

## Connecting - October 05, 2015

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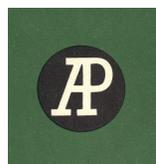
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Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 9:51 AM

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# Connecting

October 05, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Our Connecting colleague **Dennis Redmont** ([Email](#)) reported on the Mediterranean area for The Associated Press for four decades before retiring in 2005..

In the Politico Europe edition on Saturday, he wrote about getting the chance to see his secret police file from the Salazar dictatorship in Portugal - 50 years later! **Claude Erbsen**, a fellow Connecting colleague and longtime AP World Services vice president, shared it with us, and it leads today's edition.

Dennis, as the story notes, is now an executive at the Council for U.S. and Italy in Rome.

Have a great week!

Paul

**Portugal, declassified:  
Fifty years on, a journalist returns to Lisbon  
and digs up his confidential state file**



**By DENNIS REDMONT**

Portugal today is a thriving democracy. But 50 years ago it was a police state. As a reporter for the Associated Press from 1965 to 1967, I was constantly tracked and bullied by the political police for my coverage of the brutal regime of dictator Antonio de Oliveira Salazar. The Portuguese were kept in the dark; the local media crippled by strict censorship.

My mail was steamed open. My phone conversations were meticulously recorded and translated. A squad of eight goons tried to grab me on Praca Da Alegria (Happiness Square) at my Associated Press office in Lisbon, before I found refuge at the U.S. Embassy. Later, I was personally interrogated by the head of Portugal's political police (PIDE), which had assassinated some of its opponents, and jailed and tortured others.

A half century later, I was poring over my declassified police file at the Torre do Tombo

archive located at the Lisbon University Campus, where students once demonstrated for greater freedoms like an end to censorship and allowing political activities.

My dossier, No 4287 ci (2) NT 7338, was neatly wrapped inside a maroon ribbon and a cardboard folder. Each sheet was numbered with a handwritten serial figure inserted. Nearby, other researchers quietly thumbed through books and files in the tinted-glass library. The purring air conditioning gave the scene a feeling of unreality. Glancing out the window, I saw freshman students walk by in their traditional black capes.



The dossier contained the telexed reports I had sent out to the world - reports of university students being mistreated by political police because of their struggle for greater freedom and democracy.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Naming killers*

**Robert Weller** - Having covered several massacres, including Columbine, and watched ceaseless coverage, I firmly believe that what the sheriff did was right.

And that is despite my disapproval of his opposition to tighter gun controls.

Using the name of the killer is like branding. In several cases it has been found that infamy was exactly what they wanted.

Not putting the names in general news stories will not stop the gathering of information. And in fact more accurate information will be found. There are scientific journals and law journals that may not have the information as quickly but are more likely to be right.

There are still those who think one Columbine victim was shot dead because she said she believed in God. A compromise is to give the name only once in story. My Columbine family friends don't even like that idea. It was particularly repugnant to see this individual's photo splashed all over the Internet.

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### ***Our words on words - continued***

**George Hanna** - Okay...I'll get in the word game because no one has mentioned the use of "went missing" - instead of "disappeared." Any style book guidance on that?

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**Arlon Southall** - I didn't know this.....Where expressions came from

#### **A shot of whiskey**

In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whiskey.

#### **THE WHOLE NINE YARDS**

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

#### **BUYING THE FARM**

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies

worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

### **IRON CLAD CONTRACT**

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

### **PASSING THE BUCK / THE BUCK STOPS HERE**

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted then "the buck stopped there"

### **RIFF RAFF**

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

### **COBWEB**

The Old English word for "spider" was "cob"

### **SHIP STATE ROOMS**

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

### **SLEEP TIGHT**

Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a criss-

cross pattern. A straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night's sleep.

### **SHOWBOAT**

These were floating theaters built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played small towns along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" these did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is "showboating".

### **OVER A BARREL**

In the days before CPR a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel you are in deep trouble.

### **BARGE IN**

Heavy freight was moved along the Mississippi in large barges pushed by steamboats. These were hard to control and would sometimes swing into piers or other boats. People would say they "barged in".

### **HOGWASH**

Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash".

### **CURFEW**

The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu", which means "cover the fire". It was used to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu", which later became the modern "curfew". In the early American colonies homes had no real fireplaces so a fire was built in the center of the room. In order to make sure a fire did not get out of control during the night it was

required that, by an agreed upon time, all fires would be covered with a clay pot called-a "curfew".

### **BARRELS OF OIL**

When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

### **HOT OFF THE PRESS**

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat up. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press it's hot. The expression means to get immediate information.

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**Steve Dapper**, spotted on LinkedIn from David Briggs:

So, time is up for the language vandals.

So I am beginning this sentence with a word that is so irritating when it's used at the start of a sentence to illustrate a point. It's time to reclaim our language from fashionable carelessness. Language vandals have been dragging things down to the lowest common denominator for long enough. The slavish use of the word "so" at the start of a sentence is a sign of someone who is not particularly fluent. Yet it is so common. Who is to blame? Bumbling academics perhaps who are not quite sure how to answer the question?. The misplaced "so" has invaded everyday speech like some noxious weed in an untended garden. We should go back to using 'ummmm' and 'errrrr' to fulfill the function rather than contribute to the savaging of our language. This is a battle worth the effort. Are you up to it?

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***Sports and their impact on our careers***

**Myron Belkind** - Thanks to two greats: Bob Gallimore and Joe Louis.

I had my only ringside sporting experience at the Golden Gloves boxing championships in March 1965 at Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Serving in the U.S. Army in Kansas City as a private first class while on military leave from the AP, I received a phone call from Bob Gallimore, the AP assistant bureau chief.

"New York tells us you might be available to help cover the Golden Gloves boxing tournament," said Gallimore. "Would you be available and do you think you can do it?"

"Yes," I replied to both questions, knowing firstly that I could go to the evening boxing matches after my daily duty ended at the Army Hometown News Center in the old federal building at 601 Hardesty Avenue. I wrote news releases for hometown newspapers about the achievements of their local soldiers serving around the world.

I also knew I had to learn everything possible about boxing. I had covered sports while at Brush High School in Cleveland, Ohio, phoning results to the morning Cleveland Plain Dealer and the afternoon Cleveland Press (for \$2 each for each game) and also writing a weekly sports column for two suburban weeklies. But Brush High did not have boxing, and so I was about to be a novice covering the greatest amateur boxing tournament in the country.

As I teach my students at The George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, preparation is essential for all assignments.

And so I took a bus to the Kansas City Public Library and checked out "Joe Louis' How to Box."



It was a superb primer for my assignment. I used it to describe every possible punch that was thrown.

The Kansas City sports staff did the main wrap-up story from the Golden Gloves each night, while I wrote about a dozen one-pointers every day focusing on individual boxers. My stories were sent via Western Union to the individual AP members.

I must have done something right. After the tournament ended, Bob Gallimore sent me a brief note, along with a check, to say: "New York told us you were good. But we did not know you were that good!"

Thank you, Bob Gallimore, and thank you, Joe Louis.

It was a long way from Cleveland, Ohio, where I was selected to be the second grade representative at East Cleveland Elementary School to walk three blocks to the East Cleveland Railroad Station to greet the Cleveland Indians as they arrived from Boston after playing the then Boston Braves in the first two games of the 1948 World Series. Cleveland went on to win in six games, the last time Cleveland won a World Series.

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**Joe McGowan** - I did not have any sports related directly to my job with AP. However, in the early 60s when I was a newsman in the Miami bureau, a bunch of guys from the Miami Herald, Miami News, AP and UP would get together on weekends to play touch football. Among the players were Gene Miller of the Herald who became a successful author, Al Burt of the Herald, severely injured covering a revolution in the Dominican Republic; Hal Hendrix of the News who won a Pulitzer for being the first to report present of Soviet missiles in Cuba; and one fellow who was Asst. ME of the Herald. His name: Al Neuharth!

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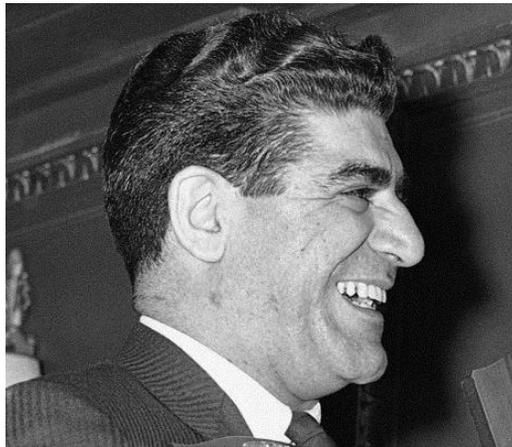
**Sue Price Johnson** - A woman who took the AP test complained to me that it was unfair because it included sports. Ladies, she said, just shouldn't be expected to know that. And surely they wouldn't be covering sports!

I explained to her that everyone at the AP covered everything the AP does, and that it was pretty clear she really didn't want to work there.

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**John Dowling** - After reading all of the sports tales from colleagues I realized that I have one, though it's not really about me.

Starting out in the Chicago bureau in the early 1980s I gained a reputation as a reliable jack-of-all-trades. So I shouldn't have been surprised when the ACOB (the late Dave Riley) posted a schedule that had me staffing a couple of Cubs games. The thing was, I had never covered a sporting event on deadline in my life. Perhaps this was intended as my reward for many, many nights and weekends on the desk writing football and basketball leads from stringer calls. In any case I needed a crash course in baseball coverage, so I turned to the bureau sports editor, the legendary Joe Mooshil.



"Legendary" is surely an overused word, but it surely fits Joe, (left), at least in Chicago sports circles and among AP colleagues of his era.

"Moosh" was the sports writer from central casting, with thick, wavy steel-gray hair, a foghorn for a voice, a cigar always at hand or in mouth, and a startling dexterity with profanity. In his younger days he had been known to lead visiting players and managers on post-game expeditions to the Rush Street bars. By the time I met him he had been on the sports beat for nearly 30 years and knew more about baseball than many of the people he

covered.

On the appointed day I met Joe in a bar in a building that had housed the Chicago bureau for many years, on Randolph Street under the "el" tracks. I found him deep in conversation with an acquaintance who may or may not have been a bookie. I ordered a scotch, a foul-tasting first for me, but it seemed appropriate to the circumstances. Soon we were off to Comiskey Park via back streets that I, a native Chicagoan, had never

traveled.

From the moment we were waved into Joe's reserved space in the players' parking lot, I began to realize this would be like going to Mass with the pope. Everyone, from the parking lot attendant to the team owners, greeted Joe cordially and with utmost respect. We made a quick tour of the clubhouses (Joe greeted the visiting manager with a totally unprintable obscenity, spoken with evident affection) and we made our way to the Bard's Room, the walnut-paneled stadium club built by long-ago White Sox owner Charles Comiskey to wine and dine VIPs and sports writers.

Prime rib was on the dinner menu and my ethical alarms were screaming. How could we eat a lavish dinner provided by the team we were about to cover? The alternative, of course, was for me, the trainee and newcomer, to leave my plate empty and explain my ethical qualms to Joe and his almost-as-crusty peers as they tucked into their dinners.

I ordered medium-rare.

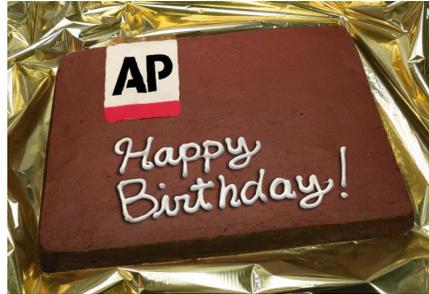
Up in the press box Joe was clearly the seat of baseball wisdom for his colleagues, and he gave me a master class in covering a night game for the wire: Scorekeeping, dictation, strategy on leads, handling the no-hitter or the bench-clearing brawl, dealing with the baseball desk, covering two clubhouses solo, and on and on. He had recently given up his manual typewriter for one of AP's early portable computers, the "Portabubble," with a screen about the size of a slice of bread, but it didn't faze him.

There was no cheering in the press box, of course, and no drinking either, until it was time to write the "overnighter," at which point Joe cracked open a cold Budweiser procured for by the press box attendant; apparently this was a standing order. And there was time for a boilermaker (a shot of whiskey and a stein of beer) in the Bard's Room before heading home.

Thanks to Joe I managed to stumble through two dozen or so Cubs and Sox games without serious mishap that summer before the bureau management came to its senses. I often told this story in later years to illustrate why AP moved away from the "jack of all trades" model for bureau news people, recognizing that strong coverage required specialized skills and experience. But I also told it in tribute to Joe, a master of his craft who treated a clueless rookie with patience and kindness, and was one of my strongest links to a bygone

AP.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Gary Nyhus ([Email](#))

## Welcome to Connecting



Kathy McCormack ([Email](#))

# Stories of interest

## **'Vultures' or reporters? After shooting, witnesses hit with media requests** (Washington Post)

Terrible news events in the social-media age have inspired eyewitness tweets, videos and Facebook postings. They've also inspired a secondary phenomenon: The news media's nearly instant descent on anyone posting such accounts, in search of interviews.

So it was Thursday, when a gunman opened fire at a community college in Roseburg, Ore., killing at least nine and wounding seven before he was killed. Within moments of the first tweets from people in Roseburg came follow-up tweets from journalists seeking to speak to those who witnessed the rampage - and a backlash wave from people disgusted by the news media.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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## **Jason Whitlock, ESPN part ways following website demotion** (Sports Illustrated)

ESPN and sports commentator Jason Whitlock have parted ways.

Again.

After hiring Whitlock in August 2013 to be the founding editor for a still-yet-to-launch website (The Undefeated) on the intersection of race and sports-a talent acquisition that was also part of a spending spree to counter the launch of Fox Sports 1-ESPN has bought out the remainder of Whitlock's contract. This ends the second go-around for ESPN and Whitlock, who worked from ESPN from 2002 to 2006 as an ESPN.com writer and frequently opinionist on its studio shows. The buyout was quietly negotiated a couple of

weeks ago.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **Vietnam jails journalist for spying for China** (Reuters)

A Vietnamese journalist has been found guilty of spying for China and sentenced to a six-year jail term by a Hanoi court after a three-hour trial, his lawyer said on Thursday.

Ha Huy Hoang, who had worked for a Foreign Ministry-run magazine, was jailed on Wednesday for colluding with a Chinese spy and would appeal, lawyer Ha Huy Son told Reuters.

"He was found guilty of supplying information and material about Vietnam's economy and its leaders to the Chinese government," he said.

Issues related to China are highly sensitive in Vietnam, where the ruling Communist Party shares close but rocky ties with Beijing, despite deep-rooted resentment among its people and territorial squabbling over the South China Sea.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## **Today in History - October 5, 2015**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, October 5, the 278th day of 2015. There are 87 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On October 5, 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House

address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

**On this date:**

In 1829, the 21st president of the United States, Chester Alan Arthur, was born in North Fairfield, Vermont.

In 1931, Clyde Pangborn and Hugh Herndon completed the first non-stop flight across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in Washington state some 41 hours after leaving Japan.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1955, a stage adaptation of "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett opened at the Cort Theatre in New York.

In 1969, the British TV comedy program "Monty Python's Flying Circus" made its debut on BBC 1.

In 1970, British trade commissioner James Richard Cross was kidnapped in Canada by militant Quebec separatists; he was released the following December.

In 1974, the Irish Republican Army bombed two pubs in Guildford, Surrey, England, resulting in five deaths and dozens of injuries. (Four men who became known as the Guildford Four were convicted of the bombings, but were ultimately vindicated.)

In 1984, the space shuttle Challenger blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center on an 8-day mission; the crew included Kathryn D. Sullivan, who became the first American woman to walk in space, and Marc Garneau, the first Canadian astronaut.

In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice-presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

In 1990, a jury in Cincinnati acquitted an art gallery and its director of obscenity charges stemming from an exhibit of sexually graphic photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe.

In 1995, Seamus Heaney of Ireland won the 1995 Nobel Prize in literature.

In 1999, two packed commuter trains collided near London's Paddington Station, killing 31 people.

Ten years ago: Defying the White House, senators voted 90-9 to approve an amendment sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would prohibit the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" against anyone in U.S. government custody. (A reluctant President George W. Bush later signed off on the amendment.) Americans Robert H. Grubbs and Richard R. Schrock and Frenchman Yves Chauvin won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. Daniel Alfredsson scored twice in the final six minutes of regulation and once during the first shootout in NHL history, leading the Ottawa Senators to a 3-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Five years ago: Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD'), the Pakistani immigrant who'd tried to detonate a car bomb in Times Square, accepted a life sentence from a federal judge in New York with a smirk and warned that Americans could expect more bloodshed at the hands of Muslims. President Barack Obama convened the first-ever White House summit on community colleges, calling them the "unsung heroes of America's education system." Paroled burglar Steven Hayes was convicted of murdering a woman and her two daughters during a home-invasion robbery in Cheshire, Connecticut. (Hayes and fellow perpetrator Joshua Komisarjevsky (koh-mih-sahr-JEV'-skee) remain on death row.)

One year ago: A suicide bomber blew himself up in Grozny, killing five policemen and wounding 12 others as the Chechen capital celebrated the birthday of its pro-Russian leader, Ramzan Kadyrov (kuh-DEE'-ruhv). Geoffrey Holder, a Tony Award-winning director, actor, painter, dancer and choreographer, died in New York at age 84.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Glynis Johns is 92. Comedian Bill Dana is 91. Actor Peter Brown is 80. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 74. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 72. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 72. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 68. Actress Karen Allen is 64. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 63. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 61. Rock singer and famine-relief organizer Bob Geldof is 61. Designer Maya Lin is 56. Actor [Daniel Baldwin](#) is 55. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 51. Hockey Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux is 50. Actor [Guy Pearce](#) is 48. Actress Josie Bissett is 45. Singer-actress Heather Headley is 41. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 41. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 40. Actress Parminder Nagra (pahr-MIHN'-da NAH'grah) is 40. Actor Scott Weinger is 40. Actress [Kate Winslet](#) is 40. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 37. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 35. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 32. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 32. Actress Azure Parsons is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brooke Valentine is 30. Actor Kevin Bigley is 29. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 21.

***Thought for Today: "America has believed that in differentiation, not in uniformity, lies the path of progress. It acted on this belief; it has advanced human happiness, and it has prospered." - Louis D. Brandeis, U.S. Supreme Court justice (born 1856, died this date in 1941).***

## 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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