

Connecting - October 23, 2015

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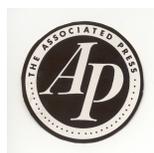
Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Fri, Oct 23, 2015 at 8:48 AM

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Connecting

October 23, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Connecting was not published Thursday because of computer issues with Ye Olde Connecting Editor's aging laptop - but thanks to good friend and Sprint IT veteran **Darrell Condon**, I am bringing this issue to you with a new computer and new programming that I am still trying to figure out.

Today's issue contains highlights but fewer story links as I try to figure it all out, so bear with me. If you sent me a story or memory in the past couple days and I have not used, please resend.

Please join me in congratulating the 2015 Gramling Award winners, announced Thursday in New York, and in wishing the best to **Sally Jacobsen**, who will retire October 30, concluding four decades of distinguished service to The Associated Press and its members.

Paul

AP announces winners of 2015 Oliver S. Gramling Awards

Journalists and business executives from around the world are among the winners of the 2015 Oliver S. Gramling Awards, the highest staff honor of The Associated Press.

The Gramling Awards were created in 1994 to recognize AP staffers for professional excellence. Each year, a committee of AP staffers evaluates nominations submitted by their colleagues and selects winners in four categories: journalism, achievement, spirit and scholarships.

The awards, ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000, come from an estate set up by the late AP broadcast executive Oliver S. Gramling.

Here are the 2015 winners:

\$10,000 Oliver S. Gramling Journalism Awards

Southeast Asia fishing slaves investigation team

Though the journalism award customarily goes to individuals, the judges broke tradition in presenting it to Esther Htusan, newspaper, Myanmar; Robin McDowell, correspondent, Myanmar; Margie Mason, medical writer, Jakarta, Indonesia; and Martha Mendoza, newspaper, San Jose, Calif., because of their compelling work. Their yearlong investigation into the abusive practices of the fishing industry in Southeast Asia resulted in the release of more than 2,000 slaves and



immediate reaction from major retailers, as well as the Indonesian government. They followed ships by satellite, located slaves locked in pens, and stalked refrigerated trucks to their destinations. The reporters were able to connect the catch of enslaved fishermen, some of whom had not seen their families and homes for many years, to seafood sold in major supermarket chains and processed by leading pet food brands.

Martha Mendoza, Margie Mason, Robin McDowell and Esther Htusan, winners of AP's Gramling Journalism Award for their seafood-slaves work.

Andrew Drake, senior broadcast producer, West Africa

Whether covering the lynching of a suspected Muslim rebel in the Central African Republic, or leading AP's first deployment in West Africa's Ebola region, Drake succeeds in telling stories in often perilous environments. He is also a reliable cross-format journalist, describing for AP's text report what he is transmitting on video. In addition, he has identified and mentored a network of stringers who have kept AP consistently ahead of the competition on critical stories in the vast region.

\$10,000 Oliver S. Gramling Achievement Awards

AP Middle East Extra

When customers in the Middle East asked for news on culture, society, technology and lifestyles, AP Middle East Extra delivered, with 30 regional stories a week complementing AP's core video offering. Launched in 2014, the service meets a burgeoning customer need for news content beyond breaking news, delivering more than \$2.3 million in new AP revenue this year and reinforcing AP's presence in a growing media market. The team representing AP Middle East Extra in accepting its award consists of Debora Gorbitt, head of video content development, London; Alwyn Lindsey, vice president of sales, Europe, Middle East and Africa, London; Ghida Nehme, regional sales executive, Middle East and North Africa, Beirut; Maggie Hyde, video planner, Cairo; and Hassan Ramadan, regional sales executive, Middle East and North Africa, Doha, Qatar.

Maria Ronson, vice president of sales, Asia

Over three decades of service, Ronson has grown AP's presence in Asia and generated more than \$250 million in sales. Based in Hong Kong, she has overseen AP's offerings to broadcasters, newspapers, key partners and new media. Ronson's passion for AP, her background in news and her keen sense of market trends and ability to turn them into business opportunities have made her the heart of AP's presence in Asia. Ronson's entrance to AP came by way of Worldwide Television News, acquired by AP in 1998, where she held senior editorial positions in Asia and London. As senior editor, Ronson produced the first pictures of the U.S. Embassy bombing in Nairobi, produced Gulf War coverage in 1990 and coordinated coverage of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

\$5,000 Oliver S. Gramling Spirit Awards

Ben Jary, cameraman and production manager, London

Jary not only plays an integral role in AP's video coverage of some of the biggest stories, he is also committed to AP, as seen in his generosity in mentoring and training colleagues. After joining AP in 2001 as a news assistant, Jary progressed to assistant producer and then to his current role. As cameraman, he has covered such stories as the Sochi Winter Olympics, Brazil World Cup, the birth of Britain's Prince George of Cambridge, Cannes Film Festival and World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. As production manager, he tests new equipment, maintains current equipment and trains new video journalists.

Maamoun Youssef, news monitor, Cairo

Every day, Youssef sifts through the murky online world of Islamic extremism, deftly finding and assessing and writing about propaganda messages and videos put out by the Islamic State, al-Qaida and others. He is the go-to colleague for finding a particular claim for an attack, or locating a new militant video. Despite the horrors he addresses each day, he remains cheerful and collegial, humbly working to advance AP's mission. Youssef worked in his native Iraq as a Reuters correspondent until he stood up to Saddam Hussein's government when it demanded he report only what they wanted known about the Shiite uprising that followed the 1991 Gulf War. He later moved to Cyprus, where he joined AP full time in 1995. A year later, Youssef moved to Cairo to join the Middle East bureau.

\$5,000 Oliver S. Gramling Scholarship Awards

Monika Mathur, news researcher, Washington

Mathur will study computer forensics and digital investigation at Champlain College in Vermont, which will enable her to apply enhanced analysis techniques to gather data from computers and digital storage media to further assist reporters and editors with research and reporting. Mathur has been a key resource on numerous investigative projects, including disclosures of a secret Cuban Twitter program funded by the U.S., security breaches at U.S. airports and military sex crimes in Japan.

Katherine Pummill, national media executive, Los Angeles

Pummill will further her master's degree studies in media management at The New School in New York City, learning the new business models that media companies are turning to as the industry evolves, as well as how markets are being reorganized. She will also examine key ethical issues confronting media professionals today. Pummill, a native New Yorker, recently transferred to Los Angeles and is managing the national cable and syndicated markets on the West Coast.

(Shared by Paul Colford)

Sally Jacobsen to retire after 39-year AP career



Incoming Associated Press Media Editors President Laura Sellers-Earl, managing editor at The Daily Astorian in Astoria, Ore., presents Sally Jacobsen (right) with an artist's caricature of herself during the recent APME conference at Stanford University.

Sally Jacobsen ([Email](#)), deputy managing editor/projects for The Associated Press since 2003 and AP's liaison with the Associated Press Media Editors association, will retire from the AP on October 30 after a 39-year career. "It's been an incredible journey!", she told her Connecting colleagues. "I feel very fortunate to have worked at the AP for so many years and with so many wonderful people."

Sally has been a member of the AP Stylebook team since 2007.

Prior to her current position, she was International Editor for four years. She was a foreign correspondent for a decade, working in the Mexico City and Brussels, Belgium, bureaus.

She started at the AP in 1976 as a newswoman in Baltimore - hired by CoB John Woodfield - and transferred two years later to Washington, D.C., where she covered the banking and savings and loan industries before being named chief economics writer in 1983.

Before joining the AP, she worked at City News Bureau in Chicago. She earned a master's degree from Cornell University, and a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University. She was a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu in 1996. She's a native of Colorado.



Sally Jacobsen

Connecting mailbox

A remarkable shot - and before autofocus

Brian Horton - A good remembrance from Harry Cabluck of Carlton Fisk's home run

against the Cincinnati Reds in the '75 World Series.

Harry downplays his achievement in that sequence. Many people have shot centerfield, and some have done a good job of getting the ball coming off the bat, but few have ever worked the scene so completely, never losing the batter.

In this case, Fisk danced down the line and Harry danced with him. The key hit and the jubilation. No one else came close from any angle.

And, people need to remember, this was before autofocus that was Harry's eyes and trigger finger working in sync!

Click this link to view - <http://www.theplayerstribune.com/the-shot/>

More of your favorite leads

Hal Bock - Here are two of my favorite leads , the first written for the 50th anniversary of DiMaggio's 56 game hitting streak and Williams .406 batting average and the second for Bill Veeck's induction in the Hall of Fame.

It was the Summer of '41, a time for heroes.

As the shadows of war lengthened over Europe and the world, there were signs everywhere that the conflict would involve this country, There was a foreboding sense that this would be America's last summer of innocence.

The country searched desperately for relief from the flames of a world on fire and baseball supplied the antidote with two remarkable individual accomplishments -- the 56-game hitting streak of Joe DiMaggio and the .406 season of Ted Williams.

Half a century and several wars later, DiMaggio still owns the barometer for batting streaks and Williams remains Baseball's last .400 hitter. In a sport where records regularly fall, theirs stand alone, seldom challenged, perhaps never to be broken, magical reminders of the Summer of '41, a time of innocence and accomplishment.

A time of heroes.

Hoist a cold one, maybe even two. Loosen your tie, let down your hair and consider the irony today as baseball welcomes Bill Veeck into the Hall of Fame.

Veeck in Cooperstown?

In a museum?

You have to wonder what baseball's Barnum would think about

the establishment celebrating the career of the game's original iconoclast, the man who once sent a midget up to bat and exploded fireworks to celebrate home runs.

-0-

Marian Torchia - My nomination:

NAIROBI, Kenya (1979) - Rejecting a marriage reform bill that broke with centuries of African tradition, Kenya's parliament voted Thursday to protect a species endangered elsewhere in the world--the male chauvinist pig.



After Peru displaced Colombia in 2012 as the world's No. 1 cocaine producer, Lima bureau chief Frank Bajak was determined to explain why. His investigation took him to a remote valley the size of Ireland where most of Peru's coca grows and where an "air bridge" of daily small plane traffic to Bolivia had become an epidemic.

Here, Bajak found evidence of military corruption that is at the heart of Peru's rise as a drug haven _ the basis for a riveting story that earns the Beat of the Week.

<http://wapo.st/1Nko3BD>

Bajak, who has covered the region on and off beginning in 1996, moved from Colombia to Peru in 2011. In Peru, he found the U.S. Embassy was less engaged in pursuing cocaine criminals. Drug corruption was more insidious, public institutions weaker, official information painfully scarce.

Peru's military had been intimately involved in running drugs during the 1990s rule of now-imprisoned former President Alberto Fujimori. Now, it was in charge of the remote jungle region known as the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro river valley. The armed forces had 6,000 soldiers there, ostensibly to battle drug-trafficking remnants of the Shining Path insurgency though the rebel force now numbers fewer than 100 fighters.

In mid-2014, as a member of AP's international investigations team, Bajak began to examine military corruption in earnest. Prosecutors weren't investigating, and no media _ Peruvian or international _ had ventured to tell the story. The U.S. government, in counter-narcotics reports, was calling Peru's efforts exemplary, even as drug-related corruption and violence worsened.

Determining whom to trust was the biggest reporting challenge. Vetting sources in Peru is like three-dimensional chess. In the words of a trusted narcotics prosecutor, Peruvian

institutions are 95 percent corrupt. Also, most sources would only speak on condition of anonymity. And because wiretapping is common and Peruvians don't trust phone and email communications, nearly all meetings had to be done face-to-face. That meant several trips to the central highlands and jungle for documents and interviews.

In the end, Bajak spoke to more than two dozen officials, including police, prosecutors, former military officers and current and former DEA agents.

Stringer Carlos Neyra, an investigative researcher, obtained a crucial piece of video from drug police: Narco planes landing near a military base. It was handed to him in a high-Andes rendezvous; at a source's insistence, he traveled incognito by bus from Lima and left his cell phone behind so he couldn't be tracked.

Bajak also tracked down several accused narco pilots. One told him that local military commanders charged \$10,000 for each narco plane that took off and landed unperturbed, and that no plane arrived with less than half a million dollars aboard to cover the drugs and bribes.

Getting additional visual shots was difficult. Lima-based photographer Rodrigo Abd and newsman Franklin Briceno helped gather them in the cocaine valley on tangentially related stories. The AP got no cooperation when it asked the military to go on a joint counter-narcotics mission. The armed forces stonewalled for months, and ultimately declined.

Bajak needed official comment, but the defense minister, armed forces commander and air force brass had been ignoring his interview requests for weeks. State Department officials, meanwhile, refused to be interviewed for the story, agreeing only to answer written questions.

The AP story and photos were carried by major Peruvian outlets, including the most widely heard _RPP Radio_ and Canal N, the cable news network. AP's video was requested by several top Peruvian TV networks. Peru's La Republica ran it and it was the third-most read story online in Chile's El Mercurio. In the U.S., the Washington Post, Miami Herald and Houston Chronicle gave it prominent play and it was among the Top 10 stories on AP's mobile app.

And suddenly, Peruvian officials were no longer mute. The day the story was published, Defense Minister Jakke Valakivi emerged from a Cabinet meeting to call Bajak's report "tendentious." But then he announced an investigation into the allegations.

Two days later, Bajak heard from former army Maj. Evaristo Castillo. Castillo had denounced drug corruption in the military in 1992, and he paid the price: a career in tatters and exile in Spain. Now, Castillo was calling to congratulate Bajak on getting the story out.

For helping to pierce the veil concealing the corrupt dealings of a nation's military, Bajak wins this week's \$500 prize.

Shared by Valerie Komor

Welcome to Connecting



Pam Fine ([Email](#))

Update: Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club'

Joy Stilley and **Joe Somma** are the latest additions to Connecting's most exclusive clubs. If you qualify and are not listed, or if you are listed and have had another birthday to 'fess up to, send a note to Ye Olde Connecting Editor.

Mercer Bailey- 88
Joe Benham - 81
Ben Brown - 82
Sibby Christensen- 80
Otto Doelling - [81](#)
Phil Dopoulos - 83
Mike Feinsilber - [81](#)
Lew Ferguson - 81
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Gene Herrick - [89](#)
Ferd Kaufman - 88
Jim Lagier - 80
Joe McGowan - [84](#)
Walter Mears- 80
Reid Miller - 80
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Richard Pyle - 81
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Joe Somma - 82
Arlon Southall - 83
Paul Webster- 83
George Zucker - 82

90s:

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Carl Bell - 91
George Bria- 99
Albert Habhab - 90
Elaine Light- 92
Joe McKnight - 90
Sam Montello - 92
Joy Stilley - 94
Elon Torrence- 98
Harold Waters - 92

100s

Max Desfor - 101

Stories of interest

Rieder: Dan Rather movie no way to establish the 'Truth

By REM RIEDER
USA Today

This is a movie the world didn't need.

Why would anyone think it's a good idea to make a film portraying two journalists responsible for a major ethical blunder in a heroic light? With A-lister Robert Redford -- who played Bob Woodward in *All the President's Men*, a celebration of good journalism -- cast as one of them, no less.

I'm referring, of course, to *Truth*, the new movie about then-CBS anchor Dan Rather, his producer Mary Mapes and the catastrophic *60 Minutes* *Wednesday* segment on President George W. Bush's disputed service in the Texas Air National Guard. The report ran on September 8, 2004, when Bush was in the middle of his re-election battle with Democrat John Kerry.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Lindel Hutson.

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When news organizations publish stuff accidentally (Washington Post)

By Erik Wemple
The Washington Post

Vice President Joe Biden may yet launch a presidential campaign. But so far, he hasn't.

For about three minutes on Monday night, however, [The Post was saying he had](#). This was a mistake, of course. What appeared so briefly on washingtonpost.com was merely the draft by veteran congressional reporter Paul Kane of an anticipatory story - just a news outlet doing its job of preparing for a distinct possibility, if you believe all the pundits out there.

Post Managing Editor Emilio Garcia-Ruiz tells the Erik Wemple Blog that a couple of staffers had opened Kane's file and were "in a hurry to append a video" to it. In the process, they "accidentally published it." The mistake occurred via button confusion. "They were supposed to press one button; they pressed a different button," says Garcia-Ruiz. A quick *uh-oh* ensued. "They realized their mistake immediately and it was removed from the Web within three minutes," says Garcia-Ruiz.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Today in History - October 23, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, October 23, the 296th day of 2015. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On October 23, 1915, tens of thousands of women paraded up Fifth Avenue in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

On this date:

In 1707, the first Parliament of Great Britain, created by the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, held its first meeting.

In 1864, forces led by Union Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis repelled Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's army in the Civil War Battle of Westport in Missouri.

In 1925, talk show host Johnny Carson was born in Corning, Iowa.

In 1935, mobster Dutch Schultz, 34, was shot and mortally wounded with three other men during a gangland hit at the Palace Chophouse in Newark, New Jersey. (Schultz died the following day.)

In 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein (el ah-lah-MAYN') in Egypt, resulting in an Allied victory.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tee) Gulf began, resulting in a major Allied victory against Japanese forces.

In 1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1963, the Neil Simon comedy "Barefoot in the Park," starring Elizabeth Ashley and [Robert Redford](#), opened on Broadway.

In 1972, the musical "Pippin" opened on Broadway.

In 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers. NBC News reporter and anchorwoman Jessica Savitch, 36, and New York Post executive Martin Fischbein, 34, died in a car accident in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

In 1989, 23 people were killed in an explosion at Phillips Petroleum Co.'s chemical complex in Pasadena, Texas. In a case that inflamed racial tensions in Boston, Charles Stuart claimed that he and his pregnant wife, Carol, had been shot in their car by a black robber. (Carol Stuart and her prematurely delivered baby died; Charles Stuart later died, an apparent suicide, after he himself was implicated.)

In 1995, a jury in Houston convicted Yolanda Saldivar of murdering Tejano singing star Selena. (Saldivar was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: Warsaw's conservative mayor, Lech Kaczynski (lekh kah-CHIN'-skee), won Poland's presidential runoff vote. The [Chicago White Sox](#) took a 2-games-to-none lead in the World Series as they beat the [Houston Astros](#) 7-6.

Five years ago: The world's leading advanced and emerging countries vowed during a meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, to avoid potentially debilitating

currency devaluations, aiming to quell trade tensions that could threaten the global recovery. San Francisco's Juan Uribe hit a tiebreaking homer off Ryan Madson with two outs in the eighth inning and the Giants held off Philadelphia 3-2 to win the NL pennant in six games.

One year ago: Officials announced that an emergency room doctor who'd recently returned to New York City after treating Ebola patients in West Africa tested positive for the virus, becoming the first case in the city and the fourth in the nation. (Dr. Craig Spencer later recovered.) John "Bull" Bramlett, a former professional football and baseball player who was nicknamed the "Meanest Man in Football," died in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer and former U.S. Senator Jim Bunning, R-Ky., is 84. Movie director Philip Kaufman is 79. Soccer great Pele (pay-lay) is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 72. ABC News investigative reporter Brian Ross is 67. Actor Michael Rupert is 64. Movie director Ang Lee is 61. Jazz singer Dianne Reeves is 59. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 59. Community activist Martin Luther King III is 58. Movie director Sam Raimi is 56. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 56. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 51. Christian/jazz singer David Thomas (Take 6) is 49. Rock musician Brian Nevin (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 49. Country singer-musician Junior Bryant is 47. Actor Jon Huertas is 46. Movie director Chris Weitz is 46. CNN medical reporter Dr. Sanjay Gupta is 46. Country singer Jimmy Wayne is 43. Actress Vivian Bang is 42. Rock musician Eric Bass (Shinedown) is 41. TV personality and host Cat Deeley is 39. Actor Ryan Reynolds is 39. Rock singer Matthew Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Miguel is 30. Actress Masiela Lusha (MAH'-see-ella loo-SHA') is 30. Actress Emilia Clarke is 29. Actress Briana Evigan is 29. Actress Jessica Stroup is 29. Neo-soul musician Allen Branstetter (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 25.

Thought for Today: "Just be yourself - it's the only way it can work." - Johnny Carson (1925-2005).

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
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Connecting newsletter
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