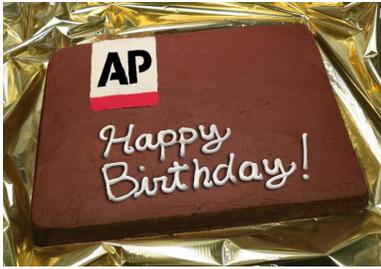
Soviet concern for the editor's well-being became a nightmare of bathless days, dirty linen, odd food and interminable blood tests "with a needle bigger than we use in Iowa on animals." Each morning, an old woman came in with a plastic bucket of icy water for washing. Breakfast was oatmeal, some toast and hot tea. "The other meals were hideous," he said.

On the day he was to leave for the United States, doctors agreed to let him go if he would let them take him to the airport on a stretcher. Marion was whisked to the Moscow airport in an ambulance and carried onto the plane. An airline steward asked if he could walk. He answered, "Get these Russians out of here and I'll dance for you!" My AAA story on his Moscow malady kept Marion busy over the next week with telephone interviews from around the country.

I was in his office the day he got a call from a producer on the TV game show, I've Got a Secret. He left for New York the following week and went on to stump all four of the show-biz panelists. The Russian hospital story had given John Marion his only celebrity in a long journalism career and he loved it.

Less than a year later, his obituary would recall his brief stint in the limelight. Marion, 59, died at his typewriter of a heart attack.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Linda Sargent ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

The Wall Street Journal, Baltimore Sun and BBC News take home 2015 Online Journalism Awards

LOS ANGELES - Coverage of the Charlie Hebdo attacks, the Baltimore riots in the wake of Freddie Gray's death and the shootings in Canadian Parliament took top honors Saturday night at the 2015 Online Journalism Awards, which ended the Online News Association Conference.

At the 15th annual awards dinner, ONA also announced Cengiz Yar, a documentary photographer and freelance photojournalist who is founding Board member of the Frontline Freelance Registry, as the first recipient of the James Foley Award, honoring work by reporters in conflict zones and named for the Global Post freelancer killed in Syria in August. The late journalist Dori J. Maynard also was honored with the Rich Jaroslovsky Founder Award for her tireless work in promoting diversity in media.

New start-up [reported.ly](#), the Baltimore Sun and The Globe and Mail dominated the Breaking News categories. The \$15,000 University of Florida Awards in Investigative Data Journalism were won by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's deep data dive into tax assessments and the Austin American-Statesman for "Missed Signs, Fatal Consequences," a look at Texas' failure to help protect vulnerable children. The newest category, sports, was won by Taffy Brodesser-Akner for Matter on the first all-female cast of ultimate fighters, and The New York Times for its "web-native storytelling" around the World Cup.

[Click here](#) to read more.

-0-

Ten years on: Editors reflect on Mohammed cartoon crisis (Online Post)

Ten years on from Jyllands-Posten's publication of the drawings that sparked the Mohammed Cartoon Crisis, its former editor, Carsten Juste, has written an op-ed in the newspaper maintaining there is nothing to apologise for.

The anniversary also coincides with the publication on Monday of a book, 'Hymne til friheden' (hymn to freedom), by the paper's culture editor at the time, Flemming Rose, in which he discusses freedom of expression.

Apology would have made it worse

In the months following the publication of the cartoons, a number of Muslim organisations at home and abroad demanded an apology for the offensive depictions of the religion's prophet Mohammed. In Juste's op-ed he concludes that any steps the paper could have taken to quell the outrage would have been turned against it, and ultimately made matters worse.

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

-0-

Beloved former Oregonian publisher Fred Stickel has died (Oregonian)

Fred A. Stickel, who turned The Oregonian from a sleepy, dysfunctional daily into one of America's best regional newspapers during 34 years as its publisher, died Sunday. He was 93.

Stickel cemented his legacy by promoting The Oregonian's first African American editor and later hiring its first woman editor. He merged the staff of the shuttered Oregon Journal with his own, and ushered in an era of computer-generated pages with color photos.



He also made the newspaper a financial powerhouse and oversaw a hiring blitz that invigorated the news staff. The Oregonian won five Pulitzer Prizes during Stickel's tenure.

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

The Final Word

Stop Googling. Let's Talk. (New York Times)

By SHERRY TURKLE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

COLLEGE students tell me they know how to look someone in the eye and type on their phones at the same time, their split attention undetected. They say it's a skill they mastered in middle school when they wanted to text in class without getting caught. Now they use it when they want to be both with their friends and, as some put it, "elsewhere."



These days, we feel less of a need to hide the fact that we are dividing our attention. In a 2015 study by the Pew Research Center, 89 percent of cellphone owners said they had used their phones during the last social gathering they attended. But they weren't happy about it; 82 percent of adults felt that the way they used their phones in social settings hurt the conversation.

I've been studying the psychology of online connectivity for more than 30 years. For the past five, I've had a special focus: What has happened to face-to-face conversation in a world where so many people say they would rather text than talk? I've looked at families, friendships and romance. I've studied schools, universities and workplaces. When college students explain to me how dividing their attention plays out in the dining hall, some refer to a "rule of three." In a conversation among five or six people at dinner, you have to check that three people are paying attention - heads up - before you give yourself permission to look down at your phone. So conversation proceeds, but with different people having their heads up at different times. The effect is what you would expect: Conversation is kept relatively light, on topics where people feel they can drop in and out.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - September 28, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, September 28, the 271st day of 2015. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 28, 1928, Scottish medical researcher Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, the first effective antibiotic.

On this date:

In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the English throne.

In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo arrived at present-day San Diego.

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation voted to send the just-completed Constitution of the United States to state legislatures for their approval.

In 1850, flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.

In 1914, the First Battle of the Aisne during World War I ended inconclusively.

In 1939, during World War II, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a treaty calling for the partitioning of Poland, which the two countries had invaded.

In 1945, the motion picture drama "Mildred Pierce," starring Joan Crawford, opened in New York.

In 1958, voters in the African country of Guinea overwhelmingly favored independence from France.

In 1967, Walter E. Washington was sworn in as the first mayor-commissioner of the District of Columbia (he'd been appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson).

In 1974, first lady Betty Ford underwent a mastectomy at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland, following discovery of a cancerous lump in her breast.

In 1989, deposed Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos died in exile in Hawaii at age 72.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House ending Israel's military occupation of West Bank cities and laying the foundation for a Palestinian state.

Ten years ago: House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted by a Texas grand jury on a charge of conspiring to violate political fundraising laws. (DeLay was convicted in 2010, but the conviction was ultimately overturned.) A woman disguised as a man slipped into a line of Iraqi army recruits and detonated explosives strapped to her body, killing six recruits in the first known suicide attack by a woman in Iraq's insurgency. The U.S. Treasury unveiled the new \$10 bill, featuring splashes of red, yellow and orange.

Five years ago: The youngest son of North Korean President Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un, was selected for his first leadership post in the ruling Workers Party, putting him well on the path to succeed his father. Movie director Arthur Penn ("Bonnie and Clyde") died in New York a day after turning 88.

One year ago: In an interview that aired on CBS' "60 Minutes," President Barack Obama acknowledged that U.S. intelligence agencies had underestimated the threat from Islamic State militants and overestimated the ability and will of Iraq's army to fight. Gov. Jerry Brown announced that he had signed a bill making California the first in the nation to define when "yes means yes" and adopt requirements for colleges to follow when investigating sexual assault reports. Europe defeated the United States to win the Ryder Cup, 16 1/2 to 11 1/2. Jordan Zimmermann threw the first no-hitter by a Washington Nationals pitcher in a 1-0 victory over the Miami Marlins.

Today's Birthdays: Actress [Brigitte Bardot](#) is 81. Actor Joel Higgins is 72. Singer Helen Shapiro is 69. Movie writer-director-actor John Sayles is 65. Rock musician George Lynch is 61. Zydeco singer-musician C.J. Chenier (sheh-NEER') is 58. Actor Steve Hytner is 56. Actress-comedian Janeane Garofalo (juh-NEEN' guh-RAH'-fuh-loh) is 51. Country singer Matt King is 49. Actress [Mira Sorvino](#) is 48. TV personality Moon Zappa is 48. Actress-model Carre Otis is 47. Actress Naomi Watts is 47. Country singer Karen Fairchild (Little Big Town) is 46. Country musician Chuck Crawford is 42. Country singer Mandy Barnett is 40. Rapper Young Jeezy is 38. World Golf Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak is 38. Actor Peter Cambor is 37. Writer-producer-director-actor Bam Margera is 36. Actress Melissa Claire Egan is 34. Actress Jerrika Hinton is 34. Pop-rock singer St. Vincent is 33. Rock musician Daniel Platzman (Imagine Dragons) is 29. Actress [Hilary Duff](#) is 28. Actor Keir Gilchrist is 23.

Thought for Today: "A great truth is a truth whose opposite is also a truth." - Thomas Mann, German writer (1875-1955).

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
Connecting newsletter
stevenspl@live.com

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to pjshane@gmail.com by stevenspl@live.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215