

Connecting - November 17, 2015

1 message

Paul Stevens <stevenspl@live.com>

Tue, Nov 17, 2015 at 9:43 AM

Reply-To: stevenspl@live.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

AP deputy sports editor Noreen Gillespie shared the sad news with staff on Monday night that longtime track writer **Bert Rosenthal** has died. The obituary below moved on the wire, and she noted that it contains an anecdote that can only be told of a true AP newsman with a passion for breaking news:

Known for his work ethic, Rosenthal once dictated a story from his bed after he was hospitalized with heart problems in Sydney during the 2000 Olympics.

There is no service scheduled. However, you can send condolences to his wife and family at this address:

Emily Rosenthal

9240 E. Redfield Road Apt. 116

Scottsdale, Ariz. 85260

If you would like to share a memory of Bert, please send it to Connecting.

Paul

Longtime AP track and field writer Bert Rosenthal dies at 79

By **BOB BAUM**
AP Sports Writer

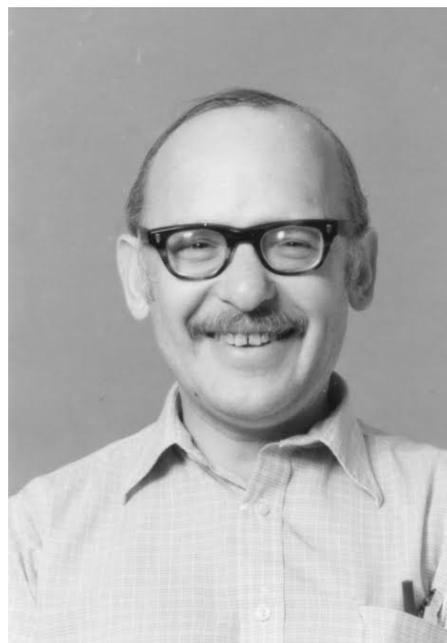
PHOENIX (AP) -- Bert Rosenthal, who became one of the top track and field writers in the United States in more than four decades with The Associated Press, has died. He was 79.

Rosenthal died Sunday night in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he had lived since his retirement from the AP in 2001.

He had a long history of heart problems and had been in failing health for some time, his wife Emily said.

"Bert was considered an authority on track and field and certainly was one of the premier beat writers during the '80s and '90s," said Terry Taylor, AP sports editor from 1992 to 2013. "He had a little black book with phone numbers for every big name in the sport. His access was remarkable."

Rosenthal joined the AP as a statistician in 1957, shortly after he graduated from City College of New York. He was the AP's track and field writer from 1972 until his retirement and covered the NBA from 1973-76. Rosenthal covered seven Olympics, from Montreal to Sydney, as well as every world track



championships during that span.

Bert Rosenthal, 1988 photo
(Courtesy Corporate Archives)

Rosenthal won story of the year awards from The Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE) in 1983 and 1984. He received the Jesse Abramson Award from the Track and Field Writers of America (TAFWA) as writer of the year in 1988 and the George Sheehan Award from the National Distance Running Hall of Fame in 2000 for his work over the years on the Boston Marathon.

Rosenthal was president of TAFWA for two years and served as secretary-treasurer of the Professional Basketball Writers of America.

"Bert was 'the' track and field writer of his era," longtime friend and fellow track writer Gene Cherry said. "He was extremely knowledgeable and was always willing to help others who were not as knowledgeable of the sport as he was."

Known for his work ethic, Rosenthal once dictated a story from his bed after he was hospitalized with heart problems in Sydney during the 2000 Olympics. After his retirement, he covered [Phoenix Suns](#) games for the AP as a freelance writer.

"Bert was the best. Also the hardest worker in the AP sports department," said Ken Rappoport, a colleague of Rosenthal for more than 25 years. "They didn't call him 'Full Day' for nothing,"

Rosenthal was born in The Bronx, New York, on June 10, 1936.

Besides his wife, he is survived by son Scott of suburban Denver, Colorado, daughter Gail Fatizzi of Scarsdale, New York, twin daughters Sandy Rosenthal of Manchester, Missouri, and Rebecca Rosenthal of Brooklyn, New York, and one granddaughter.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story. Shared by Paul Colford, Barry Bedlan.

Remembering Bert Rosenthal...

Hal Bock - I am saddened by Bert's loss. Bert had an encyclopedic knowledge of the sport and covered a slew of events indoors and outdoors, He was a regular at the Boston and New York Marathons and covered the sport at several Olympic Games. He worked for many years in AP Radio alongside Marv Schneider, who passed away in March.

Bruce Lowitt once wrote a story that included the famous Vince Lombardi quote ``Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing." The AP was on an anti-contraction campaign at the time and Bert, who was on the desk that day, changed the quote, eliminating the contractions. Lowitt went a little nuts but the mood was settled by Ed Schuyler, who pipe up, ``Calm down, Bruce. You can not win them all."

Hank Kurz - So sorry to see this, and so instantly reminded of a few Bert stories. Back in the days of ATEX, the computers had two screens and an ALT SCRN button. Bert never used but one screen, but every once in a while would hit that ALT SCRN button by mistake and his story would vanish, replaced by a blank screen. Bert would always panic, and someone would go hit ALT SCRN for him and Voila, there was his story. He also was a track purist. He once covered the NYC Marathon and put the fact that a woman had plunged off a bridge to her death during the race well down in the story. When questioned by whoever happened to be running the desk that day, he replied matter-of-factly, "Mersh, she wasn't winning the race." RIP, sir.

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Darrell Christian - Bert wrote the book on track and field. Editors and writers frequently disagree, and Bert and I were no different. But we quibbled about words; there was never any doubting the facts. If It came from Bert, you knew it was right. I don't think the man ever made a mistake, and there could be no higher praise for a reporter.

AP rebukes State Department for lengthy response to Clinton docs

By HADAS GOLD, Politico

The Associated Press [rebuked the State Department](#) on Monday, accusing the agency of dragging their feet on producing documents related to Hillary Clinton's tenure as Secretary.

The State Department, asked to produce Clinton's public schedule for the duration of her time in office, has said it will need a month to process 400 pages of the material—a pace that, according to AP calculations, would require four years for the department to complete the task.



"AP (and the citizens of this nation) should not have to wait another four years, long after the 2016 election in which Secretary Clinton is a presidential candidate, to receive a full set of her schedules from her tenure as Secretary of State. AP respectfully suggests that a reasonable production schedule would require State to produce all of Secretary Clinton's 'mini schedules' and 'final schedules' no later than the Spring of 2016," the AP wrote in court-filed response to the State Department.

The AP sued the State Department in March after the department "failed to satisfy

repeated document requests filed under the Freedom of Information Act, including one made five years ago," the AP said. At least [one judge has already criticized](#) the State Department for being slow to respond to the AP.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story,

AP Miami bureau reunion: Reid Miller era



Reunion group, seated from left: Ann Hellmuth, Mike Harmon, Johnsie Sandlin and Tracy Fields. Standing, from left: Phil Sandlin, Ike Flores, John Van Gieson, David Powell, Eric Sharp, Rich Oppel, Carol Oppel, Brent Kallestad, Reid Miller, Larry Hobbs, Pauline Jelinek and Marty Merzer.

Brent Kallestad - Just back from Winter Park, Fla. (an Orlando suburb) after a wonderful luncheon with more than a dozen former Florida AP staffers from over the years.

This reunion was organized by former Miami staffers Larry Hobbs and Tracy Fields, who now hosts a late night jazz program at the Miami NPR affiliate. With a couple exceptions, everyone in attendance worked in Florida during the time Reid Miller was bureau chief.

Both were in attendance along with Ann



Former AP Florida editor Ann Hellmuth and Reid Miller inspect an old photo when they worked together in Miami.

Hellmuth, Mike Harmon, Eric Sharp, John Van Gieson, Tracy Fields, Phil Sandlin, Larry Hobbs, David Powell, Marty Merzer and former Miami COB Reid Miller. All worked in Miami. I believe Ann was AP's first woman news editor before moving on the key editing positions with the Orlando Sentinel.

Former Tallahassee correspondent Rich Oppel and his wife, Carol, former Tallahassee correspondent Brent Kallestad, former Orlando correspondent Ike Flores, former Washington newswoman Pauline Jelinek, who is married to Reid attended along with Phil's wife, Johnsie, and Carol Oppel.

Virtually everyone aside from Ike and Ann had a good deal of travel involved to make the event that was held at a nice Winter Park restaurant. Oppels live in Austin, Texas, although Carol is originally from Tallahassee (as is former longtime AP bureau chief Henry Ackerman's wife).

Rich made a very nice toast to Reid, noting his leadership skills and the "freedom" he allowed those who worked for him. It was simply a wonderful afternoon spent with so many folks who have a high regard for AP, its mission and particularly the talented folks we came to admire as colleagues.



Reid Miller enjoys a laugh as former staffers, from left: Ike Flores, Reid Miller, Eric Sharp, Larry Hobbs back to camera.

(Photos courtesy of Phil Sandlin.)



Connecting mailbox

In praise of Mort Rosenblum's Paris essay

Harry Cabluck - Thanks for publishing the well-written Rosenblum "Think piece" in Connecting, Nov. 16.

Here's a call for more Rosenblum. His copy is worth reading a third time.

AND

Michael Rubin - Terrific work on assembling relevant articles on the heinous crimes of Paris. Fascinating and extremely informative, especially the NY Times interview of an AP photographer and Mort Rosenblum's remarks, which provides the best background summary I've read on France, French politics and the way they face them, including their large Muslim population. I have a cousin who lives in France and Mort's remarks explained a lot of things.

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Bedfellows

George Zucker - I'm still chuckling over Lew Ferguson's election-night surprise when Fred Moen booked a one-bed hotel room for him and Elon Torrence. Many of us have had to double up while working out-of-town stories.

One Sunday afternoon in 1967 when I was an AP staffer in Los Angeles, Hub Keavy had Ralph Dighton and me flown to Phoenix to cover a mass murder in Mesa, Ariz. Like Fred Moen, Phoenix bureau chief Tom Aden also kept close watch on AP shekels and booked us a lone hotel room.

In the morning, I awoke to this note from Ralph. "George, I love you dearly. But if you need me, I'll be in a room down the hall." I took this slur on my snoring to be a cranky old man's problem with sleeping in a strange bed - until years later when I shared a hotel room with Joe Dill at a bureau chiefs meeting in New York. I woke up to find Dill asleep in the bathtub.

Joe Dill was a good friend. I succeeded him twice -- at Baltimore in 1971 and Nashville in 1973. I decided my snoring problem had something to do with my riotous life as an itinerant bureau chief. So in 1980, I gave up booze and smoking and settled down with my family to decades of quiet bliss in Philly.

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'Seven events that made America America'

Joe McGowan - I have just finished reading a fascinating - and very scholarly - book loaned to me by a neighbor who knows of my media background. It is "Seven events that made America America" by Larry Schweikart, who apparently is a professor at U. of Dayton. It was published by Sentinel, a subsidiary of Penguin books, in 2010.

Chapter 7 is the one that pertains to the media and it is not kind to the media. It is titled "Barry Makes a Speech...and the Media Gets Chills Up Its Leg."

Whatever one's political leaning (oh, I know, the media don't lean) I think would be a good read.

Welcome to Connecting



Pauline Jelinek ([Email](#))

Robert Reid ([Email](#))

Stories of interest

Iowa TV Gets Its Close-Up, Enjoying Outsize Influence (New York Times)



DES MOINES - The news team at the station KCCI buzzed with nervous anticipation here at Drake University on Saturday night, less than two hours before the start of the Democratic candidates' debate.

It was the first presidential debate that KCCI, the local CBS affiliate, would help present in its 60-year history, and the atmosphere had shifted dramatically in the previous 24 hours - from one charged with excitement to a grave and somber tone following the deadly terror [attacks in Paris](#).

Behind a temporary stage erected for the event, KCCI's news director, Dave Busiek, watched a live stream of CBS News coverage on his iPhone about the latest developments out of Paris. In a nearby workspace, the veteran anchor Kevin Cooney made final preparations for the questions he would pose later about national security as one of debate's four moderators.

[Click here](#) to read more.

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For Mizzou's student-run newspaper, university tumult helps shake off weekly print mentality (Poynter)

Katherine Knott remembers the moment she realized the uprisings at the University of Missouri demanded the full attention of her newsroom.

It was a Monday. She was sitting in the cramped, fluorescent-lit basement office of the university's student-run paper when a fellow student called her attention to a story. After **months** of protests at the university, a prominent campus activist named Jonathan Butler **announced** he would not eat until his internal organs shut down or the head of the university system was removed from office.

Knott, who serves as managing editor of The Maneater, worried the demonstrations at the university might have a grim conclusion.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'We might be covering someone's death,'" Knott said. "'How do we handle that?'"

[Click here](#) to read more.

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What breaking news reveals about your newsroom culture (Poynter)

Here's what a lifetime in journalism has taught me: Breaking news reveals the true character of a newsroom's culture and quality.

Spot news success happens in cultures with specific systems, skills, values, mindsets - and leadership.

In the healthiest cultures, when news breaks, here's what staffers can count on:

[Click here](#) to read more,

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Front-Page Warning for China's Party Cadres: Buy the Paper, or Else (New York Times)

On top of all the countless misdeeds that could hurt the prospects of a Communist Party official in China under President Xi Jinping, a new one has emerged: failure to subscribe to the right newspapers.

In a stern warning, Harbin Daily, the party newspaper of a city in northeast China, called on cadres to prop up subscriptions. Such appeals are part of the

annual year-end effort of Chinese party newspapers - not always the most gripping reading in the world - to shore up circulation numbers.

But in what may be a sign that readers are becoming harder to attract, the Harbin paper threatened punishment: Those who fail in this work will be named and shamed.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Today in History - November 17, 2015

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2015. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 17, 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of her half-sister, Queen Mary, beginning a 44-year reign.

On this date:

In 1800, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1889, the Union Pacific Railroad Co. began direct, daily railroad service between Chicago and Portland, Oregon, as well as Chicago and San Francisco.

In 1917, French sculptor Auguste Rodin (roh-DAN') died in Meudon at age 77.

In 1925, actor Rock Hudson was born Roy Harold Scherer Jr. in Winnetka, Illinois.

In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as Lady Bird, in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman, in an address to a special session of Congress, called for emergency aid to Austria, Italy and France. (The aid was

approved the following month.)

In 1968, NBC outraged football fans by cutting away from the closing minutes of a New York Jets-Oakland Raiders game to begin the TV special "Heidi" on schedule. (After being taken off the air, the Raiders came from behind to beat the Jets, 43-32.)

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two white supremacists of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg. (Both men later died in prison.)

In 1994, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Sunset Boulevard" opened on Broadway with Glenn Close as faded movie star Norma Desmond.

Ten years ago: U.S. Rep. [John Murtha](#) of Pennsylvania, considered one of Congress' most hawkish Democrats, called for an immediate U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. A jury in Sarasota, Florida, convicted auto mechanic Joseph Smith of kidnapping, raping and strangling 11-year-old Carlie Brucia (BROO'-shuh), whose abduction had been captured by a car-wash security camera. (Smith remains on death row.)

Five years ago: House Democrats elected Nancy Pelosi to remain as their leader despite massive party losses in midterm elections. Republicans voted to keep [John Boehner](#) as their top House leader, making him speaker in the new Congress. A hand-count of votes affirmed the re-election of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, the first Senate candidate in over 50 years to win a write-in campaign. The first Guantanamo detainee to face civilian trial, Ahmed Ghailani (guh-LAHN'-ee), was convicted by federal jury in New York on one charge of conspiracy, among over 280 counts related to 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Ghailani's native Tanzania. (He was later sentenced to life in prison.)

One year ago: Pope Francis confirmed that he would be attending the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in Sept. 2015. Dr. Martin Salia, a surgeon who'd contracted Ebola in his native Sierra Leone, died at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, two days after being admitted. John T.

Downey, 84, a former CIA agent who survived more than 20 years in Chinese prisons during the Cold War before becoming a Connecticut judge, died in Hartford. Jimmy Ruffin, 78, the Motown singer whose hits included "What Becomes of the Brokenhearted," died in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 81. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 78. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 77. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 74. Movie director Martin Scorsese (skor-SEH'-see) is 73. Actress [Lauren Hutton](#) is 72. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 71. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 71. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tom Seaver is 71. Movie director Roland Joffe is 70. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 67. Former House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) is 66. Actor Stephen Root is 64. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 58. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 57. Actor William Moses is 56. Entertainer RuPaul is 55. Actor Dylan Walsh is 52. National Security Adviser Susan Rice is 51. Actress Sophie Marceau is 49. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 49. Blues singer/musician Tab Benoit (behn-WAH') is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 48. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveler) is 48. Actor David Ramsey is 44. Actor Leonard Roberts is 43. Actress Leslie Bibb is 42. Actor Brandon Call is 39. Country singer Aaron Lines is 38. Actress Rachel McAdams is 37. Rock musician Isaac Hanson (Hanson) is 35. Actor Justin Cooper is 27. Musician Reid Perry (The Band Perry) is 27. Actress Raquel Castro is 21.

Thought for Today: "Since others have to tolerate my weaknesses, it is only fair that I should tolerate theirs." - William Allen White, American journalist (1868-1944).

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!



Paul Stevens
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Connecting newsletter
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