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## Connecting - April 28, 2016

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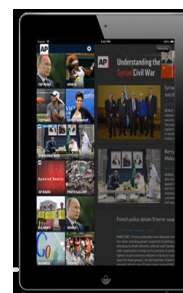
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# Connecting

April 28, 2016

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## AP's Hal Buell: At 85, a photojournalism icon



*Photo by Todd Frantom - 2011*

Colleagues,

This is not your ordinary Thursday for members of the Connecting family!

Today marks the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Hal Buell**, a legend in The Associated Press and in all of American news photography. And although he retired from the AP nearly 20 years ago, he continues to contribute to photojournalism in a big way.

I asked **Brian Horton**, retired AP photographer and photo editor, to chronicle Hal and his 40-year AP career, and his story - written from the heart - leads today's issue of Connecting.

"Hal was my long-time boss at the AP," Horton says, "but he was also my mentor and is a great friend to Marilyn and me. Both in my professional life and in my personal life, Hal has been my True North. Talking with him, or exchanging messages or just thinking about what he would do in any given situation has provided me with the answer to many dilemmas I've faced over the years."

There are many of us who have that same great respect for Hal. And here is wishing our Connecting colleague a great day - and many more birthdays to come!

If you would like to drop Hal a note, his email is - [hbuell@lanline.com](mailto:hbuell@lanline.com)

And if you have a favorite memory of Hal you would like to share, send it along to Connecting.

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### ***News from AP annual meeting:***

The AP annual meeting was held Wednesday in New York, and Connecting presents stories from the AP that came out of the meeting. The 2015 Annual Report is available online by clicking here - <http://www.ap.org/annual-report/2015/>

Paul

## **Hal Buell on his AP career:**

***"It was a great job - the best job in the AP and I say the best job in picture journalism. You know working for a wire service is an electric experience. There is always something happening some place in the world."***



**By BRIAN HORTON**

On the occasion of Hal Buell's 85th birthday, a lead eludes me as I try to write an appreciation.

What is the most important accomplishment?

That he was an innovative leader with a 40-year career at the AP?

That his photo staff won a dozen Pulitzers during his 25 years as head of AP Photos?

That Buell shepherded AP Photos through the changes from b&w to color film, from a picture every ten minutes to pictures in less time than it takes to type this and from film to digital, all while keeping content and creativity paramount?



**Hal Buell and Claudia DiMartino walk down the hill from a memorial service for photographers held every year at the Eddie Adams Workshop in October. Hal and Claudia have been together for approximately 15 years sharing work and a deep affection for one another.**

That his vision of gathering, processing and distributing photos electronically, composed while living in a film-based and analog world that hadn't changed in more than 50 years, would lead to today's ubiquitous cellphone photography where everyone is a photographer and people can distribute a photo to a friend or a wide audience with the touch of a button?

That the digital camera (no more film!), LeafDesk (pictures on a screen!), Leafax (film scanned instead of printed!) and PhotoStream (pictures in moments instead of minutes!) projects he envisioned and captained changed the face of photography?

That he still lectures widely on photography and photojournalism ethics and pays it forward to the next generation of photographers at workshops and college lectures?

That he's a published author many times over, including books on Iwo Jima, World War II in Europe (with a visual entry for every day of the war there), the stories behind the Pulitzer Prize-winning photos and even a collection of children's books.

That his enduring friendships with AP people and others from every walk of life are something he holds dear?

Any one of those would be something to proud of. But, if you were to ask him, odds are that last one would certainly be first on the list.

With Hal, friendship and loyalty are paramount. He maintains friendships from throughout his AP career and has always kept in touch with people from his college days at Northwestern and his post-college service in the Army in Japan while working at the AP and Stars & Stripes.

In a time when friendship can be defined as hitting the "like" button on a Facebook post, Buell values notes and phone calls as a way of keeping in touch and being there for his friends.

There are many of us who've gotten a Buell note at just the right moment when navigating life's journeys. Somehow, he seems to always bring clarity to a tough situation or celebration for an accomplishment.

It can be called "old school," but Hal has always thought of members of the AP family to be members of his family, too.

While many of us know of his friendship, any mention of Buell is sure to bring discussion of his efforts to bring change to the technology that would propel sea changes to photojournalism.

Former AP photo editor Jenn Poggi, who went on to leadership positions at U.S. News and the White House, is a professor now at RIT. She's doing her Master's thesis on Hal and how his vision transformed photojournalism.



**Jenn Poggi**

Poggi writes, "Throughout his career with the Associated Press, Hal Buell choreographed an intricate dance between technology and visual storytelling. Under Buell's vision and leadership, AP drove the evolution of photographic technology, ultimately revolutionizing the way photographers, picture editors and publishing companies handled news pictures and laying the groundwork for today's industry standards."

She adds, "While he acknowledges the importance of these technological developments, Buell maintains it was the value of the images and the publications'

appetite to receive timely journalistic pictures as part of their daily news that drove advances in photographic capture and transmission. Moreover, Buell asserts the "impact of photojournalism has increased as more people see the pictures that photographers produce," an affirmation that content should remain the primary focus in our industry."

It was a tightrope.

And, as the head of photos for the AP, with every newspaper picture editor holding an opinion (some wanted every picture in color, others thought color was a waste of time; most wanted a picture as soon as they saw something on TV but also wanted the definitive image that would sometime take hours to capture), he was an easy target.

Few members of the staff ever knew of the flack he endured.

Buell had to balance attention to the daily task of assembling the best pictures possible while, in the background, developing the concepts and pushing the changes that would need to be made. And, he was not only changing things at the AP, but those changes would alter the culture of photo handling in newsrooms around the world, too.

Buell told Poggi, "Technology has assisted photographers greatly in the last decade and the mechanics of making pictures is comparatively simple. But much of picture taking is the same. The electronics...the technology...the circuits: these are mere tools. What counts - what will always count - are the editors and the photographers, and the moments in time."



**Hal with Yuichi (Jackson) Ishizaki, Hal's right-hand man in Tokyo, as they prepared to depart on an assignment (circa 1960).**

Buell started his AP career working part time on the news desk in the Tokyo bureau while in the Army there. After leaving the Army, Buell was hired in the AP's Chicago bureau in 1956 to work on the radio desk.





**Hal with other AP Chicago staffers when he first started out on the radio desk.**

great job - the best job in the AP and I say the best job in picture journalism. You know working for a wire service is an electric experience. There is always something happening some place in the world."

He moved to New York Photos in 1957 and was named Asia Photo Editor in 1959. In 1963, he returned to New York Photos as a deputy to photo chief Al Resch. Buell was then named Director of Photography in 1966 and, two years later, replaced Resch as the head of the photo service when Resch retired.

Buell held that position until 1990. He told Poggi, "It was a

When Vin Alabiso returned to the AP in 1990 to head the photo department, Buell took on the task of implementing PhotoStream and moving members away from receivers to Leafdesks. The project was planned for a two-year rollout. Buell and his team wrapped it up in a year.

His dream, which he had detailed in a 1987 white paper on the subject, was now a reality.

Buell then turned his attention to archiving the AP's photo report, which could then be more easily monetized. He retired in 1997.



**Hal gives some film a second look during the Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984. Brian Horton is at the next table.**

Since then, there has been some consulting work, the books, lectures and, of course, the friendships.

Fix that, the friendships would come first.

**(Brian Horton ([Email](#)) joined the AP in 1971, as a summer relief staffer on the Chicago photo desk, and stayed until his**





Brian and his wife Marilyn with Hal at Brian's surprise 65th birthday party in 2015.

retirement in 2009. Along the way, he was a photographer in Philadelphia and Cincinnati, the Ohio Newsphoto Editor in Columbus and held various senior positions in New York Photos, starting in 1982. In 2001, while Senior Photo Editor for Sports, Horton moved to the AP's web service, where he worked as a senior editor until his retirement.)

## AP's 2015 profit rises 30 percent on tax benefit, cost cutting

NEW YORK (AP) - The Associated Press' earnings rose 30 percent last year on a large tax gain and cost cutting. Those helped offset a revenue decline stemming from the financial woes at newspapers and other media.

AP's 2015 results, released Wednesday, reflected some complex accounting. The news cooperative recognized a tax benefit of \$165 million stemming from a financial blow that its auditors required the cooperative to absorb in 2011 after suffering three straight years of losses.



Ken Dale

After three consecutive years of operating profits, the AP was able to reverse the negative effects of 2011's accounting measures, said Ken Dale, the cooperative's chief financial officer.

The benefit is the main reason the AP earned \$183.6 million last year, up from \$140.9 million in the previous year. The 2014 profit was boosted by a \$128 million gain from the sale of AP's stake in Stats LLC and other investments.

Revenue last year fell 6 percent to \$568 million. About one-third of the revenue decline was caused by currency fluctuations that worked against the AP, Dale said.

This marks the sixth time in the past seven years that the AP's revenue has dropped since peaking at \$748 million in 2008.

The steady erosion since then largely reflects a steep decline in advertising sales at

the newspapers and broadcasters that belong to the AP and pay the cooperative for text, photos, video and other services.

As more advertising has shifted to digital networks powered by Google and Facebook, the AP has reduced its fees to help its U.S. members cope with the upheaval. Some newspapers and broadcasters have also curtailed business with the AP as part of their own cost cutting.

The 170-year-old AP has been mining additional revenue from the Internet and overseas customers, but so far it hasn't been nearly enough to spur sustained growth.

With less money coming in, the AP has been spending less, too. Last year, the cooperative's operating expenses decreased 8 percent to \$554 million. That compares with expenses of nearly \$725 million in the more flush times of 2008.

The not-for-profit cooperative ended 2015 with \$50.6 million in cash, down from \$61.6 million in 2014.

The AP also held its annual meeting in New York Wednesday. The proceedings included the election of a new director to the AP's 21-member board, Gannett Co. CEO Robert Dickey.

Four incumbent directors whose terms were set to expire also were re-elected. They are: Robert Brown, president of Swift Communications; Michael Golden, vice chairman of The New York Times Co.; William Hoffman, president of Cox Media Group; and Mary Junck, executive chairman of Lee Enterprises.

All the directors were elected to three-year terms except for Junck, who was elected to a one-year term as the AP's chairman.

## ***AP announces new director, 4 incumbents re-elected at annual meeting***

NEW YORK - One new director was elected and four incumbents were re-elected to The Associated Press board of directors, it was announced at AP's annual meeting today at its New York headquarters.

Joining the AP cooperative's board as a new director is Robert J. Dickey, president and chief executive officer of Gannett Co.

Dickey became president and CEO of Gannett in 2015 following the company's separation from Tegna Inc. He was previously president of Gannett's U.S. Community Publishing Division, formerly the Newspaper Division, from 2008 until 2015. Gannett comprises 128 media organizations across the U.S. Its flagship brand is USA Today.

The four incumbents re-elected to the board are:

- \* Robert Brown, president of Swift Communications.
- \* Michael Golden, vice chairman of The New York Times Company.
- \* William Hoffman, president of Cox Media Group.
- \* Mary Junck, executive chairman of Lee Enterprises.

These directors, including Dickey, were elected to three-year terms, with the exception of Junck, who was re-elected to a one-year term and is the board chairman.

The AP board has 21 directors. Directors are elected by members, or appointed to the AP board by directors.

Each director is eligible to serve up to a total of nine years, although the chairman is exempt from that rule.

The 2015 Annual Report is [available online](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### ***'Lactation room' included in AP headquarters design***

**Mark Mittlestadt** - Steve Graham might be interested to know that when it designed its new headquarters at W 33rd Street 13 years ago, his former employer proudly created a "lactation room" for new mothers on the AP staff. They could breastfeed there or express milk to feed to their infants later. It is on the 15th floor down a back hallway from the fitness center and next to a "quiet room."

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## ***Sadness over demise of 'Chief of Bureau' position***

**Gene Herrick** - It is with sadness that I've been reading about the demise of the esteemed office of "Chief of Bureau" in the Associated Press's long line of great news and administrative leaders.

Gosh, since my "Birth" into AP life, I have worked with, admired, and learned from so many COBs. Almost without exception, they were people of wonderful talents, skills, and mentoring abilities. To me, they were the umbilical cord that placed me in, and kept me viable, with the greatest news organization in the world. They were the link between other bureaus, the New York office, and compatriots around the world.

I have had the privilege to work in so very many bureaus in this country, and some in the Orient. In doing so, I met with, talked with, exchanged ideas with, worked with, and drank with, some of the biggest names in AP during my 28 years.

I remember in 1943, in the Columbus bureau, late at night, some of the staff met with one of AP's great writers (Don't, for the life of me now, remember his name) at a nearby watering hole. I sat spell-bound listening and learning. The same thing would happen, when I would go into AP bureaus everywhere. Some of them were Relman (Pat) Morin, Russ Brines, Bud Johns, John Jamison, Ed Ball, Stan Swinton, Austin Bealmear, Murlin Spencer, Bill Weeks, Al Orton, Ed Easterly, Frank Gorrie, Dion Henderson, Ron Autry, Wes Gallagher, Bill Barnard, Keith Fuller, and I've obviously forgotten some. Most of these folks were also great writers, and all were wonderful folks who inspired me to be better and better. I shall never forget what each of these men and leaders did for my career and memories.

I can't imagine what the AP will be like without the COB organizational model. It may make more money, but the news business I loved was based on close, knowledgeable, personal, inspirational leadership, and fellowship. I shall continue with my memories of the past.

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## ***Remembering AP chiefs of bureau***

**Malcolm Barr** - Bob Myers, Honolulu bureau chief, hired me in 1962, maybe because I was the only applicant with teletype machine skills! Colleague Jim Lagier would later say I could type faster than I could talk. I had dinner with Bob a few weeks before he died in Los Angeles in 2007. Bob was followed in the three-person Hula bureau by the inimitable Harry Moskos who, I recall, brought the head of the

Greek Orthodox Church to Hawaii. I lost track of Harry who I recall quit the AP for a job on the Albuquerque Tribune. The last I saw of him was when Lagier and I visited him in Knoxville 15 or so years ago where he and wife Vicki were doting on their grandchildren. If anyone has a contact number or address for Harry, I'd appreciate it. In Washington in 1967 I was welcomed by CoB Bill Beale and news editor Marv Arrowsmith who assigned me to the Justice Department beat. Nice guy, Marv.

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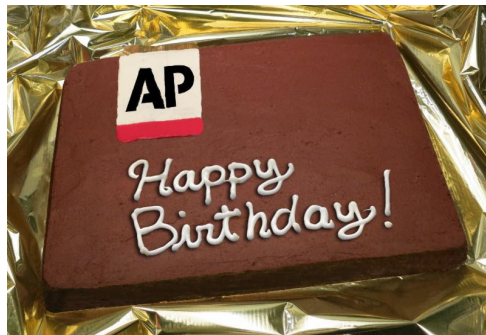
***Here's a Trivial Pursuit question for you!***

**Brad Martin** - That's a trivia question that will never leave my brain!

Brad, head of the Kansas City Technical Center, refers to this item in the April 27 Today in History:

On this date: In 1938, King Zog I of the Albanians married Countess Geraldine Apponyi de Nagy-Apponyi.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Hal Buell** - [hbuell@lanline.com](mailto:hbuell@lanline.com)

**Betsy Brown Kraft** - [betsybkraft@cs.com](mailto:betsybkraft@cs.com)

# Welcome to Connecting



Julie Adam - [julieadam@ku.edu](mailto:julieadam@ku.edu)

## Stories of interest

***Another Journalist Quits Las Vegas Newspaper Bought by Sheldon Adelson*** (New York Times)



A longtime columnist for The Las Vegas Review-Journal has resigned, becoming the latest journalist to leave the newspaper since it was bought by Sheldon Adelson, the billionaire casino magnate and Republican donor, late last year.

The columnist, John L. Smith, said on Tuesday in a letter, several copies of which were distributed in the newsroom, that "recent events have convinced me that I can no longer remain employed at The Las Vegas Review-Journal." Mr. Smith has been barred from writing about Mr. Adelson and was recently told that he could not write about Steve Wynn, another prominent casino owner, either.

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

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***Rieder: Lots of buyers for newspapers*** (USA Today)

Few things have been as heavily chronicled as the manifold challenges of the newspaper business, thoroughly disrupted as it has been by the digital revolution. Readers have gravitated online. Advertising revenue has plummeted and continues to decline. Digital enthusiasts gleefully write obituaries for the old-school news outlets.

And yet people and companies continue to line up to buy them.

Monday, Gannett, which owns USA TODAY and more than 100 local media properties, startled the media world when it disclosed it was offering \$815 million to acquire Tribune Publishing, owner of the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune and nine other dailies.

The move came shortly after Gannett had [completed](#) its \$280 million acquisition of Journal Media Group, owner of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Memphis' Commercial Appeal and 13 other dailies.

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

## The Final Word

***Photos: See an elephant flying over Disneyland, returning back to***

***Jungle Cruise*** (Orange County Register)



ANAHEIM - It was no Babar or Stampy from "The Simpsons." It wasn't even Disney's own pachyderm superstar, Dumbo.

But it *was* an elephant. And, on Wednesday, it *was* flying - a couple hundred feet over Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle.

The audio-animatronic beast was being hauled back to her home along on the bank of the Nile River in the park's Jungle Cruise attraction.

[Click here](#) to read more. Shared by Rachel Ambrose.

## Today in History - April 28, 2016



### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 28, the 119th day of 2016. There are 247 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1996, a man armed with a semiautomatic rifle went on a rampage on the Australian island of Tasmania, killing 35 people; Martin Bryant was captured by police after a 12-hour standoff at a guest cottage. (Bryant is serving a life prison sentence.)

#### On this date:

In 1758, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1789, there was a mutiny on the HMS Bounty as rebelling crew members of the British ship, led by Fletcher Christian, set the captain, William Bligh, and 18 others adrift in a launch in the South Pacific. (Bligh and most of the men with him reached Timor in 47 days.)

In 1817, the United States and Britain signed the Rush-Bagot Treaty, which limited the number of naval vessels allowed in the Great Lakes.

In 1918, Gavrilo Princip, the assassin of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and the archduke's wife, Sophie, died in prison of tuberculosis.

In 1925, the International Exposition of Modern Industrial and Decorative Arts, which gave rise to the term "Art Deco," began a six-month run in Paris.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali refused to be inducted into the Army, the same day U.S. Army Gen. William C. Westmoreland told Congress the U.S. "would prevail in Vietnam."

In 1974, a federal jury in New York acquitted former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans of charges in connection with a secret \$200,000 contribution to President Richard Nixon's re-election campaign from financier

Robert Vesco.

In 1988, a flight attendant was killed and more than 60 persons injured when part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 tore off during a flight from Hilo (HEE'-loh) to Honolulu.

In 2001, a Russian rocket lifted off from Central Asia bearing the first space tourist, California businessman Dennis Tito, and two cosmonauts on a journey to the international space station.

Ten years ago: Storms battered eastern Texas with wind up to 100 miles-an-hour and hail the size of baseballs. Attorneys for Rush Limbaugh, who'd been accused by Florida prosecutors of "doctor shopping" for painkillers, announced a deal under which a single prescription fraud charge against the talk show host would be dismissed after 18 months provided he stay drug-free and didn't violate any laws. Ellen DeGeneres swept the Daytime Emmy awards, winning best talk show host for the second time and earning talk show honors for the third consecutive year.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama reshuffled his national security team, with CIA Director Leon Panetta succeeding Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Gen. David Petraeus replacing Panetta at the CIA. Convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and raping a California girl, Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted in 1991 at the age of 11 and rescued 18 years later. (Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years to life in prison; Nancy Garrido was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison.) Canada's Patrick Chan won the world figure skating championships in Moscow.

One year ago: Urging Americans to "do some soul-searching," President Barack Obama expressed deep frustration over recurring black deaths at the hands of police, rioters who responded with senseless violence and a society that would only "feign concern" without addressing the root causes. Nigerian troops rescued nearly 300 girls and women during an offensive against Boko Haram militants in the northeast Sambia forest; those rescued did not include any of the schoolgirls kidnapped a year earlier from Chibok. Jack Ely, the singer known for "Louie Louie," the low-budget recording that became one the most famous songs of the 20th century, died in Redmond, Oregon, at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 86. Actor Frank Vincent is 79. Actress-singer Ann-Margret is 75. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 67. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 66. Rock musician Chuck Leavell is 64. Actress Mary McDonnell is 63. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 63. Actress Nancy Lee Grahn is 60. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 56. Rapper Too Short is 50. Actress Simbi Khali is 45. Actress Bridget Moynahan is 45. Actor Chris Young is 45. Rapper Big Gipp is 43. Actor Jorge Garcia is 43. Actress Elisabeth Rohm is 43. Actress Penelope Cruz is 42. Actor Nate Richert is 38. Actress Jessica Alba is 35. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 34. Actress Jenna Ushkowitz is 30. Actress Aleisha Allen is 25.

***Thought for Today: "We have two lives... the one we learn with and the life we live with after that." - Bernard Malamud, American author (1914-1986).***

## 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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