Gmail by Google

Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 20, 2016

1 message

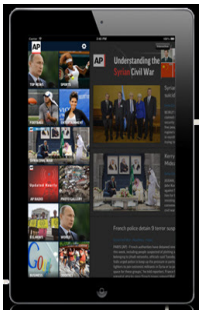
Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com> Wed, Jan 20, 2016 at 9:08 AM
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

Connecting

January 20, 2016

Click here for sound of the Teletype



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Ever been to Legoland? If you're a parent or grandparent, most likely your answer is yes. And that's one of the stops (in Yonkers, New York) that Linda and I made on a just-completed trip to the Northeast to spend quality time with our daughter, her husband and their sons - our grandsons - Max and Teddy.

That's us with the boys - and no, that is not the real Statue of Liberty looming in the background. It is made entirely of Legos - as are the skyscrapers of New York, Central Park, stadiums and other city landmarks.

My thanks to my friend and longtime AP colleague **Jim Hood** for his great work in producing Connecting for all of us during the past week. He did a wonderful job - which was no surprise to me. I especially enjoyed his story of working with Fred Moen, who was my bureau chief when Jim and I met while I was Wichita correspondent, and the great tale yesterday on his ride-along with the rural sheriff.

I was sorry to learn of the death of **Patty Dygard**, wife of longtime bureau chief (Little Rock, Indianapolis, Chicago and Tokyo) and children's book author **Tom Dygard**. For the years after Tom's death in 1996, Patty stayed in touch with Christmas card exchanges from her home in Evansville, Indiana, and her handwritten notes always remarked on how much she enjoyed her years as an AP spouse and partner.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor advises that it's time to put on your writing hats and contribute your memories to Connecting.

Paul

Tom Wagner dies: His beat was the world

By NIKO PRICE AND JOHN DANISZEWSKI

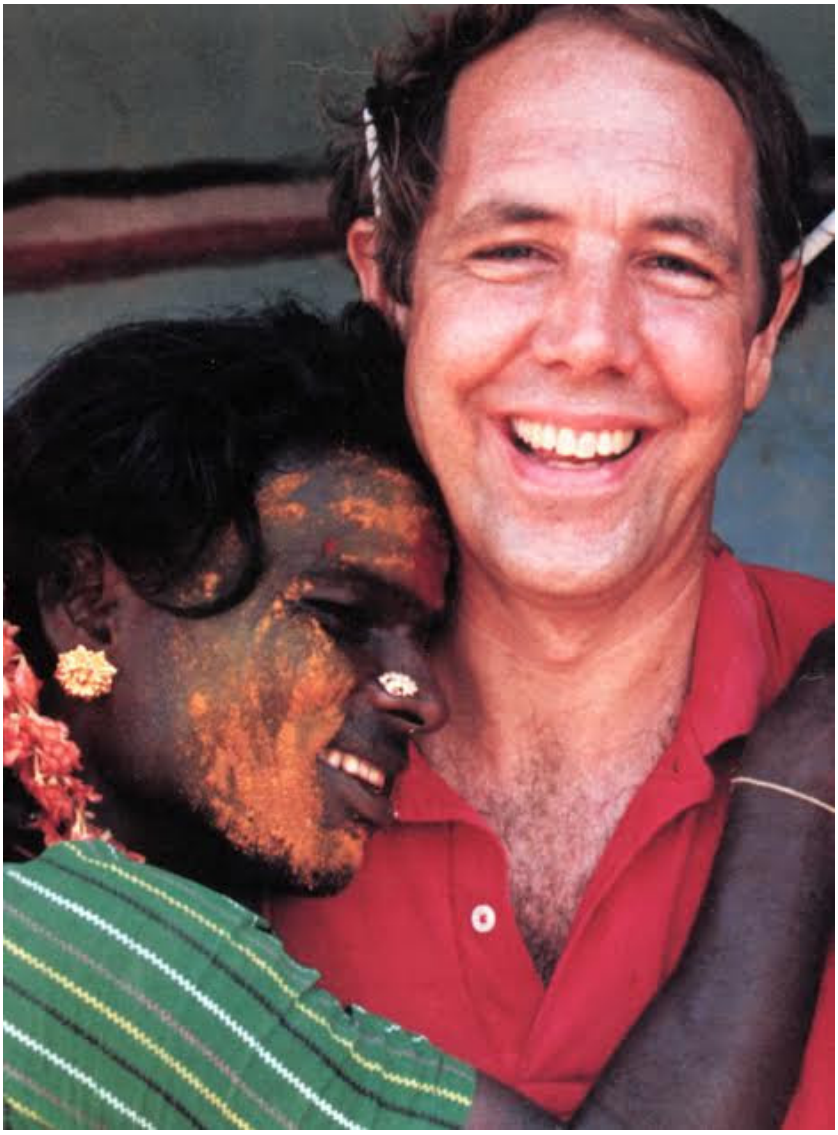
With great sadness, we write with the news that Tom Wagner, whose AP career spanned more than 30 years and took him around the world, has died. He was 63.

We are very sorry for this loss and will miss his dedication, his upbeat attitude and his bottomless willingness to pitch in whenever and wherever needed to help his colleagues around the world. As his health worsened in recent years, he was able to continue working

from home and always spoke with hope that he would return full time.

Tom joined AP in 1984 and worked in Alabama and Georgia before transferring to the International Desk in New York. His foreign career began in 1992, when he moved to New Delhi to cover South Asia and then to Tokyo as AP's Asia news editor. He transferred to the London bureau in 2001 and to the Europe Desk in 2008.

Tom covered many major events around the world, including the tsunami in India and Thailand, fighting in Gaza and Jerusalem, violence in Afghanistan and war in Iraq during five trips to Baghdad.



From AP World 1995: New Delhi News Editor Tom Wagner (without the makeup) receives a friendly greeting at a festival of eunuchs held last April in Koovagam, in southern India. Wagner was writing an article about the celebration, which was attended by 10,000 of India's 200,000 estimated eunuchs, most of them dressed in brilliant saris and their finest jewelry. (Photo: John Moore) (Shared by Francesca Pitaro, AP Corporate Archives)

Friends and colleagues are invited to a brief memorial service at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 at Cambridge crematorium, followed by a reception at Wolfson College Cambridge. Details of those events, as well as a postal address for condolences, will follow.

If you have a memory of Tom you'd like to share, send it along to Connecting.

(John Daniszewski is AP's vice president and senior managing editor for international news and Niko Price is AP Europe Editor based in London.) Shared by Mike Stewart.

Prime ministers to join AP debate on South Asia at Davos

The seventh annual Associated Press debate at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, will focus on the future of South Asia and the global trends and national priorities affecting its transformation.

AP Global Business Editor Lisa Gibbs will moderate a panel of prime ministers, leading regional bankers and a Nobel laureate. They are:

* Nawaz Sharif, prime minister, Pakistan
* Ranil Wickremesinghe, prime minister, Sri Lanka
* Chanda Kochhar, managing director and chief executive officer, ICICI Bank, India
* Takehiko Nakao, president, Asian Development Bank, Philippines
* 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, chairman, Yunus Centre, Bangladesh

"The explosive growth in South Asia brings with it many challenges, with huge stakes for the global economy," Gibbs said. "This group of influential leaders will bring incisive perspective to how the region can work together to unlock the right solutions."

Topics to be discussed include infrastructure, energy security threats, economic inequality, job creation and the impact of regional integration initiatives in South Asia.

The session will begin at 1200 GMT (7 a.m. ET) on Jan. 21. It will be available to AP broadcast customers and also will be streamed live and on-demand on the World Economic Forum's website.

Click here for a link to this story.

Farewell to critiquing Detroit's restaurants

Sylvia Rector, the wife of former AP Minneapolis and Detroit chief of bureau **Charles Hill**, has retired after years as the restaurant critic for the Detroit Free Press.

Connecting colleague **Hank Ackerman**, also a Detroiter, spotted her farewell column in the Sunday Free Press and shared it with his Connecting colleagues.

Thanks for sharing the table: It's time for life's dessert

By Sylvia Rector, Detroit Free Press Restaurant Critic

Last month, I gave up the best job in the world - one that hundreds of you would have killed for, figuratively speaking. Or so you told me many times when I met you socially or on assignment over my 17 years as the Detroit Free Press restaurant critic.

It was the best occupation in the world in many ways, but not solely for the reasons you think.

True, my job was to dine in restaurants all over metro Detroit and sometimes far beyond, with the Free Press picking up the tab for me and my dining companions. And then I had the privilege of expressing my opinions about those places on the pages and website of Michigan's largest daily newspaper.

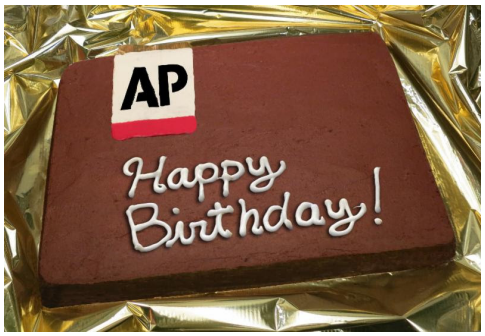
But for me, an equally satisfying part of the job was interviewing, and eventually coming to know, many of Michigan's best chefs and restaurateurs: men and women who made time to tell me - and thus, you - their stories; to share their vision of food and hospitality; to explain the inner workings of their industry; and sometimes to allow me behind the scenes, into the best professional kitchens, to watch and learn what it takes to create truly great food.

Click here to read more.

And click here for her column on the Most Asked Questions Heard by a Restaurant Critic.

Sylvia and Charles in Paris in 2015

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Merrill Hartson - jrdhartson@peoplepc.com

Bob Davidson - bdavidson@salina.com

Welcome to Connecting

David Rising - drising@ap.org

Hrvoje Hranjski - hhranjski@ap.org

Jim Webb - jewebb1@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Omaha World-Herald dropping afternoon edition

The Omaha World-Herald has announced that it will eliminate its daily afternoon newspaper edition on March 7.

The newspaper said in a news release Monday that home delivery will be in the morning for all subscribers, seven days a week. About a third of the newspaper's subscribers have been taking the afternoon edition.

Publisher Terry Kroeger says that with more readers turning to the morning print edition and to the newspaper's website, www.Omaha.com , "We can produce better results for our readers and advertisers by focusing efforts there."

Click here to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

-0-

The Latest News Organization to Go Nonprofit Raises Further Impartiality

Issues (Non-profit Quarterly)

As more and more news organizations become nonprofits-reliant on, among other sources, large contributions from major donors and big foundations-they continue to be dogged by doubts about the impact of those donors on their impartial coverage of the news.

The issue resurfaced with when H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest donated the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and its sister publications (PMN) to a new nonprofit institute. Many asked this question: "How could the news organization avoid potential conflicts of interest if it was taking money from outside donors?"

That's a question has been around for decades, confronting newspapers in regards to their big advertisers (or their well-heeled owners) during their heyday dominating the journalism business.

"What we do cannot be bought," said *Inquirer* publisher Terrance C.Z. Egger, who assured

doubters the company's newsrooms would remain autonomous. But nonprofit news organization editors say that even with the highest standards, staying uninfluenced demands vigilance. There is clearly a challenge in taking contributions from people or institutions with opinions while maintaining a reputation for impartial reporting.

Click here to read more. Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

Area Satirical Publication The Onion Sold To Univision **(Seriously)**

Seth Wenig/AP
Univision Communications Inc., the parent company to the nation's leading Spanish-language broadcast channel, has acquired a controlling stake in the satirical news site The Onion, NPR has learned.

The agreement between two seemingly disparate media outfits was described to NPR by a person with direct involvement in the negotiations. A second person who was briefed on the deal by Univision executives also confirmed its broad strokes. The amount of money involved in the deal was not disclosed. NPR has also obtained a memo from the CEO of The Onion announcing the deal to staffers.

This account is in many ways reliant upon the information provided by those two people. NPR sought comment Monday from corporate officials and spokespersons for Univision and The Onion about the deal, as well as from Fusion and ABC about

elements of this story involving them. None of those messages by voice mail or email were returned.

Univision will acquire a 40 percent, controlling stake in The Onion, which includes the site, its influential sister popular-culture outfit The A.V. Club, the social media satire site Clickhole, and various book and video projects. Univision also will have the right to buy the humor company outright.

Click here to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

-0-

Postmedia merges newsrooms, cuts 90 jobs in response to financial woes (Globe and Mail)

The country's largest newspaper chain, Postmedia Network Canada Corp., is merging once-competing newsrooms and cutting about 90 staff as it tries to cope with declining revenue and a heavy debt load.

In Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa - cities where Postmedia owns two daily papers - editorial staff will be joined together to work under one senior editor, filing stories and images to both publications. But the company is not closing any newspapers, promising to continue publishing two in each city, albeit with less distinctive content and fewer rival reporters working local beats.

Click here to read more.

Today in History - January 20, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2016. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1936, Britain's King George V died after his physician, Lord Dawson of Penn, injected the mortally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to hasten his death; the king was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward VIII, who abdicated the throne 11 months later to marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson.

On this date:

In 1265, England's first representative Parliament met for the first time; the gathering at Westminster was composed of bishops, abbots, peers, Knights of the Shire and town burgesses.

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and executed by month's end).

In 1887, the U.S. Senate approved an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was sworn into office for an unprecedented fourth term.

In 1954, "The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial," a play by Herman Wouk based on part of his novel "The Caine Mutiny," opened on Broadway.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States.

In 1975, several former William Morris talent agents, including Michael Ovitz, founded Creative Artists Agency (CAA).

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1990, actress Barbara Stanwyck died in Santa Monica, California, at age 82.

In 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

Ten years ago: Michael Fortier (FOHR'-tee-ur), the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing trials, was released from federal prison after serving more than 10 years for failing to warn authorities about the plot. Japan halted all imports of U.S. beef because of mad cow fears. (Shipments resumed six months later.)

Five years ago: In a luncheon speech to American business executives in Washington, Chinese President Hu Jintao denied his country was a military threat despite its arms buildup and pressed the U.S. for closer cooperation between the global powers. Federal authorities orchestrated one of the biggest Mafia takedowns in FBI history, charging 127 suspected mobsters and associates in the Northeast with murders, extortion and other crimes spanning decades.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, undaunted by the new Republican majority in Congress, issued a sweeping challenge in his State of the Union address to do more for the poor and middle class and to end the nasty partisan political fight that had characterized his six years in office. The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages unless its ransom demands were met. (Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa were both slain by their captors.)

(Stations: "?uestlove" is correct)

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Arte Johnson is 87. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 86. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 76. Singer Eric Stewart is 71. Movie director David Lynch is 70. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 69. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 68. Actor Daniel Benzali is 66. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 64. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 64. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 60. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 58. Actor James Denton is 53. Rock musician Greg K. (The Offspring) is 51. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 51. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 51. Actor Rainn Wilson is 50. Actress Stacey Dash is 49. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 48. Singer Xavier is 48. Actor Reno Wilson is 47. Singer Edwin McCain is 46. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 46. Rap musician ?uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 45. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 37. Singer/songwriter Bonnie McKee is 32. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 31. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 30. Actor Evan Peters is 29.

Thought for Today: "Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious." - Letitia Landon, English poet (1802-1838).

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.

- "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.

paulstevens46@gmail.com

Paul Stevens
Editor
Connecting newsletter

Forward this email

SafeUnsubscribe

This email was sent to pjshane@gmail.com by paulstevens46@gmail.com |
Update Profile/Email Address | Rapid removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | About our service provider.

Trusted Email from Constant Contact FREE
Try it FREE today.

Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter | Lenexa | KS | 66215