

## Connecting - October 09-10, 2015

1 message

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# Connecting

October 09-10, 2015

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***As Wichita correspondent, interviewing Nancy Landon Kassebaum on the night she was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978. She served two more terms before retiring from the Senate.***

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

***"Being a one-person correspondent is the best job in the AP."***

That's what Kansas City CoB **Fred Moen** told me back in 1976 when he offered me the chance to move from St. Louis newsman to Wichita correspondent. I accepted the offer and served there for three years, covering a huge variety of stories in central and western Kansas. One of those stories is pictured above.

And when I became a bureau chief, I used that same language when seeking prospects for

the one-person correspondencies I oversaw in New Mexico (El Paso, with Dallas), Indiana (South Bend and Evansville) and Kansas-Missouri ( Springfield and Columbia and yes, Wichita). Points that were made:

*The positions give you the ability to write and cover stories in person and not be tied to a desk. Responsibility for news in your own corner of a state. A huge variety of subjects to cover. Day hours, no weekends - except when news dictates. And more.*

I was reminded of this with the story in Thursday's Connecting on **Jeff Barnard**, who just retired after serving - and serving well - as the one-person correspondent in Grants Pass, Oregon, for 33 of his 35 years in the AP. (An add to his career highlights: the birth of their daughter Nellie while in Grants Pass.)

Connecting reaches out to those of you who once served in such positions. Or oversaw them. Any unique stories to share? Any unusual circumstances? What was life like compared to being in a control bureau? What were the upsides and the downsides?

Send along your memories to share in Connecting. Include photos.

This edition of Connecting covers today and Saturday - Ye Olde Connecting Editor is traveling (University of Iowa homecoming weekend) and will not be able to publish Saturday's edition. The newsletter will resume Monday morning. Send along your contributions today and over the weekend so we can open next week with an edition rich with content.

I wanted to also note that for those of you who missed seeing Connecting on Wednesday and Thursday, due to a sending glitch, drop me a note and I will resend what you missed. Wednesday's led with news of AP World being offered as a PDF in Connecting and the death of John Mulligan, like his late brother Hugh, an AP veteran.

Have a great weekend. See you Monday!

Paul



# Connecting mailbox

**Matt Mygatt** - Mel Mencher is my uncle, and I was quite gratified to see the Connecting posting on "The Sayings of Chairman Mel." I think his words are timeless. For those interested, the Los Angeles Times published a story about him when he retired from Columbia University in 1990. Here's the link: [http://articles.latimes.com/1990-06-03/news/vw-877\\_1\\_melvin-mencher](http://articles.latimes.com/1990-06-03/news/vw-877_1_melvin-mencher)

He still lives in New York City, and I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from friends, colleagues and former students.

FYI, an image of the booklet is at right.

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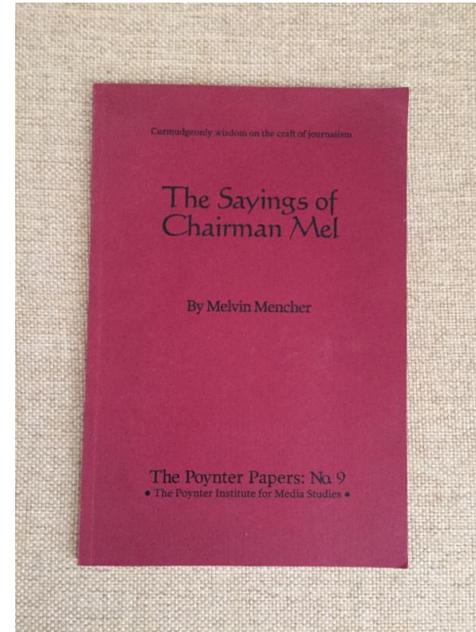
**Henry Bradsher** - Good to see, on Thursday's Connecting, that AP World is now available online. A very different publication from the one I remember decades ago.

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**Gene Herrick** - Picking up on John Dowling's yarn about Joe Mooshil, reminds me of another great Chicago sports figure, Charley Dunkley, who probably mentored Mooshil.

Dunkley was the long-time sports editor in Chicago, and was as colorful and eventful as any sporting event he ever covered.

Dunkley, the record shows, joined the AP in Chicago on Jan. 1, 1911, and was appointed Central Division Sports Editor in 1916. He retired in October, 1952, after 41 years.



Dunkley was a character as well as a great sports writer. There are lots of stories about Dunkley and his interesting personality, but three I remember hearing were in South Bend, Indiana. I don't remember the time, but I think it was in the early 40's.

There were two events, both involving Dunkley and a buddy of his, who happened to be a sports writer from a Chicago newspaper. Both involved a hotel in South Bend.

Dunkley and his friend regularly stayed at this hotel when they covered Notre Dame football. Arriving on a Friday, they would go to the desk to register. During the years they had a good rapport with the hotel manager, who became aware of their pair's antics and humor. On one occasion, Dunkley and his friend tried to check in, but were told they were not welcome. They left, and later returned dressed in women's clothing - dresses, hats, high-heels, and tried again to register. The manager laughed, and said that if they wanted to be there that bad he would let them move in.

Another time, Charlie registered, and went to his room. In the room only minutes, he found he had a roommate - a goat. The manager thought it would be a good joke. Charlie called the desk and told them he wanted to change rooms. They reportedly asked, "What is the problem, Mr. Dunkley?" Charlie responded that he didn't like the wallpaper. He wouldn't give the manager the enjoyment of playing a joke on him.

Another time he was at that hotel - which had a railroad running right next to the rear of the hotel, Charlie called the manager at home in the middle of night and asked, "What times does this Goddamned hotel get to Chicago?"



The shooting in rural, southwest Oregon was largely carried out in a classroom where few survived. Little was known about the gunman or the rampage that left eight students and

a professor dead, and local law enforcement made clear they weren't going to say more than necessary.

This is the situation that reporters Gosia Wozniacka, Tami Abdollah and Brian Melley encountered when they arrived in Roseburg soon after the shooting. Their goal was to produce a comprehensive reconstruction. Collaborating with colleagues at NIRC and in Portland and Seattle, they obtained addresses and phone numbers for victims, family members and friends. They kept a continuously updated e-mail chain going with reporters, photographers, video journalists and editors to update colleagues in the field and track down sources.

The first break came when Wozniacka located the grandmother of a woman who saw her teacher gunned down. Wozniacka found the woman at her family's ranch after she returned from visiting her granddaughter in the hospital. She told Wozniacka the gunman specifically spared a student so he could deliver a message to authorities.

Then Wozniacka, along with video journalist Manuel Valdes, spoke with a local pastor whose daughter also survived. They located him after a freelance photographer met him at a makeshift memorial. Wozniacka and Valdes went to the man's church and convinced him to speak to AP for all formats. They spent an hour with the pastor as he painstakingly told them about the shootings, including the fact that his daughter lived by playing dead.

Again, they heard the story of a "lucky" student the gunman had chosen to survive. This time, there were more details -- specifically that the shooter had given the survivor a flash drive to deliver to police.

Wozniacka and Valdes were also on hand when the pastor spoke by phone with the mother of a student who hadn't survived - an emotional scene used in a spot story as well as in widely-distributed video run by Yahoo News and others.

Melley, tracking and filling out details gathered throughout the weekend, wrote a detailed story about how the shooting unfolded. The next break came when Abdollah confirmed with a law enforcement source that authorities had indeed recovered a message from the gunman, who killed himself when police arrived.

Abdollah and Wozniacka then worked with video journalists Valdes, Peter Banda and

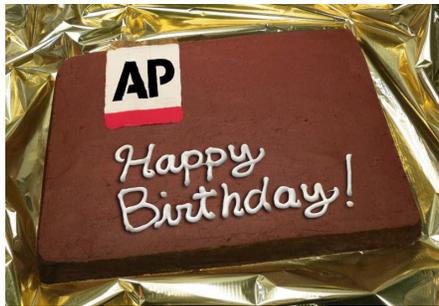
Haven Daley, and photographers John Locher and Rich Pedroncelli, to identify images of the students who survived.

Using a photo taken at a Sunday memorial service, Abdollah positively identified the "lucky" student with a long-time resident of the housing facility where he once lived. This allowed us to publish photos of the teenager from the memorial service - as well as other photos - that were widely used, including on MSN.com, The Washington Post and The Daily Mail.

For making sources on the fly in a difficult situation, Abdollah, Wozniacka and Melley share this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Shared by Valerie Komor.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Sue Price Johnson ([Email](#))

## Welcome to Connecting



Carson Walker ([Email](#))

## Stories of interest

### Al Kamen says a fond farewell to In The Loop

By AL KAMEN  
The Washington Post

No more Loop contests. No more T-shirts. After some 2,700 columns, this is my last. So it's time to look back a bit and to thank those who made it happen.

Thanks first and foremost to Bill Clinton, whose ridiculously chaotic presidential transition after the 1992 election launched this column. The idea was to chronicle the vicious infighting and backstabbing 'mongst Democrats desperate for top jobs in a White House that had belonged to the GOP for 20 of the previous 24 years.

It was just a short-term thing called "In Transition," with an expiration date of Jan. 20, 1993.



But the jobs, naturally, weren't filled by then, so the column kept going, with the name changed to "The New Regime."

After a few months, the regime wasn't so new. So, over my bitter objections (it sounded goofy, too Chicago), it became "In the Loop."

The focus quickly expanded from job appointments and Senate confirmations to writing about all manner of government non-, mis-, and mal-feasance, about the waste, fraud and abuse of our tax dollars and about bureaucrats gone bad.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **When Death Comes, and the Obituary Quickly Follows** (New York Times)

"I have some very sad news to share with all of you," Timothy D. Cook, the chief executive of Apple, wrote to his employees on Oct. 5, 2011. "Steve passed away earlier today."

No last name was needed in Cupertino, Calif., nor in many other places around the world where Steven P. Jobs, a co-founder of Apple, was regarded with awe, admiration, reverence, fear and contempt.

His death was tremendously important news. Within an hour of Mr. Cook's announcement, The Times had a 3,500-word obituary on its website, by John Markoff, with Steve Lohr. Both were on the team that later won a Pulitzer Prize for its "penetrating look into business practices by Apple and other technology companies that illustrates the darker side of a changing global economy."



What appeared to readers as if it happened in minutes was a product of work that began Aug. 1, 2007, when Mr. Markoff sketched out the first words of his obit:

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **Social Media Usage: 2005-2015** (Pew)

Nearly two-thirds of American adults (65%) use social networking sites, up from 7% when Pew Research Center began systematically tracking social media usage in 2005. Pew Research reports have documented in great detail how the rise of social media has affected such things as work, politics and political deliberation, communications patterns around the globe, as well as the way people get and share information about health, civic life, news consumption, communities, teenage life, parenting, dating and even people's level of stress.

A special analysis of 27 national surveys of Americans across the past decade documents this substantial spread of technology throughout the population, although the overall number of users of social networking sites has leveled off since 2013.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, there continues to be growth in social media usage among some groups that were not among the earliest adopters, including older Americans.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **4 telltale signs you're too print-centric** (Poynter)

Some call me the Sun Sentinel's digital cop. I've made it a personal mission to keep the journalists who create content from thinking in print terms.

Will a story zone? What is the 1B centerpiece? Should we contain that story? Those are important questions handled by our print production desk, a select group of talented copy editors who previously lacked control over the packaging of the print edition but now own it.

The rest of the newsroom, those who gather and crystallize the information that serve as the backbone of our storytelling, focus on how best to tell the stories of the day. Is it a

narrative? A video? A photo gallery? An interactive database? All of the above?

Of course, it wasn't always that way. Our evolution has been at times painful and inspiring. Much of the pain came early on, a little more than four years ago, when we decided to blow up the structure of the newsroom. Rather than have a small cadre of producers, community managers and the like, we decided to grow our online army by undergoing intense training to raise the digital IQ of editors and reporters.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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### **Tribune Tower is up for sale** (Poynter)

Tribune Tower, the iconic headquarters of the Chicago Tribune, is on the market.

Tribune Media, the owner of the 36-story Michigan Avenue landmark "has hired real estate investment banker Eastdil Secured to explore an outright sale or partnership," the Chicago Tribune's Robert Channick reported Thursday:

Built in 1925, Tribune Tower was designed by New York architects Raymond Hood and John Mead Howells, who won a contest held by Chicago Tribune co-publishers Robert R. McCormick and Joseph Patterson to create the newspaper's headquarters.



Reports of the tower's potential sale have circulated before. In 2006, a company spokesperson shot down rumors that the building was on the market amid the company's \$2 billion share buyback plan.

The sale comes about a year after Tribune Company spun off its print assets, including the Chicago Tribune, into a separate company named Tribune Publishing. Tribune Company's broadcast assets remain with Tribune Media.

The potential sale of Tribune Tower follows a recent pattern in the news industry, said Rick Edmonds, Poynter's media analyst. The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Miami Herald and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution each sold their longtime headquarters for cash as print revenue waned.

"They have a valuable asset they can turn into cash that they need more than they need the building," Edmonds said.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## Today in History - October 9, 2015

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, October 9, the 282nd day of 2015. There are 83 days left in the year.

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

On October 9, 1940, rock-and-roll legend [John Lennon](#) was born in Liverpool, England. (On this date in 1975, his son, Sean, was born in New York.)

### **On this date:**

In 1514, Mary Tudor, the 18-year-old sister of Henry VIII, became Queen consort of France upon her marriage to 52-year-old King Louis XII, who died less than three months later.

In 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present-day San Francisco.

In 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument.

In 1914, the Belgian city of Antwerp fell to German forces during World War I.

In 1934, King Alexander I of Yugoslavia was assassinated in Marseille, France, by a Macedonian gunman.

In 1946, the Eugene O'Neill drama "The Iceman Cometh" opened at the Martin Beck Theater in New York.

In 1958, Pope Pius XII died at age 82, ending a 19-year papacy. (He was succeeded by Pope John XXIII.)

In 1967, Latin American guerrilla leader Che Guevara was killed by the Bolivian army a day after he was captured.

In 1975, Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov (AHN'-dray SAHK'-ah-rawf) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1985, the hijackers of the Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) cruise liner surrendered two days after seizing the vessel in the Mediterranean. (Passenger Leon Klinghoffer was killed by the hijackers during the standoff.)

In 1995, a sabotaged section of track caused an Amtrak train, the Sunset Limited, to derail in Arizona; one person was killed and about 80 were injured (the case remains unsolved).

In 2009, President Barack Obama was named the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

Ten years ago: Dozens of foreign tourists fled devastated lakeside Mayan towns as Guatemalan officials said they would abandon communities buried by landslides caused by Hurricane Stan and declare them mass graveyards. A driverless Volkswagen Touareg, designed by Stanford University, won a \$2 million race across the rugged Nevada desert, beating four other robot-guided vehicles that completed a Pentagon-sponsored contest aimed at making warfare safer for humans. Actor-comedian Louis Nye died in Los Angeles

at age 92.

Five years ago: Chile's 33 trapped miners cheered and embraced each other as a drill punched into their underground chamber where they had been stuck for an agonizing 66 days. The International Monetary Fund wrapped up two days of talks in Washington without resolving deep differences over currency movements. A crush of fans circled a flower-graced mosaic in Central Park's Strawberry Fields and sang lyrics from "Imagine" to honor John Lennon on his 70th birthday.

One year ago: Six U.S. military planes arrived in the Ebola hot zone with more Marines as West African leaders pleaded for the world's help in dealing with what Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma described as "a tragedy unforeseen in modern times." French novelist Patrick Modiano was named the recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Carolyn Kizer, 89, died in Sonoma, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Fyvush Finkel is 93. Retired MLB All-Star Joe Pepitone is 75. Former Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., is 74. C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nona Hendryx is 71. Singer Jackson Browne is 67. Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams is 65. Actor Gary Frank is 65. Actor Richard Chaves is 64. Actor Robert Wuhl is 64. Actress-TV personality Sharon Osbourne is 63. Actor Tony Shalhoub is 62. Actor Scott Bakula is 61. Musician James Fearnley (The Pogues) is 61. Actor John O'Hurley is 61. Writer-producer-director-actor Linwood Boomer is 60. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Mike Singletary is 57. Actor Michael Pare is 57. Jazz musician Kenny Garrett is 55. Rock singer-musician Kurt Neumann (The BoDeans) is 54. Country singer Gary Bennett is 51. Movie director Guillermo del Toro is 51. British Prime Minister David Cameron is 49. Singer P.J. Harvey is 46. Movie director [Steve McQueen](#) (Film: "12 Years a Slave") is 46. World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam is 45. Actress Cocoa Brown is 43. Country singer Tommy Shane Steiner is 42. Actor Steve Burns is 42. Rock singer Sean Lennon is 40. Actor Randy Spelling is 37. Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae is 36. Actor Brandon Routh is 36. Actor Zachery Ty Bryan is 34. Actress Spencer Grammer is 32. Actor Tyler James Williams is 23. Country singer Scotty McCreery (TV: "[American Idol](#)") is 22.

*Thought for Today: "I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cabdriver. Then they would really be educated." - Al McGuire, American Basketball Hall of Fame coach (1928-2001).*

## 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**

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