Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - March 09, 2016

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com> Wed, Mar 9, 2016 at 9:04 AM
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Connecting

March 09, 2016

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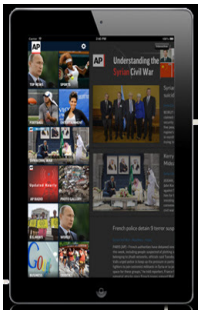

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Save The Date - Sept. 27-28 - for the second annual Midwest FRAPEE (Former and Retired AP Employees Extraordinaire) reunion in Kansas City. It is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 27-28. More details to come, but if you are interested in being on a mailing list for developments, drop me a note.

Word is out that **Dale Leach**, Central regional director based in Dallas, plans to retire in May after 35 years with The Associated Press.

A proud Ohio State graduate, Dale joined the AP in Columbus, Ohio, in 1981 and was named Ohio news editor in 1984 and assistant chief of bureau in 1988. He transferred to Albuquerque, N.M., to become a bureau chief in 1990 and then in 1993 became the bureau chief in Seattle. Dale has been in Dallas since 2003, first serving as bureau chief for Texas before his territory expanded to include most of the Central U.S. as his role expanded to regional director.

More on Dale, a Connecting colleague, and his career - and plans for the next chapter of his life - as his retirement date draws nearer. His email - dleach@ap.org

Paul

'A quintessential AP family'

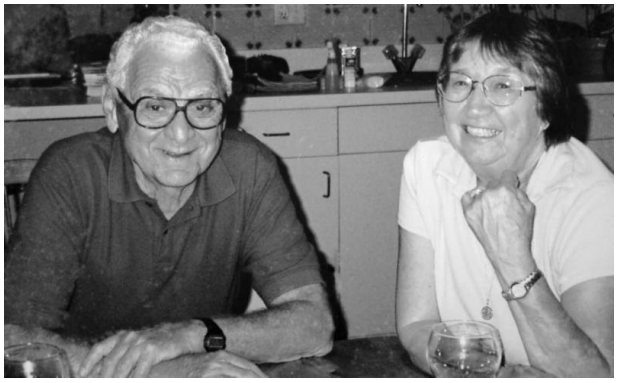
Betsey and Roy Essoyan with children (from left) Catherine, Susan, Stephen and David.

Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - The Feb. 24 Connecting included a brief mention of the death Dec. 9 in Honolulu of Betsey Essoyan, wife of long-time Tokyo bureau chief and chief of Middle East services Roy Essoyan. Betsey, a reporter for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, and Roy were married in 1953 and went on to create "a quintessential AP family," as daughter Susan later put it. Betsey accompanied Roy on AP assignments to Moscow and, following his expulsion in a row with Soviet officials, to Hong Kong, Cairo, Beirut and Tokyo. Along the way they raised four children. Roy died in 2012.

Susan, a columnist at the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, assembled a delightful remembrance of her mother and is sharing it today with Connecting readers. Susan was a reporter for AP in Boston from 1982-84 and an editor on the World Desk from 1984-86. She moved to Hawaii in 1986 to marry Gary Gill. "My daughter followed the family path and is a reporter for Pacific Business News in Honolulu," she writes.

Elizabeth "Betsey" Biggs Essoyan
July 10, 1926 - Dec. 9, 2015

Betsey Essoyan, a former reporter and widow of AP veteran Roy Essoyan, died at home in Honolulu on Dec. 9, 2015, at age 89.



She was surrounded by her children and grandchildren, who serenaded her with guitar, ukulele and song. She kept her grace and wit until the end, succumbing to chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Betsey Biggs worked as a reporter for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram fresh out of college and then for the Star-Bulletin in Honolulu, where she met Roy. They married in 1953 and spent the next 30 years on the move around the globe, courtesy of the AP, as Roy pursued a career as a foreign correspondent.

Daughter Catherine was just a few months old in 1955 when Roy was transferred from Honolulu to Moscow. There, he used his fluent Russian to report on Cold War politics while Betsey navigated the city as a housewife, filing a couple of AP dispatches on day-to-day life in the Soviet Union. At one point, she flummoxed a Soviet official who saw her pop a contact lens out of her eye. He asked, open-mouthed, "What on earth is that?" Betsey, who had a way with one-liners, replied, "Ah, eta Americanski Sputnik!"

Betsey Essoyan, with children David and Catherine, at Honolulu Airport en route from Moscow to Hong Kong in 1958.

The Essoyans were a quintessential AP family, always up for adventure and ready to salute "Mother AP," as Roy put it, when dispatched to a new country. After Moscow, Roy was posted to Hong Kong, Cairo, Beirut and Tokyo. "You keep having kids, and I'll keep sending them around the world," AP General Manager Wes Gallagher once told Betsey.

The Essoyans forged lifelong friendships with AP staffers and their families, often entertaining them at their home. Retired Tokyo newsman Shigeyoshi Kimura fondly remembers the Essoyan motto: "We are all part of the AP Family."

Roy started his career with the AP in Shanghai and retired as chief of Northeast Asia Services in 1985. He died March 22, 2012, at age 92. He and Betsey are survived by their children, Catherine, David, Susan and Stephen, and nine grandchildren.

Connecting mailbox

On flagging copy that might ruffle feathers

Joe Frazier - Way back in the day we simply ``flagged'' any copy containing language that might ruffle feathers. This was especially true of stuff on the broadcast wire to protect the `rip and read'' DJs who used the stuff without reading it first. I recall the caution was similar to ``Editors: Some readers (or listeners) may find portions of the following objectionable.'' It then befell the end user to decide what to use and what to avoid. I recall the grief one long-departed staffer got for not `flagging'' i a broadcast item that should never have made the wire in the first place, a rather detailed description of the goings on inside an erotic massage parlor in Oregon while a proposal to outlaw such enterprises within some city limits was headed for the ballot.

-0-

Asking the tough question

David Briscoe - My favorite recollection of a question not appreciated was from May 1984 when Jeane Kirkpatrick, President Reagan's ambassador to the United Nations visited the Philippines where I was AP bureau chief (1980-86.)

At a news conference, I asked her whether it was possible to separate U.S. support for the Philippines from support for Ferdinand E. Marcos, whom opponents considered a dictator.

Kirkpatrick basically said it was a stupid question she had never been asked in all her years as a foreign policy adviser and diplomat and severely chastised me for asking it. I can still feel her glare. I thought then and still do that it was a pretty good question, given the Reagan administration's support for dictatorships around the world and the perception among many Filipinos that the United States was keeping Marcos in power and helping destroy Philippine democracy.

It also seemed to me a basic question that ought to be asked within the U.S. government itself when it came to support for regimes in countries where pro-American leaders overstayed and freedoms were restricted.

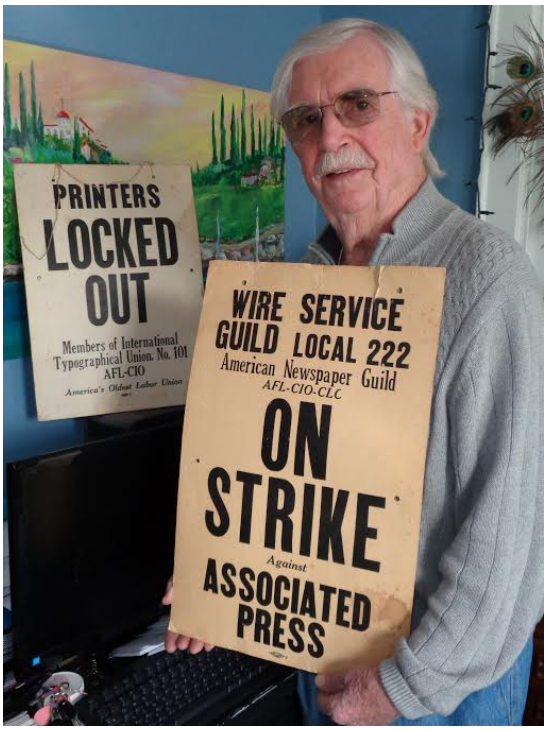
An honest answer would have been a simple reiteration of the so-called Kirkpatrick Doctrine, which held that there was a difference between authoritarian and totalitarian dictatorships and that strong leaders were needed to stave off communism.

Apparently not wanting to properly label Marcos, who considered himself a strong democrat, Kirkpatrick chose, instead, to directly attack the reporter.

Two years later, Reagan was forced to cut ties with Marcos and recognize Corazon Aquino, widow of Marcos' assassinated rival, as the Philippines' new leader.

Former AP newsman recalls Wire Service Guild strike - 47 years later

Malcolm Barr - A few days before my 83rd birthday (March 10), rummaging in our basement, I discovered tucked away in a long-ignored closet one of the "on strike against The Associated Press" placards many of us wore in January 1969 - the first and last nationwide work stoppage targeting our historic workplace. By happenstance, I led the strike, walking out on to the cold sidewalks of New York outside 50 Rockefeller Plaza the first week of that year.



It was a happening many thought best forgotten, particularly AP management of the day - in fact, managements after the day!

Decades ago, before the opening of the Neuseum in Washington, D.C., for example, my friend and colleague, the late Tom Seppy, WX sports writer and general assignment newsman (1960s-1980s) offered his placard as a historic item to Washington's now famous Nueseum for display among AP memorabilia. It was rejected.

Meanwhile, during Barry Schweid's recent funeral, I met a couple of octogenarians who recalled the strike and credited the work stoppage with the pension they now receive which one of them said was a "welcome appendage" to their social security income,

Medicare benefits, and so on.

My AP service in Honolulu and Washington (1962-69) was insufficient for AP pension credit but the new contract did award me a day-off on my birthday before leaving for a press secretary position in the U.S. Senate!

Schweid, noting my previous membership in the National Union of Journalists, was the guy who encouraged me to run for office in 1968 - "for name recognition" - only to see my UPI photographer incumbent opponent back out at the last moment and "give" me the presidency of Wire Service Guild Local 222, AFL-CIO, ergo the responsibility for contract negotiations that broke down a few weeks later.

When newsmen and women walked out from Maine to Hawaii, AP management brought in foreign correspondents and overseas chiefs of bureau to staff domestic bureaus for 10 days. It's a day I'll never forget, and a day that many current staffers are unlikely to remember - but I thought it worthwhile they know about this significant marker in the AP's long history.

(Photo by Roger Bianchini, retired journalist, Front Royal, VA)

AP Insights: Can local news compete online?

An associate professor of economics at Hunter College asks what the benefit is for local news websites when their content is included in aggregators.

Editor's note: We spoke with Lisa George, an associate professor of economics at Hunter College, about her research on the appeal - or lack thereof - of local news on aggregation websites.

Here is how she responded:

"So everybody's Google News front page has news local to them. And I looked at how big of an effect this had on local news consumption and local news markets. It turns out that you don't see that many clicks. And the visits to the local news sites that you do see, they tend to be towards outlets that people knew anyway.

"It's a story about demand, that people, once they're given high-quality national or international news, or subject-matter news, that they really do like it more. And so it has to be something pretty big even when it's in front of them to be willing to go and make the switch over to local news."

Click here for a link to this story.

Connecting '80s/'90s/100 Club

100's

Max Desfor - 102
George Bria- 100

90's:

Jack Bausman - 91
Carl Bell - 91
Albert Habhab - 90
Elaine Light- 92
Joe McKnight - 90
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Harold Waters - 93

80's:

Mercer Bailey- 89
Malcolm Barr - 82

Joe Benham - 81
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Gene Herrick - 89
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Stories of interest

Waiter, Where's Our (Political) Spinach? (New York Times)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

ASKED what we prefer to eat for dinner, many of us will virtuously claim a diet of salads and whole grains, never mentioning lifeboat-size portions of penne alla vodka or our addiction to flourless chocolate cake. Asked what we serve the kids, we will nod dutifully to lean proteins and green vegetables, while double-cheese pizza and tater tots will go unmentioned.

But what if a hidden camera recorded what we actually eat or put on the family dinner table? Would farro and steamed broccoli really dominate?

Similarly, what about our consumption of political news? Times readers often write to me

saying they want substantial information about the important issues confronting the nation: immigration, income inequality, international conflict. And they complain that that's not what The Times is feeding them.

Click here to read more.

-0-

The New York Times' Strange Behavior in the Controversy Over Trump's Off-the-Record Comments (The Intercept)

BuzzFeed's editor-in-chief, Ben Smith, yesterday created a campaign controversy when he suggested that Donald Trump told *New York Times*editors - in an off-the-record portion of his January candidate interview seeking the paper's endorsement - that he would be willing to negotiate the more hard-line aspects of his immigration platform, including mass deportation. Trump's rivals, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, immediately calledupon Trump to demand the release of the recording of his off-the-record discussion with *NYT* editors, insinuating that Trump was deliberately misleading voters.

Click here to read more. Shared by Dick Chady.

The Final Word

Gutting the White House

The 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, moved into the White House in 1945. To his surprise and dismay, the house had serious problems. Not only was it drafty and creaky, it was downright unsafe.

Chandeliers in the house were observed swaying for no apparent reason, and floors moved underneath people's feet when stepped on.

All of the above resulted in a structural investigation being conducted on the building, revealing haphazard retrofitting, fire hazards and a second floor that was on the verge of collapsing. What's more is that the White House's foundations were sinking, walls were peeling away and disused water and gas pipes were weighing down the building and making it unsustainable.

The situation was so bad that, in June 1948, one of the legs of First Daughter Margaret Truman's piano fell right through a floorboard of her second-floor sitting room. This event, along with others, made the Presidential family and its aides realize that serious measures were required to save the historic building.

Click here for a link to this story and great photos. And if you have a memory of the White House from your work days, send them along. Shared by Ralph Gage.

Today in History - March 9, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 9, the 69th day of 2016. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On March 9, 1916, more than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on Portugal.

On this date:

In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.

In 1796, the future emperor of the French, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais (boh-ahr-NAY'). (The couple later divorced.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (formerly USS Merrimac) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Virginia.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

In 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-communism campaign on "See It Now."

In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court, in New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

In 1965, the Rev. James Reeb, a white minister from Boston who'd gone to Selma, Alabama, to show support for civil rights marchers, was attacked by a group of white men and struck on the head; he died two days later at age 38.

In 1976, a cable car in the Italian ski resort of Cavalese fell some 700 feet to the ground when a supporting line snapped, killing 43 people.

In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington, D.C., killing one person and taking more than 130 hostages. (The siege ended two days later.)

In 1981, Dan Rather made his debut as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 1990, Dr. Antonia Novello was sworn in as surgeon general, becoming the first woman and the first Hispanic to hold the job.

Ten years ago: Bowing to ferocious opposition in Congress, a Dubai-owned company, DP World, relinquished its quest to take over operations at U.S. ports. John Profumo, the former British Cabinet minister whose affair with model Christine Keeler rocked Britain in 1963, died in London at age 91.

Five years ago: After a trip to the International Space Station, shuttle Discovery ended its career as the most flown U.S. spaceship, returning from orbit for the last time. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation abolishing the death penalty in his state and commuting the sentences of all remaining death row inmates. David Broder, 81, one of the nation's premier political reporters for decades, died in Arlington, Virginia.

One year ago: In northwestern Argentina, two helicopters collided and burst into flames shortly after taking off near the remote settlement of Villa Castelli, killing both pilots and eight French nationals. (Among the victims were Olympic champion swimmer Camille Muffat, Olympic bronze-medalist boxer Alexis Vastine and pioneering sailor Florence Arthaud, who were contestants on a European reality TV show which was being shot in the sparsely populated region.) Solar Impulse 2, a Swiss-made solar-powered aircraft, took off from Abu Dhabi just after daybreak in a historic first attempt to fly around the world without a drop of fossil fuel (however, overheated batteries grounded the plane in Hawaii). Apple CEO Tim Cook unveiled the Apple Watch in San Francisco.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. James L. Buckley, Conservative-N.Y., is 93. Singer-actress Keely Smith is 88. Singer Lloyd Price is 83. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 82. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 80. Actress Trish Van Devere is 75. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 74. Former ABC anchorman Charles Gibson is 73. Rock musician Robin Trower is 71. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 68. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 68. Actress Jaime Lyn Bauer is 67. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 65. TV newscaster Faith Daniels is 59. Actress Linda Fiorentino is 58. Actor Tom Amandes is 57. Actor-director Lonny Price is 57. Country musician Rusty Hendrix (Confederate Railroad) is 56. Actress Juliette Binoche is 52. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 48. Rock musician Shannon Leto (30 Seconds to Mars) is 46. Rapper C-Murder (AKA C-Miller) is 45. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 45. Actress Jean Louisa Kelly is 44. Actor Kerr Smith is 44. Actor Oscar Isaac (Film: "Star Wars: The Force Awakens") is 37. Rapper Chingy is 36. Actor Matthew Gray Gubler is 36. Rock musician Chad Gilbert (New Found Glory) is 35. Roots rock musician Ben Tanner (Alabama Shakes) is 33. Actress Brittany Snow is 30. Rapper Bow Wow is 29. Rapper YG is 26. Actor Luis Armand Garcia is 24. Actress Cierra Ramirez is 21.

Thought for Today: "Anybody who wants the presidency so much that he'll spend two years organizing and campaigning for it is not to be trusted with the office." - David Broder (1929-2011).

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.

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