

Connecting - October 02, 2015

1 message

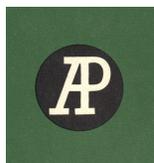
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 9:12 AM

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Connecting

October 02, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Congratulations to AP's newest retiree - **Sylvia Lee Wingfield** ([Email](#)), who concluded 42 years of service at The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"To call it the end of an era is an understatement," said New England news editor **Bill Kole**.



Sylvia on her last day of work Wednesday in Boston bureau. (Photo/Jennifer McDermott)

Wingfield has been a supervisor and breaking news staffer in Boston since autumn 2000, helping cover stories including the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks launched from Logan

International Airport, the Roman Catholic clergy abuse scandal, the Rhode Island nightclub fire, the landmark court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage, the return of Whitey Bulger, the Newtown school shootings and the Boston Marathon bombings.

She began her AP career as a reporter and editor in Dallas in 1973, the same year the Roe vs. Wade decision in a Dallas case legalized abortion, through the deadly Branch Davidian siege in Waco and the presidential campaign of George W. Bush. She was interim Texas news editor for several months in 2000 before coming to Boston.

Connecting mailbox

Regarding AP and automation

George Zucker - Wow -- and I thought I was keeping up with the times when I swapped my folded copy paper for a breast pocket note pad.

-0-

Words, words, words

Bob Kimball - Following the impact/affect note from my former AP Broadcast colleague Jim Limbach and Adolph Bernotas' item on word usage, I have another spin on the topic.

Working in sports at AP and then USA TODAY, I would guard against using "future draft pick" (all draft picks are future), "seasoned veteran" (that's what a veteran is, seasoned) and "a batting streak of 15 consecutive games" (delete consecutive).

At USA TODAY we compiled list of more than 150 of what we called redundancies. Leading examples included "taped before a live audience," "added bonus," "captured alive" and the always popular "convicted felon."

In another angle to word usage, I like to check a web site that many of you probably know

about, Lake Superior State University's annual list of banished words. (Adolph's "skill set" is among the 2015 entries). Here is a link - (<http://www.lssu.edu/banished/>)

AND

Chuck McFadden - Adolphe Bernotas's good work deserves expansion. Bet you didn't know it, but there also exists a stylebook for politicians.

--Never say "decided" when you can say "arrived at a decision." (Preferably "after a good deal of thought and prayer").

--Never talk about doing something without use of the word "would." "I would remind the gentleman from Missouri that his floor time is up." "I would hope that our time together is fruitful."

--Never say that you are merely "concerned" or "saddened." You must be "deeply saddened" and "deeply concerned." Much more statesmanlike.

There have to be others.

AND

Joni Beall - I cringe when I hear "funeral service." Webster says a funeral is "the ceremonies connected with burial or cremation of the dead." So funeral is enough, unless it's a Catholic funeral Mass - because not all funerals are Masses and not all Masses are funerals. If someone is buried without a ceremony, just call it a burial or interment.

-0-

North to Alaska

Robert Reid - Here's a shot of my wife Jane and me on a cruise off Alaska last week.

Role of sports in our careers - continued

Carl Leubsdorf - Like many others, I did a fair amount of sports in my early days with the AP's New Orleans bureau. In fact, sports helped me to hone my dictating skills, an essential those days for anyone working for AP. We usually put out 200-250 words on the local college basketball games, often rewriting info received from the school's sports publicity director. But I liked to go to the Tulane and Loyola games and would dictate the game stories into the bureau. This led to one of the more interesting sports stories I covered, the January 1962 visit to New Orleans by Loyola of Chicago to play Loyola of New Orleans. The game itself was unusual, given the fact that the Chicago team had three black starters, but the Catholic church under Archbishop Joseph Rummel was ahead of the rest of the region in accepting and promoting desegregation of schools and athletic events.

The day of the game, George Ireland, the Chicago team's coach, telephoned an interview back to the Chicago Basketball Writers' Association in which he reported his team was very upset by the segregated situations that it had encountered in New Orleans, including housing and restaurants, and said "It's been so bad this is probably our last trip down here." As a result, he was unsure how they would react during the game.

He needn't have worried. Loyola of Chicago ran off to a 61-31 halftime lead and routed the all-white New Orleans team, 96-73. My account of the game, which appeared in the Chicago Tribune under the headline: "Disturbed By Bias, Loyola Wins, 96-73," reported that "the roughly played game went without incident, and about 75 Negroes attended, about normal for a Loyola of Chicago game." It also reported that one of the Chicago team's black starters, Vic Rouse, received an ovation when he left the game.

That was essentially the same team that, with four black starters, won the NCAA title a year later. three years before the all-black Texas Western team defeated Kentucky in their memorable 1966 clash at the University of Maryland's Cole Field House. By then, I had moved to Washington and stopped covering sports, having decided that politicians were more interesting than athletes.

Andy Lippman - I started as the night writer in Tucson in 1972. If someone had asked me then what my goal was, I would have answered I wanted to write the Western Athletic Conference roundup and replace John Mossman in Denver.

I would cover basketball games in Tucson and then go to Phoenix to watch the same team play Arizona State. Then I'd go back to Tucson, and sometimes get a chance to fill in writing the WAC roundup. I was in Tucson for a year.

One evening, I was covering a football game in Tucson and Tom Aden, my chief of bureau in Phoenix, comes in to the press box with Bob Johnson, then AP's sports editor. They were both out of breath after climbing the steps of the stadium. But Bob starts asking me questions about what I do, what do I think of New York. I didn't know whether to face him, or look like I was covering the game.

We said good night and I filed my story and went home. I remember thinking, "I hope I didn't sound too eager to want to go to New York Sports."

So the next day, I go to the hotel where Johnson is staying while speaking to AP editors. He finally shows up in the lobby at about 9:30 and I re-introduce myself and say, "Mr. Johnson, it was an honor to talk to you. But I really don't want to go to New York."

He gave me a look like "who asked you to go to New York and who asked you anyway?"

I tell Tom Aden later that day what I had done and he was apoplectic. "Do you mean I spent an evening wining and dining Johnson and climbing all those stairs, and look what you've done."

Well, now I felt guilty. But not so guilty that when Aden called me to his home that summer I told him "no, I don't want to go to New York." Tom gently explained that I was 22 years old and it would be a big mistake to say no to the company so early in my career.

So I said yes, and suddenly, the lights in the living room brightened and out of the kitchen comes Mrs. Aden with a cake and champagne.

My goose was cooked (with champagne and cake no less).....I was a cooked goose all along. But, things worked out pretty well. I never was a threat to John Mossman and never

again wrote the WAC roundup.

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Hal Bock - I decided when I was eight years old that I wanted to be a baseball writer. That was after my father explained that they went to the ballpark every day. That was their job. What could be better than that?

During my freshman year as a journalism major at New York University, I was lucky enough to get a part-time job in the sports department of the World Telegram & Sun, a major metropolitan newspaper. Lou Boccardi worked on the Brooklyn desk at the time. I got to the AP as a senior, working on the Olympic Desk, returned in 1962 as a summer relief staffer and once more (to stay) in 1963.

One of my first assignments was a Yankee game at a time when they were on a downward spiral, managed at the time by Ralph Houk, who had trained for the job by seeing action in World War II. We always called the desk to ask if there were any special requests. "Yeah," I was told, "the Springfield, Mass., member wants some quotes from Houk about why he's been unable to get the Yankees going."

I always was good at following orders so I marched into Houk's office after the game, waited for other writers to finish and then tried to explain to the manager that this question was not mine but I had to ask. I thought he was going to kill me. Instead, he chased me into the clubhouse calling me every name he could think of. The players, Mantle, Ford, etc. all turned to see the public sacrifice.

I survived and the next night, standing by the batting cage, Houk came over and apologized. I thanked him for not killing me and we got along pretty well after that.

-0-

George Bria - I'm sure tennis had nothing to do with my AP career, but it was certainly present. Playing it, I mean.

Believe it or not, we had a press club in Berlin with a tennis court and a German pro to go with it. This was during the Soviet blockade(1948-49) when the Allies were flying food and

fuel to the Berlin population. We flew the lift, but also lived it up. We still benefited from military requisitioning. AP colleague Dick O'Malley and I shared a whole house. Wes Gallagher was the bureau chief. Tough hombre, but he liked tennis. Probably because I was less buzzed than the others in the club tournament, I won it. Wes never forgot it.

Decades later, when we met at 50 Rock, Wes would say, "How's your tennis, George?" Over time, I played a number of staffers of the NY crew. Sports writer Will Grimsley beat me. Good form, heh, heh, but I won't mention those I beat. In my last years at the AP, I won a NY staff tournament, a round robin event at a country club. The prize was a racquet, a model I didn't use, so I either sold it or gave it to Serge Schmemann, a Foreign Desk colleague. I wonder, did he take it with him on his eventual stellar career at the New York Times?

We talked tennis a lot on the Foreign Desk. Nate Polowetzky, the foreign editor, was a fervid weekend player at Central Park. Ed Butler, his deputy, belonged to the historic club at Forest Hills.

I started playing when I was 10 years old and dropped it two years ago when I was 97. My balance became worrisome. In my retirement years, I looked for serious competition in my age group. I earned modest USTA rankings in Eastern senior tournaments and was ranked #15 nationally in the 85's singles in 2001. That certificate hangs on my wall.

Connecting profile - Joe Somma

Joe Somma (Email) - Here is a sort biographical sketch of my AP career. I was discharged from the Navy in 1957. I was employed by Bob Sullivan in the payroll department as a bookkeeper. After seven years, I was promoted to Human Resources as Personnel Executive. The assignment was to help Chiefs of Bureaus, Chiefs of Communications and Department Heads solve problems.

My other duties - contract negotiations, working with other executives.

The day I turned 65 was the last day that I worked for AP.

i worked also for the following General Managers: Mr. Wes Gallagher, Mr. Keith Fuller and Mr. Louis Boccardi.

I moved to North Port, FL in 2004. I have been enjoying the Florida weather ever since.

Connecting profile - Christina Van Horn

Christina Van Horn (Email) - I was an editor at the Concord Monitor. From there I was a staffer at the Concord and Hartford AP bureaus and then went to work as an editor at the Boston Globe.

I then worked in several editorial positions in New York City, one of which was an editor at the first ever daily newspaper to be electronically produced and distributed covering the computer industry. I was a speechwriter for the commissioner of the Human Resources Administration, the agency of 35,000 employees responsible for society's ills: the homeless, abused children, AIDS victims and welfare families. I edited the newspaper for the New School for Social Research and also worked on other publications. This is probably more than you want to know!

My grammatical comment is that in the early 1970s, one of the Nixon cabal -- Haldeman or Erlichman -- began to use the word roadway instead of road. Although roadway can be found in a very few dictionaries, the sheep followed the linguistic direction and we now all drive on roadways.



At the height of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone last summer, a worker at the Kenema Government Hospital was mixing a batch of chlorine when he noticed it didn't smell right.

It turned out the disinfectant _ vital for keeping health workers safe from the deadly virus _ barely had any active ingredient at all.

Troubling as it was, defective chlorine was only one of many problems faced by Ebola responders in Kenema, according to an Associated Press investigation into bungling by the World Health Organization at a critical time in the epidemic that has claimed more than 11,000 lives.

Medical writer Maria Cheng, investigative reporter Raphael Satter and West Africa COB Krista Larson found that weak leadership, shoddy supplies and infighting exacerbated a chaotic situation in the battle against the virus, which killed more than 40 health workers in Kenema. Their painstaking, vital report earns the Beat of the Week.

The reporting stems from March, when Cheng and Satter, both based in London, wrote about how WHO resisted sounding the alarm over last year's Ebola epidemic on political and economic grounds. That AP investigation made waves in the public health world, and sources told the reporters it so angered WHO that the agency launched an investigation to find the source of the story.

But Cheng and Satter knew there was more. Staffers told them problems with WHO's response continued after the emergency was declared in August of last year. So they set out to see if proof could be found to support claims about how WHO's response faltered _ and that WHO was not addressing the mistakes it had made.

The effort was dogged with false starts. One previously reliable source agreed to meet in Europe, but withdrew after Cheng and Satter traveled to meet him. The same source agreed to meet in Africa, but pulled out then, too.

Finally in response to an email from Cheng, another prospective contact said he happened to be in town and happy to meet the AP reporters for lunch. It was just the first of several meetings and eventually the contact shared more than 100 messages and attachments with the team.

Around the same time, Larson headed to Kenema, along with cameraman Kabba Kargbo and photographer Sunday Alamba. They were able to chase down the leads the documents offered, from the expired chlorine to the lack of body bags or proper

protective gear for health workers.

At the hospital, Larson spoke to nurses and janitors, and contacted employees who had been laid off earlier in the year. A key find was hospital porter Juma Musa, who described his horror at opening that batch of chlorine powder in July to find that it had expired more than a year earlier. Musa said he had stopped the spoiled chlorine from being used in that case, but other porters told AP they could not rule out that bad batches slipped through. The problem of the ineffective disinfectant badly rattled staff at a time when many already were abandoning their posts.

"We were in a war zone, and the chlorine was the only thing that was giving us courage to come closer to patients," Musa said.

Using the source's emails as a blueprint to direct extensive reporting, the writers sketched a detailed portrait of what went wrong in the city even after WHO declared its emergency, and powerful visuals brought the story home. Maxon Kobba, a nurse at the hospital, recounted how as many as 20 patients could die in one night. "Some would cry, 'I want to die! I want to die!' because they were in so much pain," Kobba told Larson.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2015/09/20/ap-investigation-bungling-by-un-agency-hurt-ebola-response>

The day the story ran, a WHO consultant called to say it was the first article he'd read which "really captured ... what was going on."

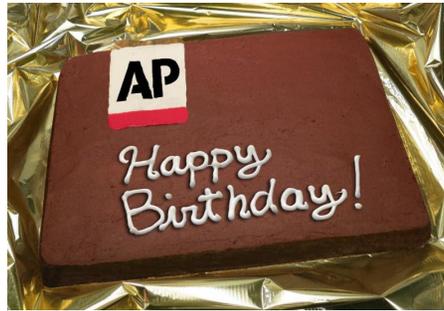
And Suerie Moon, a Harvard academic who's chairing a panel evaluating WHO's response, said the coverage provided the best account of what actually happened behind the scenes. The panel had tried and failed to obtain the kind of internal documents the AP team had.

"We shouldn't have to rely on investigative reporting to dig out this kind of information," Moon said.

For collaborating across departments and regions to shine a light on a shocking situation, Cheng, Satter and Larson win this week's \$500 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Robert Meyers ([Email](#))

Charlotte Porter ([Email](#))

Welcome to Connecting



Christina Van Horn ([Email](#))

Peggy Andersen ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Judge orders closure of records in Hulk Hogan sex tape case (Poynter)

The latest bout in an ongoing legal tussle between Gawker Media and Hulk Hogan was decided Thursday in favor of the former professional wrestler.

In a pretrial hearing, Circuit Judge Pamela Campbell ruled that more than a dozen court filings entered into the record by legal teams representing Gawker Media and Hogan will remain under seal. The filings, which span more than a year's worth of litigation, were kept confidential on the grounds that their disclosure could jeopardize Hogan's right to privacy.

All told, Campbell ordered 15 separate case filings sealed. Although their contents remain confidential, general descriptions provided the court show the sealed material includes evidence and records of legal maneuvering by both sides filed between May 2014 and August 2015.

[Click here](#) to read more.

The Final Word

Saying: "I don't need newspapers;
I get my news from the Internet."

is the
same as
saying



"I know, right? And I don't need
farmers; 'cause I get my food at the
supermarket."

#newspapersthive



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Today in History - October 2, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, October 2, the 275th day of 2015. There are 90 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 2, 1985, actor Rock Hudson, 59, died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, after battling AIDS.

On this date:

In 1780, British spy John Andre was hanged in Tappan, New York, during the Revolutionary War.

In 1835, the first battle of the Texas Revolution took place as American settlers fought Mexican soldiers near the Guadalupe River; the Mexicans ended up withdrawing.

In 1890, comedian Groucho Marx was born Julius Marx in New York.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a serious stroke at the White House that left him paralyzed on his left side.

In 1939, the [Benny Goodman Sextet](#) (which included Lionel Hampton) made their first recording, "Flying Home," for Columbia.

In 1944, German troops crushed the two-month-old Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter of a million people had been killed.

In 1955, the suspense anthology "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court as the court opened its new term.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally welcomed Japan's Emperor Hirohito to the United States during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

In 1990, the Senate voted 90-9 to confirm the nomination of Judge David H. Souter to the Supreme Court.

In 2002, the Washington D.C.-area sniper attacks began, setting off a frantic manhunt lasting three weeks. (John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were finally arrested for 10 killings and three woundings; Muhammad was executed in 2009; Malvo was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2009, the International Olympic Committee, meeting in Copenhagen, chose Rio de Janeiro to be the site of the 2016 Summer Olympics; Chicago was eliminated in the first round, despite a last-minute in-person appeal by President Barack Obama.

Ten years ago: A tour boat, the Ethan allen, capsized on New York's Lake George, killing 20 elderly passengers. Playwright August Wilson died in Seattle at age 60. Actor-comedian Nipsey Russell died in New York at age 87.

Five years ago: A coalition of progressive and civil rights groups marched by the thousands on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., pledging to support Democrats struggling to keep power on Capitol Hill.

One year ago: President Barack Obama acknowledged his pivotal role in the midterm political campaign, arguing in a speech at Northwestern University that the November congressional elections were a referendum on his economic policies and blaming Republicans for blocking his efforts to boost wages and create more jobs. Hong Kong's embattled leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, refused demands by pro-democracy protesters to step down.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer-musician Leon Rausch (Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys) is 88. Retired MLB All-Star Maury Wills is 83. Movie critic Rex Reed is 77. Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 70. Cajun/country singer Jo-el Sonnier (sahn-YAY') is 69. Actor Avery Brooks is 67. Fashion designer Donna Karan is 67. Photographer Annie Leibovitz is 66. Rock musician Mike Rutherford (Genesis, Mike & the Mechanics) is 65. Singer-actor

Sting is 64. Actress Lorraine Bracco is 61. Country musician Greg Jennings (Restless Heart) is 61. Rock singer Phil Oakey (The Human League) is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Freddie Jackson is 57. Singer-producer Robbie Nevil is 57. Retro-soul singer James Hunter is 53. Former NFL quarterback Mark Rypien is 53. Rock musician Bud Gaugh (Sublime, Eyes Adrift) is 48. Folk-country singer Gillian Welch is 48. Country singer Kelly Willis is 47. Actor Joey Slotnick is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dion Allen (Az Yet) is 45. Actress-talk show host [Kelly Ripa](#) (TV: "Live with Kelly and Michael") is 45. Singer Tiffany is 44. Rock singer Lene Nystrom is 42. Actor Efren Ramirez is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer LaTocha Scott (Xscape) is 42. Gospel singer Mandisa (TV: "[American Idol](#)") is 39. Actress Brianna Brown is 36. Rock musician Mike Rodden (Hinder) is 33. Tennis player Marion Bartoli is 31. Actor Christopher Larkin is 28. Rock singer Brittany Howard (Alabama Shakes) is 27. Actress Samantha Barks is 25. Actress Elizabeth McLaughlin is 22.

Thought for Today: "There's one way to find out if a man is honest - ask him. If he says 'yes' you know he is a crook." - Groucho Marx (1890-1977).

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

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