



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

## Connecting - July 18, 2016

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 18, 2016 at 8:45 AM

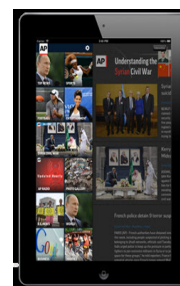
Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

July 18, 2016

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP news](#)  
[Top AP photos](#)  
[AP World](#)

[AP books](#)  
[Connecting Archive](#)  
[AP Essentials](#) (*Purchases benefit The AP Emergency Relief Fund*)

Good Monday morning!

Today marks the start of convention weeks for the two major U.S. political parties. Republicans drop the gavel in Cleveland today on four days of speeches, bloviating, appearances by the family of presumptive nominee Donald Trump and others, culminating in (presumably) the nomination of Trump and his acceptance on Thursday. The Democrats follow suit the following week in Philadelphia, with the crowning of their presumptive nominee, Hillary Clinton.

Retired Associated Press photographer **Joe Yenas** dug through his files and came up with four images of AP photographers and editors at work during the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, and they are shared below. The AP Photos' work space was not smoke-free, nor was it limited to coffee and soft drinks, apparently. How many people do you recognize? Send identifications along for a future issue of Connecting.

Also at the top of today's issue is a beautiful eulogy by retired AP correspondent **Linda Deutsch** for her friend and fellow "trial and crime junkie" actress Ronnie Claire Edward, best known for her role as Corabeth Walton

Godsey, wife of storekeeper Ike Godsey in the 1970's TV series "The Waltons."

Paul Stevens returns to the Connecting editor's chair today. Send contributions to him at [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com).

Enjoy the week.

Mark Mittelstadt

## Scenes from Democratic National Convention 36 years ago



Shared by former AP photographer **Joe Yeninas**, from the Mascone Center in San Francisco. Who do you recognize?

-0-

## 'The Magic of Ronnie Claire Edwards'

Actress **Ronnie Claire Edwards** died in her sleep June 14 at age 83. This is a eulogy **Linda Deutsch** gave at a gathering Saturday.

**By Linda Deutsch**

When I think of my dear friend Ronnie Claire Edwards it is against a backdrop of sequins and jewels. She often

wore velvet and satin in the colors of gemstones and her shimmering earrings would brush her shoulders. She was a living work of art. But her creativity extended beyond the visual. Ronnie Claire was indeed a beautiful woman, but those of us who were privileged to know her for decades learned that her most precious gift to us was the magic in her soul that enveloped all who entered her world.



*Ronnie Claire  
Edwards*

Her mystic potion was made up of searing intelligence, literary acumen and poetic phrasing that became a powerful brew when combined with her dramatic delivery. Shakespeare was always at her elbow waiting to be quoted.

Anyone who ever heard her recite a poem, offer a devastating critical assessment of a movie or expound on the details of a grisly criminal case knew they were in the presence of a unique personality.

She was a gifted actress with the power to spellbind an audience. But her greatest talent, from my vantage point, was in the friendships she nurtured and the world of beauty she created around her. She set the stage perfectly for the astonishing spectacle of her life.

At times I thought Ronnie Claire might have been a time traveler who landed here from another century, an era when exquisite manners still counted and a table perfectly set with bone china and antique silver was a life's work. To attend one of Ronnie Claire's dinner parties was to be ushered into her magical world. I became one of the fortunate guests on her list.

I met Ronnie Claire in the early 1970s through the actor and singer Stanley Grover, the love of her life. When Stanley met me and my friend Theo Wilson, two crime and trial reporters, he said we just had to meet his lady friend who was fascinated with crime stories.

He warned that we might find her overly opinionated, but we thought we could handle that. And, of course, it was love at first conversation. She was a trial and crime junkie and she remembered reading Theo's stories in the New York Daily News. She was enraptured and so were we.

Her father had been a criminal defense attorney and she learned the law at his knee. Once, we took her with us to a trial downtown and she was mesmerized, not so much with the trial but with the scene that occurred during a break when a miserable crew in jail uniforms and shackles came rattling into court for arraignment. She was horrified when we got up to leave and go file our stories.

"Where are you going?" she exclaimed. "This is the best part!"

Soon we became part of her social circle which was a rare and much envied privilege. We learned that Ronnie Claire, in addition to being a star of the *Waltons*, was one of Hollywood's great hostesses. And we were invited regularly to her gala salons in which famous performers would dine with us and then perform songs in her living room beside the grand piano. Invitations were typically understated. She would telephone out of the blue and say in her southern accent, "Can you come to supper?" We never declined.



*Edwards (right) on The Waltons*

We would arrive at her Los Feliz mansion to a feast at her exquisite table. She did all the cooking -- with grits always on the menu -- and there were place cards to ensure lively conversation between those seated next to each other. Ronnie Claire, the doyenne, would be at the head of the table directing the discussion. At our urging she would share colorful stories of her life, such as her turn as a knife thrower's assistant at a carnival when she was a

teenager.

Then we would move to the living room for the show. She rarely performed at the salons. "I just provide the hall," she would say in her understated way.

But when she began to write plays, she would sometimes read an excerpt and that was the best. She also loved to recite patriotic poems and on 4th of July there was always a party with fireworks.

On Halloween there was a costume party and on Christmas a scrumptious dessert party with a groaning board of cakes and sweets baked by the hostess with candles lighting the scene like a Victorian tableau.

When Ronnie Claire moved to Texas a few years ago our lives became less colorful. She came back a few times and it was always reason for a party. She was such a loyal friend to so many. I spoke to her a few weeks ago and realized her health was failing. But it was hard to let her go. We talked and talked until she became weak.

In recent years, she had taken to clipping articles out of the newspapers for each of her friends depending on our interests. I would get an envelope of crime stories every few days and a note in her elaborate, almost undecipherable script.

The other day, sorting through some of her notes, I found one so precious to me.

She was commenting on my retirement and the many awards I had been receiving. And she closed with a line that could sum up my feelings about her. She wrote: "What a golden, wondrous girl you are and I am lucky to have you as a friend."

In truth, I was the lucky one and Ronnie Claire was the magician who wove strands of gold into the fabric of my life.

I miss her desperately and I am certain that Heaven is a more colorful and interesting place today with all the friends who have gone ahead of her preparing the table for her next party... Bon Voyage, my beloved friend.

-0-

## AP sighting: Plaque honoring former reporter for his impact on Oregon Coast

Former AP Atlantic City Correspondent and New Jersey Washington reporter **Hank Stern** came across a plaque this weekend honoring former AP reporter **Matt Kramer** "for his impact on these Pacific Ocean views and many others." Stern, a native of Portland, left AP for positions at the Willamette Week and The Oregonian. He is now press secretary for U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Kramer covered the Capitol beat for AP and the 1967 session of the Oregon Legislature. His stories on the early precarious fate of the "Beach Bill" that appeared in newspapers around the state helped keep the bill alive in the public eye despite the efforts of a cabal of coastal legislators who wanted to kill it in committee.



*Matt Kramer plaque posted by State of Oregon along Oregon Coast. (Hank Stern Photo)*

Matt Kramer died from cancer in 1972. The state erected his memorial in a park named after Gov. Oswald West, who, in 1913, took the lead role in inaugurating the state's unique legacy of publicly-owned beaches by signing a law declaring the wet sand areas of Oregon's ocean beaches a public highway.



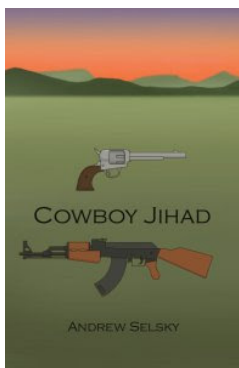
*Views along the Oregon Coast. (Photos by Hank Stern)*

-0-

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Help AP correspondent get his thriller published by Kindle Scout***

**Andrew Selsky** \_ I wonder if you could put a plug in Connecting for my first novel, which is entered into a program called Kindle Scout. Here's the [link to the site and my novel](#).



The first chapter and most of the second are free as an excerpt, and if a lot of people nominate it, it has a better chance of being published and promoted by Kindle/Amazon.

The novel is a thriller and takes place mostly in Oregon and Afghanistan. If the book is selected by Kindle at the end of the nomination period, which ends in 12 days, those who nominated it will get the entire book for free.

When I read years ago that Facebook was building its first wholly owned data center in a small town in central Oregon, I decided that a premise for my first novel would be that Islamic extremists would try to blow it up, to make the social media network used by hundreds of millions of people go dark in a propaganda coup. The main characters are a young American who is sent by al-Qaida to set up the attack but winds up trying to prevent it, a sheriff, and the manager of the data center who is an Army veteran of the Afghanistan war who is trying to come to grips with a deed that he did over there.

I wrote most mornings before going to work as the AP's Africa editor, and on weekends and holidays. I did this for a couple of years.

There are some AP ties in Cowboy Jihad. For one scene portrayed in chapters 1 and 3 (chapter 1 being part of the excerpt that people can access now), I used a real-life event that happened to APTN senior producer Khaled Kazziha in Iraq, in which he got out of a very bad situation in an

unusual way (which I won't describe here as it would spoil it for future readers). I transplanted the event to Afghanistan for the novel. Johannesburg COB Chris Torchia, who had embedded with US forces several times in Afghanistan, provided me with a few needed details to give verisimilitude to a scene in which an Army squad is on patrol and gets ambushed. For a scene in which an interrogator questions a detainee, I used knowledge I had gained as Caribbean COB, where I did a lot of investigative reporting on Guantanamo Bay. I have visited central Oregon often, so I know the area where most of the novel takes place (and, coincidentally, I transferred to Oregon in May as AP correspondent). I also did a temporary reporting assignment in Afghanistan long ago, which helped me describe the place.



*Andrew Selsky*

After a long search, I found a literary agent. He left the agenting business before he could find a publisher for the book, so I'm giving this Kindle Scout a shot.

I am currently a correspondent in Oregon. I have been with AP for 31 years and have been based in Kansas City, in New York on the international desk, and in Latin America, Europe and Africa as correspondent and bureau chief. I was the AP's first Africa regional editor and have reported from some 25 countries.

### ***Maybe AP should have had Wade spell his first name, too***

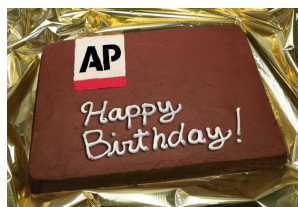
**Dave DeGrace** \_ I find it ironic that we misspelled Dwyane Wade's first name in the Tim Reynolds item (Beat of the Week, Saturday Connecting) where we wrote that Wade "spelled out" his reasons for changing teams!

### ***Well, he is a businessman***

**Peggy Anderson** \_ Trump-pence. Sounds like an archaic English coin.

-0-

## **Connecting wishes a Happy Birthday**



**Bill Welch** - [williammwelch@yahoo.com](mailto:williammwelch@yahoo.com)

-0-

## **Stories of interest**

### ***Journalists getting trained like war correspondents to cover U.S. conventions***

At 7:30 in the morning, reporters gather around a dark van parked in Dupont Circle, some holding to-go coffee cups and wearing the calm expression of a person who doesn't know what they're in for. Shane Bell, a

former elite commando of the Australian Armed Forces, is driving the group of about 10 from Washington, DC to a Maryland warehouse roughly an hour away. There, Bell will teach the trainees how to bandage a gunshot wound with T-shirt scraps. His colleague Paul Burton, a former sergeant major in the British Army, will then instruct them to avoid touching their skin and to step into the shower fully clothed if they're hit with tear gas. And Frank Smyth, a longtime conflict reporter and the founder of this training program, will explain the rights journalists have when police make arrests during violent protests.

For years, media and NGO workers have come to Smyth's Global Journalist Security to practice staying safe in war zones. The group's five-day courses cover things like "risk reduction in terrorist and targeted environments," and overall survival in a variety of life-threatening situations. But these journalists - reporters, a photographer, a videographer, and this audio producer - are taking the course to prepare for the Republican and Democratic national conventions, happening in Cleveland and Philadelphia.

Read full [story](#).

### ***VIDEO: Reporters, police pummel Turkish soldiers attempting to take over CNN newsroom***

In a wild scene filmed at CNN's studio in Turkey, soldiers taking part in the aborted coup are seen fighting with reporters and police as they attempted to take control of the airwaves. According to the Mirror, a helicopter landed in the parking lot of the Dogan Media Center in Istanbul and disgorged approximately 15 soldiers who stormed the building. In an interview with CNN, editor Turk Ferhat Boratav said, "They came up to the top where CNN Turk's studio is. At gunpoint, we had to evacuate the floor." Instead police showed up and arrested the soldiers after fights broke out across the newsroom floor, with one man seen launching himself in the air to land a blow as fellow reporters can be seen taping the action.

Read the story and view the video [here](#).

### ***Journalism and Women Symposium selects 13 fellowship recipients***

Journalism and Women Symposium (JAWS) announced that 13 women had been selected as 2016 fellowship recipients. They will attend the Conference and Mentoring Project (CAMP) to be held Oct. 28-30 in Roanoke, Va.

Click here for the list of [recipients](#).

-0-

## **The Final Word**



-0-

## Today in History - July 18, 2016



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, July 18, the 200th day of 2016. There are 166 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 18, 1976, 14-year-old Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci (koh-muh-NEECH'), competing at the



Montreal Olympics, received the first-ever perfect score of 10 with her routine on uneven parallel bars. (Comaneci would go on to receive six more 10s in Montreal.)

**On this date:**

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began, consuming most of the city for about a week. (Some blamed the fire on Emperor Nero, who in turn blamed Christians.)

In 1792, American naval hero John Paul Jones died in Paris at age 45.

In 1872, Britain enacted voting by secret ballot.

In 1925, Adolf Hitler published the first volume of his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf (My Struggle)."

In 1932, the United States and Canada signed a treaty to develop the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, British Prime Minister Anthony Eden and French Premier Edgar Faure met for a summit in Geneva.

In 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; some time later, Kennedy's car went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's fast food restaurant in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1986, the world got its first look at the wreckage of the RMS Titanic resting on the ocean floor as videotape of the British luxury liner, which sank in 1912, was released by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

Ten years ago: The Senate voted after two days of emotional debate to expand federal funding of embryonic stem cell research, sending the measure to President George W. Bush for a promised veto. A doctor and two nurses who'd labored at a flooded-out New Orleans hospital in Hurricane Katrina's chaotic aftermath were arrested and accused of killing four trapped and desperately ill patients with injections of morphine and sedatives. (A grand jury later declined to indict Dr. Anna Pou and the nurses.)

Five years ago: Gen. David Petraeus handed over command of American and coalition forces in Afghanistan to Gen. John Allen as he left to take over the Central Intelligence Agency. Reeling from months of tragedy caused by a devastating tsunami and earthquake, Japan celebrated after its women's soccer team won the World Cup by beating the United States 3-1 on penalty kicks, after coming from behind twice in a 2-2 tie.

One year ago: Saudi Arabia announced it had broken up planned Islamic State attacks in the kingdom and arrested more than 400 suspects in an anti-terrorism sweep, a day after a powerful blast in neighboring Iraq

killed more than 100 people in one of the country's deadliest single attacks since U.S. troops pulled out in 2011. Actor Alex Rocco, 79, died in Los Angeles.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, is 95. Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 87. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright, M.D., is 81. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 78. Musician Brian Auger is 77. Singer Dion DiMucci is 77. Actor James Brolin is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 76. Singer Martha Reeves is 75. Pop-rock musician Wally Bryson (The Raspberries) is 67. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 67. Actress Margo Martindale is 65. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 62. Actress Audrey Landers is 60. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 59. Rock musician Nigel Twist (The Alarm) is 58. Actress Anne-Marie Johnson is 56. Actress Elizabeth McGovern is 55. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 54. Rock musician Jack Irons is 54. Talk show host/actress Wendy Williams is 52. Actor Vin Diesel is 49. Actor Grant Bowler is 48. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 45. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 44. Actor Eddie Matos is 44. MLB All-Star Torii Hunter is 41. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 41. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 41. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (Eve 6) is 38. Movie director Jared Hess is 37. Actor Jason Weaver is 37. Actress Kristen Bell is 36. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 35. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 34. Actress Priyanka Chopra (TV: "Quantico") is 34. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 33. Actor Chace Crawford is 31. Actor James Norton (TV: "Grantchester") is 31. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 30. Actor Travis Milne is 30. Bluegrass musician Joe Dean Jr. (Dailey & Vincent) is 27.

**Thought for Today: "While we read history we make history." - George William Curtis, American author-editor (1824-1892).**

## 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.

**Paul Stevens**  
Editor, Connecting newsletter  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with



[Try it free today](#)