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Connecting - October 1, 2016

1 message

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Sat, Oct 1, 2016 at 8:04 AM

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Connecting

October 1, 2016

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Top AP news
Top AP photos
AP World

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AP Essentials *(Purchases benefit The AP Emergency Relief Fund)*

Colleagues,

Good Saturday morning!

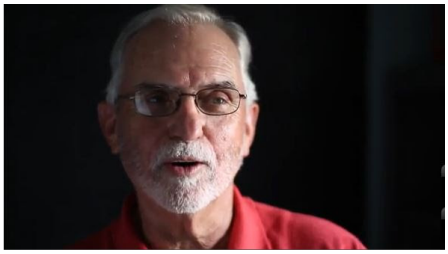
Today's Connecting leads with a delightful story about retired Associated Press photographer **Gary Gardiner**, who following a brush with death 12 years ago decided to take an image a day to document the world around him in Westerville, Ohio.

Enjoy the weekend, and the start of the new month!

- Mark Mittelstadt

Photographer Gary Gardiner documents life in Westerville with image a day since 2004

A brush with death led **Gary Gardiner** to one of the most meaningful projects of his life.



Gary Gardiner

Twelve years ago, Gardiner - two weeks into retirement after a decades-long career as a news photographer - was in his car at a stoplight.

"The light turned green, and, as I entered the intersection, a truck ran the red light and came barreling through," recalled Gardiner, who managed to stop in time.

"And I'm thinking to myself, `Man, if I had died, people would have said: `Poor Gary, he had just retired. I wonder what his last picture was?'"

The near-miss sparked an idea: to take at least one photograph a day worthy of being called "My Final Photo."

On Nov. 15, 2004, the first "Final Photo" was posted on one of Gardiner's websites (myfinalphoto.com), and he has continued to post every day since.

Even though Gardiner tracks upcoming events as possible sources of inviting photos, on many days he simply makes the rounds, talking to people to find out what's going on.

That's the news photographer in him emerging. Gardiner, a Florida native, worked for several newspapers in the Sunshine State before joining The Associated Press wire service in 1976, working first in Atlanta and then, six years later, moving to Columbus.

Read more here. Shared by Brian Horton

Connecting mailbox

Lindel Hutson _ Greg Smith (right) and **Lindel Hutson** were reunited Tuesday at the regional AP gathering in Kansas City for the first time since they worked together covering the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees in the spring of 1970 at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Hutson was a newsman based in Little Rock and Smith a photographer based in Dallas.

"We worked together -- we hustled -- day and night for about two weeks covering the arrival of Vietnamese after the fall of Saigon in the last days of April 1975. It was a tiring but interesting assignment that I'll never forget. And our play out of there was outstanding. I think we worked well together, bouncing ideas off each other. Sadly, we never worked together after that and I had no clue what happened to Greg until we reunited Tuesday night in Kansas City.''

Smith left Dallas and worked in New York Photos and later Kansas City before leaving AP and working overseas.

Hutson left Little Rock and went to the New York General Desk, Indianapolis as news editor and Oklahoma City as bureau chief.

Fort Chaffee was one of four reception facilities used by the U.S, government to resettle refugees displaced by the fall of Vietnam. The others were Camp Pendleton, California, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania and Eglin AFB, Florida.

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The down-at-the-heels industrial city of East Chicago, Indiana, made headlines around the world in August after the mayor ordered 1,000 people to get out of a 40-year-old public-housing complex because of lead contamination.

Many residents and observers expressed surprise: How could such a problem go overlooked for so many decades?

The Chicago bureau's **Sara Burnett** and **Jason Keyser** teamed up for several weeks of intensive document and street reporting. What they found was as disturbing as the original news: The hazard shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone -- because the housing complex had been built on the former site of a lead-products factory.

Their review of public documents and news coverage dating back to the 1960s showed that officials at half a dozen local, state and federal agencies were aware residents were living on and playing in lead-tainted soil.

Burnett had been tipped off to the East Chicago problem weeks earlier while working another story, enabling Keyser to get the story on the national radar with a piece that chronicled the evacuation order and the response of residents.

Burnett and Keyser then dug deeper. They built an exhaustive timeline, going through reams of digital and library documents and news clips that enabled them to clearly document the decades of neglect that had allowed the residents _ including 700 children _ to be exposed, and how no one could honestly claim to have been surprised.

What they found and documented was a community that had grown overly accustomed to environmental threats, a string of corrupt leaders and a painfully slow moving health and environmental bureaucracy _ a story that especially resonated in the aftermath of the Flint, Michigan, lead-contaminated water crisis.

Burnett and Keyser's eye-opening beat came in a week when Chicago colleague **Don Babwin** had a major beat of his own, breaking the news that the Chicago Police Department would hire more than 500 new officers to combat the city's violence problem.

Both the East Chicago and Chicago police story were ones covered closely by local and national media. Through thoughtful and focused reporting, Burnett, Keyser and Babwin provided the world with news no one else had.

For thorough and resourceful reporting that shed a unique light on a major story, Burnett and Keyser share win this week's $300 Best of the States prize.

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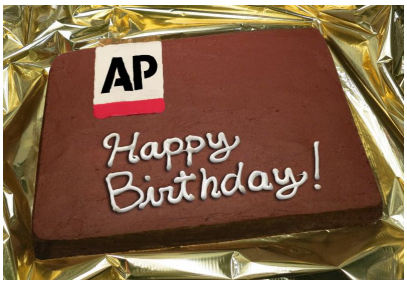
Connecting wishes a Happy Birthday!



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Stories of interest

White House corrects location of Jerusalem on day of Peres' funeral

CORRECTED: Please see the remarks below with a corrected header.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 30, 2016

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OBAMA
AT MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FORMER ISRAELI PRESIDENT SHIMON PERES

Mount Herzl
Jerusalem~~, Israel~~

11:14 A.M. IDT

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Zvia, Yoni, Chemi and generations of the Peres family; President Rivlin; Prime Minister Netanyahu; members of the Israeli government and the Knesset; heads of state and the government and guests from around the world, including President Abbas, whose presence here is a gesture and a reminder of the unfinished business of peace; to the people of Israel: I could not be more honored to be in Jerusalem to say farewell to my friend Shimon Peres, who showed us that justice and hope are at the heart of the Zionist idea.

The White House forgot its own policy on Jerusalem Friday - at least temporarily.

The administration initially sent out a copy of President Barack Obama's remarks at former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' funeral in Jerusalem, indicating that the remarks had been given in Jerusalem, Israel. But later Friday afternoon, the press office sent out a correction to the previous email, striking out "Israel" from the header of the transcript.

Obama delivered the eulogy at Israeli national cemetery Mount Herzl.

U.S. policy has long refrained from recognizing any nation's sovereignty over Jerusalem. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital, with Israel declaring in 1980 the city was its undivided capital. A 2015 Supreme Court decision reaffirmed U.S. practice that forbids Americans born in Jerusalem to list Israel as their country of birth on passports.

The U.S. embassy in Israel is in Tel Aviv, but the country maintains a consulate in Jerusalem. Congress passed a law in 1995 calling for the embassy to be moved to Jerusalem, but presidents since then have used their waiver authority to prevent the change.

Read more here. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Washington Post initiative aims to keep reporters from writing 'unnecessarily long'

In August, Washington Post Managing Editor Cameron Barr and his fellow senior editors decided to do something about a problem that had been niggling at them for some time:

Articles were becoming too long, often for no good reason.

"We were seeing too many pieces that were in the mid-range of their ambition and their success - coming in at 60, 70 inches of copy," Barr said. "We were seeing the same thing in a number of blogs, where pieces were just too long, and we felt as though editors were not applying the necessary discipline and rigor in how these pieces were being handled on the desk."

The solution? A newsroom-wide initiative to cut down on editorial flab, Barr said. Since the middle of August, he's asked Post's department heads to take responsibility for articles longer than 1,500 words online or 50 inches in print. Bylines, captions, headlines and subheadings don't count.

Read more here.

Today in History - October 1, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Oct. 1, the 275th day of 2016. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 1, 1939, Winston Churchill described Russia as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma" during a radio address on the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

On this date:

In 1891, Stanford University in California held its opening day ceremony.

In 1908, Henry Ford introduced his Model T automobile to the market.

In 1932, Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees made his supposed called shot, hitting a home run against Chicago's Charlie Root in the fifth inning of Game 3 of the World Series, won by the New York Yankees 7-5 at Wrigley Field.

In 1936, Gen. Francisco Franco was proclaimed head of an insurgent Spanish state.

In 1940, the first section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike - described as America's first superhighway - opened to the public, stretching 160 miles from Carlisle to Irwin.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run during a 162-game season, compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season. (Tracy Stallard of the Boston Red Sox gave up the round-tripper; the Yankees won 1-0.)

In 1962, Johnny Carson debuted as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," beginning a nearly 30-year run.

In 1964, the Free Speech Movement began at the University of California, Berkeley. Japan's first high-speed "bullet train," the Tokaido Shinkansen, went into operation between Tokyo

and Osaka.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.

In 1986, former President Jimmy Carter's presidential library and museum were dedicated in Atlanta with help from President Ronald Reagan.

In 1994, National Hockey League team owners began a 103-day lockout of their players.

Ten years ago: The Israeli army completed its withdrawal from Lebanon, clearing the way for a U.N. peacekeeping force. Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (loo-EEZ' ee-NAH'-see-oh LOO'-luh duh SEEL'-vuh) fell short of the votes he needed to win a second term outright and was forced into a runoff, which he won by a landslide. Tiger Woods won the American Express Championship in Chandler's Cross, England. (It was his eighth victory of the year, making Woods the first player in PGA Tour history to win at least eight times in three seasons.)

Five years ago: More than 700 Occupy Wall Street protesters were arrested after they swarmed the Brooklyn Bridge and shut down a lane of traffic for several hours in a tense confrontation with police. Campaigning began in Tunisia for the first elections born of the revolts that swept the Middle East.

One year ago: A gunman opened fire at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, killing nine people and then himself. A 49-year-old convicted murderer of three people in Virginia and California was executed by Virginia after a series of last-minute appeals failed. Officials in Michigan declared a public health emergency over the city of Flint's water in response to tests that showed children with elevated levels of lead. Oregon marijuana shops began selling for the first time to recreational users.

Today's Birthdays: Former President Jimmy Carter is 92. Actress-singer Julie Andrews is 81. Actress Stella Stevens is 78. Rock musician Jerry Martini (Sly and the Family Stone) is 73. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Rod Carew is 71. Jazz musician Dave Holland is 70. Actress Yvette Freeman is 66. Actor Randy Quaid is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Howard Hewett is 61. British Prime Minister Theresa May is 60. Alt-country-rock musician Tim O'Reagan (The Jayhawks) is 58. Singer Youssou N'Dour is 57. Actor Esai Morales is 54. Retired MLB All-Star Mark McGwire is 53. Actor Christopher Titus is 52. Actress-model Cindy Margolis is 51. Producer John Ridley (Film: "12 Years a Slave") is 51. Rock singer-musician Kevin Griffin (Better Than Ezra) is 48. Actor Zach Galifianakis (ga-lih-fih-NA'-kihs) is 47. Singer Keith Duffy is 42. Actress Sarah Drew is 36. Actor-comedian Beck Bennett is 32. Actress Jurnee Smollett is 30. Actress Brie Larson is 27.

Thought for Today: "Talent alone won't make you a success. Neither will being in the right place at the right time, unless you are ready. The most important question is: 'Are you ready?'" - Johnny Carson (1925-2005).

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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