
Connecting -- October 29, 2015

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

One of the finest AP projects in memory was an Associated Press investigation that helped free slaves in the 21st Century.

Over the course of 18 months, four journalists with the AP tracked ships, located slaves and stalked refrigerated trucks to expose the abusive practices of the fishing industry in Southeast Asia. The investigation has led to the release of more than 2,000 slaves, and the immediate reaction of major retailers and the Indonesian government.

Paul Colford shares this link that presents the articles and videos in their entirety. Click on this link to view this great AP work - apne.ws/1O7xI1V

And, in case you don't read to the very end of today's Connecting, this quote from Today in History bears repeating:

Thought for Today: "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."- Joseph Pulitzer, American newspaper publisher (born 1847, died this date in 1911).

Paul

Bob Thomas' work continues to inform

THE LEAD, in Saturday's AP report:

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Fiery-haired and feisty, Maureen O'Hara could handle anything the world and Hollywood threw at her. Director John Ford punched her in the jaw at a party and John Wayne dragged her through sheep dung - real sheep dung - in "The Quiet Man." In "Miracle on 34th Street" she learned to believe in Santa Claus.

But first and foremost, she always believed in herself.

"I do like to get my own way," she said in a 1991 interview with The Associated Press. "There have been crushing disappointments. But when that happens, I say, 'Find another hill to climb.'"

The Irish-born beauty was 95 when she died Saturday in her sleep at her home in Boise, Idaho, said Johnny Nicoletti, her longtime manager.



2003 photo

AND THE REST OF THE STORY:

Valerie Komor - When Maureen O'Hara died on Saturday at her home in Boise, Idaho, the AP story on her death carried the byline of Robert Jablon - but it included contributions made by one of the AP's most famous journalists.

The tagline at the end of the story said:

This story includes contributions from AP correspondent Jill Lawless in London and biographical information compiled by the late AP Entertainment Writer Bob Thomas.

Thomas, the longtime Associated Press writer and dean of Hollywood reporters who covered a record 66 Oscar ceremonies, reported on the biggest stars, from **Clark Gable** to **Tom Cruise**, and filed AP's bulletin that **Robert F. Kennedy** had been shot, died in 2014 at the age of 92.

Thomas was a last link to Hollywood's studio age when he retired in 2010 after writing his last AP story. But his knowledge and the research he did on the rich and famous live on. The prepared obituaries he wrote are preserved in the AP's digital Text archive and in the records of the Los Angeles bureau in the AP Corporate Archives. For many years to come, Thomas' work will continue to enhance the AP report.



Bob Thomas with actress Hedy Lamarr in 1945

Testing new ways to survey voters

By David Pace

When voters go to the polls in Kentucky and Mississippi on Nov. 3, The Associated Press will be launching experiments aimed at finding more accurate and less expensive ways to survey them. With funding from the Knight Foundation, the AP has hired GfK Custom Research to IDENTIFY AND SURVEY VOTERS ONLINE, instead of conducting a traditional exit poll where precinct-based interviewers ask voters to fill out questionnaires.



The experiments will build on similar online surveys GfK conducted for AP during last year's midterm elections in Georgia and Illinois. Candidate estimates from the two GfK surveys were significantly more accurate than the exit poll, both among Election Day and absentee voters. In addition, the online survey in Georgia did not require an expensive telephone survey of absentee voters to supplement the exit poll.

The news industry is becoming increasingly receptive to online surveys as polling's longtime gold standard, the telephone survey, faces more and more methodological challenges. AP started using GfK's probability-based, online Knowledge Panel for its political surveys two years ago. Other media, including The New York Times, CBS News and NBC News, also have begun using online surveys in some cases. None of the organizations, however, has tried using online panels to replace any of the dozens of telephone polls needed to supplement exit polls in states with high levels of absentee voting.

The AP decided to experiment with online panels in Kentucky and Mississippi to address one potentially serious issue with traditional exit polls: the interaction between the interviewer and the voter. Right or wrong, that interaction has been blamed for the disproportionate refusal by Republican voters to participate in the exit poll. Those GOP refusals have consistently led to a systematic overstatement of the Democratic vote. But what happens if there is no interviewer-voter interaction? The Kentucky and Mississippi experiments will answer that question, as survey participants will be selected from both GfK's Knowledge Panel and other online volunteer panels. All participants will complete their questionnaires online.

A major downside to online surveys is they cannot guarantee that actual voters are being interviewed. Online participants are screened into the survey's voter pool based on their answers to a series of questions. Exit poll participants, on the other hand, are asked to fill out questionnaires as they leave their precincts after voting. Of course, telephone polls of absentee voters can't guarantee that participants are actual voters either, and they make up more than a third of the national exit poll sample. To address this issue, AP has asked the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago to explore the possibility of using GPS tracking on cellphones of online panel participants - with their permission - to verify that they have voted before asking them to participate in election surveys.

Further experiments around these and other issues are planned for next year's presidential

primaries and the fall general election. The AP's goal is to develop innovative and more accurate ways to identify and survey voters who elect national and state leaders, both to help in calling election winners and in explaining the vote.

Connecting mailbox

Memories of Roy Steinfort and his WWII service



Joe McKnight - Joe McGowan's introduction to Roy Steinfort, as told in Tuesday's "Connecting" column, brings to mind a little-known fact about Roy.

During World War II he was a Navy medic assigned to a Marine Corps unit that led the landing in the battle of Iwo Jima, perhaps the bloodiest single battle of the war.

I met Roy several times during my time with AP, first when the Regional Membership Executive (broadcast salesman) brought him to Wichita, and later in Columbus, when he came out to visit broadcast members.

I learned of Roy and Iwo Jima several years ago when I read the book "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. When I saw his name, I called Roy to confirm that it was the same -- real -- Steinfort.

"Yea that's me," he replied to my question.

Roy said he wanted to serve during the war, but didn't want to carry a gun. So he opted for the U.S. Navy Medical Corps, feeling that he could serve without shooting.

What he didn't know, he added, was that the U. S. Marine Corps relied on the Navy for the bulk of its medical services.

Roy was assigned as a medical corpsman to a combat unit of the 5th Marine Division, later dubbed the Spearhead Division for its role in the invasion of Iwo. After training at Camp Pendleton, CA., for six months in 1944, the division sailed from San Diego Sept. 19, 1944 -- exactly one year before the start of the battle of Iwo Jima.

The division sailed first to Hawaii for more months of training on a base that lay between two volcanoes. Steinfort said it was a miserable place.

"The Red Cross judged it unfit to hold prisoners there," Steinfort was quoted in the book, "So it was a perfect place for the Marines."

Corpsman Steinfort was in one of the early landing craft that grounded on sand in the shallow surf of Iwo Jima.

"Coming in, I could see guys lying on the beach," Bradley quoted Steinfort. "I thought, great! They'll cover our landing. But when I drew closer I saw they were all dead."

Roy told me years later that he was never more frightened -- before or after -- in his life.

He said he spent the better part of five days crawling on his belly, wiggling into any depression he could find as he inched over the beach and finally to what he hoped was a safe place behind a small pile of earth.

What he didn't know at the time was that AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal had gone ashore in an earlier landing craft

"The Navy shelled (Mount) Suribachi for three days with everything it had," Steinfort said, "and didn't make a dent in the enemy holed up there."

He said he came through unscathed except for the frightening memories that lasted him a life time.

RELATED: Roy Steinfort's AP obituary from March 2010

By Richard Pyle

NEW YORK - Roy Steinfort, a Covington, Ky., native and former vice president of The Associated Press who turned its radio operations into a service providing news to millions of listeners worldwide, died Sunday. He was 88.

Steinfort, of Leesburg, Va., died after a short battle with cancer, said his widow, Patricia Milton. In a journalism career spanning some 40 years, Steinfort went from covering sports in his native Kentucky to running a weekly paper to chief of all broadcast operations for the AP. He retired in 1986.

Born Charles Roy Steinfort Jr. on Oct. 1, 1921, in Covington, Steinfort served as a Navy corpsman in World War II and attended the University of Kentucky before and after the war, earning a history degree in 1946.

His journalism career began at The Courier-Journal in Louisville, where by his own account he covered "practically every beat on the paper" from courts to sports. He also was a newspaper reporter in Lexington and a sportswriter for The Cincinnati Enquirer.

For three years, he was press relations director for famed Kentucky basketball coach Adolph Rupp and football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. He was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame in 1985.

In 1951, Steinfort joined the AP in New Orleans, where he became state editor, covering

legislative affairs, hearings into Louisiana organized crime, and college sports.

He left the AP in 1953 to fulfill a personal ambition - running his own newspaper. Buying the Aberdeen Examiner, a weekly in northeastern Mississippi, he spent eight years in what he called "a real lesson in every phase of newspapering," including operating the printing press.

During his tenure the paper was named the state's best weekly three years in a row.

Steinfort sold the weekly in 1961 to rejoin AP as a radio membership executive, adding some 20 stations to AP's lineup in the first 13 months.

In 1964 he was named a general broadcast executive and later vice president for broadcast, expanding the AP radio news network to more than 1,000 stations, and relocating its headquarters to a modern broadcast center in Washington.

He was a "transformative" leader under whose guidance the AP broadcast division became "the primary source of news for the broadcast industry," said Jim Williams, who worked under Steinfort and later became senior vice president of AP Global Broadcast before retiring in 2008.

Steinfort also served as director of the First Amendment Center for the Society of Professional Journalists.

Missouri Honor Medal presentation - and a sip of water from the Missouri River

Seven individuals and two media organizations received the prestigious Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism during a banquet Monday night on the University of Missouri campus.

Medalists were selected by the faculty of the School on the basis of lifetime or superior achievement in journalism. The Missouri School of Journalism has awarded the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism annually since 1930 to outstanding journalists, advertising and public relations practitioners, business people, institutions and media organizations from around the world.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor was on hand for the dinner and was joined by a

previous honor medal winner, Tad Bartimus, and her husband Dean, and former AP journalist Randy Picht and his wife, Cathy. Another AP alum on hand was David Rees of the journalism school faculty.

School of Journalism Dean David Kurpius, presiding at his first banquet, followed the tradition of proposing a traditional toast with Missouri River water. Missouri River water



Dean David Kurpius making toast

is the only liquid that Missouri journalism deans, through the years, have considered worthy of the Missouri Honor Medal ceremony. "To democracies around the world, and to the dedicated journalists and all who work to keep them strong," Kurpius said.



The 2015 honorees are shown in the above photo. Back row, from left: David Kurpius, dean of the MU School of Journalism; Meredith Artley, editor in chief of CNN Digital; Lincoln Stephens, co-founder of The Marcus Graham Project; Gerd Ludwig, photojournalist; Merrill Perlman, copy editor; Garnett Stokes, University of Missouri provost.

Front row, from left: Bill Plante, CBS News senior White House correspondent; Barbara Ehrenreich, author and investigative journalist; Yoani Sanchez, Cuban blogger and journalist; Rea Hederman, publisher; Sandy Rosenbush, co-founder, Sports Journalism Institute; Leon Carter, co-founder, Sports Journalism Institute.

Shared by Suzette Heiman. Photos by Lizz Cardwell.

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Who could be mean to someone in VW Beetle?

Bill Kaczor - Here's a decent although probably not great lede, but what really made it memorable was the display that the piece received - perhaps a new Connecting category - as the cover story for the Chicago Sun-Times' auto section (see attachments):

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. _ The butterfly decals on the front bumper, flowers in the dashboard vase and lime-green paint job only confirmed Dennis Slice's perception of a Volkswagen Beetle parked in a lot at Florida State University.

Slice, a shape analysis researcher, said the narrow body, wide-eyed circular headlights, tall windshield and curve of the bug's hood match the facial features of a smiling woman or child.

"This is the classic cute car - not dominant, not aggressive," said Slice, an associate professor of scientific computing at FSU. "I don't think anyone could be mean to someone else in a Volkswagen Beetle."

Slice and fellow researchers at Austria's Vienna University, where he's a guest professor, are exploring the widely held belief that cars project personalities because they look like human faces when viewed head-on.

I happened to be visiting my mother in Chicago when I picked up a Sun-Times and was floored when I saw the auto section after first reading the sports and news sections. I went back and picked up another copy that I sent to Professor Slice who bears little resemblance to the Einstein-like cartoon on the cover.

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Mogul Mutt in iPhoneography show

Bill Kole - The attached feature, "Mogul Mutt" -- taken during last winter's epic New England blizzards -- made it into the Plymouth Center for the Arts' annual juried iPhoneography show.

(It also moved on the wire. It stars Abby, the younger of our two golden retrievers.)

AP Photo/William J. Kole



By John Daniszewski

It began with Cairo bureau chief Hamza Hendawi wanting to follow up on one of the most wrenching stories he'd ever covered — a frontline hospital in the Syrian city of Aleppo, where he spent 24 grueling hours in 2012 watching doctors, nurses and volunteers working to save lives amid the carnage of war. Memories of the staff stayed with Hendawi, and he'd recently learned that three of those workers had fled Syria: Two doctors had ended up in Germany, while a young volunteer, Mohammed al-Haj, had made it to Turkey.

When al-Haj said he was going to try to go on to Germany, too, Hendawi decided to follow him. The Syrian's odyssey was a small part of one of the largest waves of migration since World War II — more than 600,000 migrants have crossed land and sea this year, seeking sanctuary in Europe.

The result was "Mohammed's Journey," a riveting, intimate narrative of the 26-year-old's travels and his unstoppable determination to rebuild a life destroyed by Syria's civil war. The text story, written by Hendawi and edited by Mideast Enterprise Editor Lee Keath, plus dramatic photos by freelance photographer Santi Palacio and video by freelance TV cameraman Luca Muzi earn the Beat of the Week.

The AP team accompanied al-Haj for 1,700 miles of his 2,500-mile trek, joining him in Lesbos, Greece, after he crossed Turkey, then staying with him through the Balkans and central Europe north to Germany.

Planning for the trip was difficult because it was completely unpredictable. For example, even as al-Haj was boarding a boat in Turkey — and in touch with Hendawi — he wasn't sure where exactly he was heading to in Greece.

Hendawi had just arrived in Turkey from a stint in Baghdad. Palacio and Muzi had reached Athens and awaited word on where to go. When al-Haj landed in Lesbos, the three rushed to join him. Through the entire two-week trip, they were never certain where they'd be going next or how long they would be there.

The AP team's strategy was to stay with al-Haj as much as possible, be with him on every mode of transportation he took buses, trains, ferries — and walk with him every mile he walked. The team did that, except for 30 hours when Mohammed was detained at the Hungarian border. He overnights in a camp for migrants and refugees until the Hungarians took him to the Austrian border, where the AP journalists were able to rejoin him.

They encountered withering heat and humidity in Lesbos, chilly rain in the Balkans and in Germany. There were long, dreary stretches of waiting and sudden flashes of action — and sleep wherever possible.

The most dramatic moment came at the Serbian-Hungarian border when al-Haj and his comrades dashed through a cornfield, trying to elude Hungarian border police. Muzi, Palacio and Hendawi ran along with him carrying their equipment and baggage. The police charged in and a police dog leaped on al-Haj, knocking him to the ground. Muzi was right there, filming it. He was detained along with al-Haj and taken aside, threatened with a

snarling, muzzled police dog and forced to erase that day's footage before he was released.

Keath worked with Hendawi to convey the very human face of the migration story, the major moments of drama and suspense and the smallest, revealing details _ such as al-Haj's decision not to throw trash on the ground but to look for a trash can, he said, like a real European.

The trip ended with a reunion between al-Haj and one of the Aleppo doctors, Osman al-Haj Osman, on a drizzly day in the German town of Saarlouis.

For their compelling portrait of one man's harrowing voyage and their intrepid reporting, Hendawi, Keath, Palacio and Muzi share this week's \$500 prize.

(Shared by Valerie Komor)

Welcome to Connecting



Michael Mazzo ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Help! For Writers: 10 things to do when you can't think of anything to write

Poynter)

By Roy Peter Clark

I have written five books - all published by Little, Brown - in the last ten years. They are, in order, "Writing Tools," "The Glamour of Grammar," "Help! For Writers," "How to Write Short," and, coming in January, "The Art of X-ray Reading." They are my children, and I love them equally. But in private moments I confess a special affection for the middle child, "Help! For Writers."

This book has not sold as well as the others, nor do I often hear from readers who claim inspiration from its pages. Yet when I am trying to solve a writing problem, either for myself or others, it becomes my go-to book. (It has, to its credit, inspired a course on Poynter's News University.)

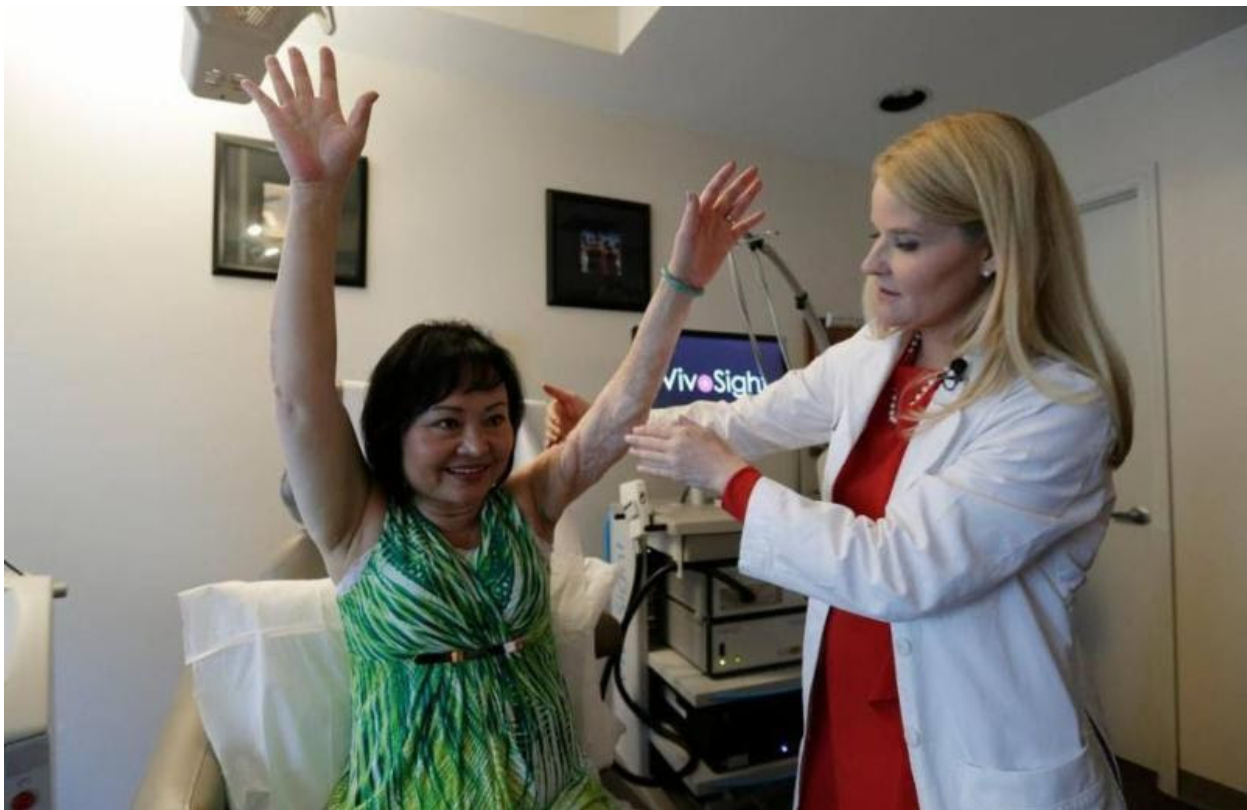
Here's how the book works. Help! is divided into seven sections, with each dedicated to a part of the writing process. They are:

[Click here](#) to read more.

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'Napalm girl' in famous Vietnam War photo begins healing in South Florida

(Miami Herald)



BY ALEX HARRIS, MIAMI HERALD

The photo of a naked young girl howling as napalm scorched her skin is seared into America's consciousness. She is the indelible symbol of the horrors of Vietnam, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo that made the front page the next day sparked serious discussions about the validity and morality of war.

Kim Phuc was only 9 when Associated Press photographer Nick Ut snapped a picture of her and her cousins fleeing after a South Vietnamese plane accidentally doused them, and their own troops, in napalm. Two of her cousins and two villagers died in the bombings.

More than 40 years later, she and the man she affectionately calls "Uncle Ut" are still close. He attended her son's wedding, and together they flew to Miami late last month for the next stage of their saga. He came from his home in Los Angeles, she from her home near Toronto.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Claude Erbsen.

The Final Word



Halloween is just around the corner, and our Connecting greeting dog, Dudley, is already being subjected to the indignities of a costume by his owner Beth Grace. His eyes say it all.

Today in History - October 29, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 29, the 302nd day of 2015. There are 63 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 29, 1940, a blindfolded Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson drew the first number - 158 - from a glass bowl in America's first peacetime military draft.

On this date:

In 1618, Sir Walter Raleigh, the English courtier, military adventurer and poet, was executed in London for treason.

In 1787, the opera "Don Giovanni" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had its world premiere in Prague.

In 1901, President William McKinley's assassin, Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gahsh), was electrocuted.

In 1929, Wall Street crashed on "Black Tuesday," heralding the start of America's Great Depression.

In 1956, during the Suez Canal crisis, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" premiered as NBC's nightly television newscast.

In 1964, thieves made off with the Star of India and other gems from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. (The Star and most of the other gems were recovered; three men were convicted of stealing them.)

In 1966, the National Organization for Women was formally organized during a conference in Washington, D.C.

In 1979, on the 50th anniversary of the great stock market crash, anti-nuclear protesters tried but failed to shut down the New York Stock Exchange.

In 1987, following the confirmation defeat of Robert H. Bork to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Ronald Reagan announced his choice of Douglas H. Ginsburg, a nomination that fell apart over revelations of Ginsburg's previous marijuana use. Jazz great Woody Herman died in Los Angeles at age 74.

In 1994, Francisco Martin Duran fired more than two dozen shots from a semiautomatic rifle at the White House. (Duran was later convicted of trying to assassinate President Bill Clinton and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.)

In 1998, Sen. John Glenn, at age 77, roared back into space aboard the shuttle Discovery, retracing the trail he'd blazed for America's astronauts 36 years earlier.

In 2012, Superstorm Sandy came ashore in New Jersey and slowly marched inland, devastating coastal communities and causing widespread power outages; the storm and its aftermath are blamed for at least 182 deaths in the U.S.

Ten years ago: Three blasts ripped through markets in New Delhi, India, killing 62 people in attacks blamed by the government on Islamic militants. Hundreds of people slowly filed past the body of civil rights icon Rosa Parks in Montgomery, Alabama, just miles from the downtown street where she'd made history by refusing to give up her seat on a city bus to a white man. Saint Liam won the Breeders' Cup Classic at Belmont Park. Actor Lloyd Bochner, 81, died in Santa Monica, California.

Five years ago: Authorities on three continents said they had thwarted multiple terrorist attacks aimed at the United States, seizing two explosive packages addressed to Chicago-area synagogues and packed aboard cargo jets from Yemen.

One year ago: Ordering firm restrictions for U.S. troops returning from West Africa, Defense Secretary [Chuck Hagel](#) said the military men and women helping fight Ebola had to undergo 21-day quarantines upon their return - longer than required for many civilian health care workers. The San Francisco Giants succeeded where no team had in 3 1/2 decades, winning Game 7 on the road for their third World Series title in five years as they defeated the Kansas City Royals 3-2.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer-musician Sonny Osborne (The Osborne Brothers) is 78. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is 77. Country singer Lee Clayton is 73. Rock musician Denny Laine is 71. Singer Melba Moore is 70. Musician Peter Green is 69. Actor [Richard Dreyfuss](#) is 68. Actress Kate Jackson is 67. The former president of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, is 65. Actor Dan Castellaneta (TV: "The Simpsons") is 58. Country musician Steve Kellough (Wild Horses) is 58. Comic strip artist Tom Wilson ("Ziggy") is 58. Actress Finola Hughes is 56. Singer Randy Jackson is 54. Rock musician Peter Timmins (Cowboy Junkies) is 50. Actress Joely Fisher is 48. Rapper Paris is 48. Actor Rufus Sewell is 48. Actor Grayson McCouch (mih-KOOCH') is 47. Rock singer SA Martinez (311) is 46. Musician Toby Smith is 45. Actress [Winona Ryder](#) is 44. Actress Tracee Ellis Ross is 43. Actor Trevor Lissauer is 42. Actress Gabrielle Union is 42. Olympic gold medal bobsledder Vonetta Flowers is 42. Actress Milena Govich is 39. Actor Jon Abrahams is 38. Actor Brendan Fehr is 38. Actor Ben Foster is 35. Rock musician Chris Baio (Vampire Weekend) is 31. Actress India Eisley is 22.

Thought for Today: "Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its light."- Joseph Pulitzer, American newspaper publisher (born 1847, died this date in 1911).

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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