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Connecting - October 21, 2016

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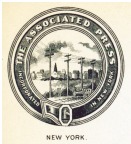

Connecting

October 21, 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)*

Two AP legends

Richard Pyle (left), one of APs finest writers and the last surviving AP Saigon bureau chief, talks with Lou Boccardi, former AP president and CEO (1985-2003), at a recent gathering for the launch of Sulome Anderson's book, ``The Hostage's Daughter,'' at Brooklyn Brewery. Photo by Brenda Smiley.

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

The AP has just implemented **SecureDrop**, a platform that offers more security than traditional email or other methods that can be traced easily, for submission of news tips and information.

In a description of the platform, which be found by **clicking here** onto the AP.org web site:

From here, you can more securely - and confidentially - share with us news tips, documents or other materials.

This service offers greater security than traditional email or other means that can be traced easily. To get started, we'll need to walk you through a few, easy steps.

Our SecureDrop service is accessible only using the Tor network. That's because we don't record your Internet Protocol (IP) address, what web browser you're using, or other potentially identifying information about your computer when using this service.

Connecting's series of stories on your memories of election coverage continues with a submission by **Walter Mears** - who is considered by many to be among the very finest political reporters in history - in and outside The Associated Press.

Writing about the last presidential election he covered, Bush-Gore in 2000, Mears concluded: "I think Al Gore's concession was one of his finest moments - he said he disagreed with the court but accepted its decision, which made Bush his president, too.

"It was a graceful exit, in our tradition of the peaceful transfer of power. Watching from the distance of retirement, I hope that tradition will be upheld in 2016."

Paul

Mears' election coverage began when election nights were a suspense story

Walter Mears (**Email**) - My memories of 60 years of writing and watching AP election coverage date from the era when election nights were a suspense story - before exit polls and projections delivered swift calls on winners and losers.

I saw that begin to change in 1964 in the New Hampshire presidential primary. We set up an election bureau in an old hotel in Concord, got out the easels and the color-coded index cards, and were set to go when the last polls closed at 8. What we were not set for was the CBS News report within minutes - before our stringers even began calling in returns - that Henry Cabot Lodge had won the primary on write-in votes.

The network had set up an early version of exit polls; that primary marked the beginning of a new world of election night coverage. It led to the creation of News Election Service, the first collaboration among the wire services and the networks in election night vote counting, which had been an arena of fierce competition.

My first AP election was in 1958, in the Boston bureau, and one lesson I learned that night was that we have always projected election outcomes without saying so.

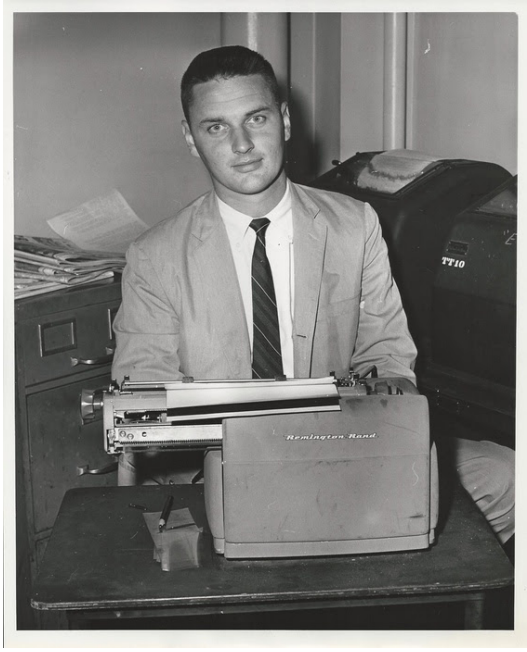
John F. Kennedy was running for re-election to the Senate, with his victory so certain that the Republicans had to draft a little-known lawyer to put on the ballot against him. When the polls closed and the first handful of votes were tallied, we called the election for Kennedy. Election night calls are a matter of judgment, not always real numbers. The challenge - sometimes the problem - is to make certain that the judgment is sound.

I thought of that many years later, the night of the Wisconsin primary in 1976, when the networks and the Milwaukee newspapers agreed that Rep. Morris K. Udall had upset Jimmy Carter. The AP did not agree, because of the skill and knowledge of Dion Henderson, our bureau chief. He didn't trust the projections, and he knew his state. Too many votes yet to be counted in Carter territory, he said. He was right. The Milwaukee Sentinel was out with a banner reporting an upset when Dion called Carter at his hotel to tell him he had actually won.

Mo Udall held a news conference the next morning and said he'd stand by his election night comments except change every reference to "won" and make it "lost."

To back up a bit, my election-writing career in Washington began in 1962, when I was assigned to join a three-man team to cover the outcome of state primary elections. The other two men were two of my heroes - Doug Cornell, my nominee for the finest of AP reporters, and Art Edson, a great newsman and a poetic writer. The system was that we would alternate writing the running story, and that Doug would deliver the wrap-up. The returns came in; I wrote a lead, off it went. More returns, another lead. It became a pattern, Doug and Art, bemused, said, "Let the kid do them all if he wants to." Afterward, the bureau chief asked Edson to rate my performance. He said "Walter Mears writes faster than most people think, and frequently faster than he thinks."

In 1964, I spent the campaign covering Barry Goldwater and election night covering him in Phoenix. But there was nothing to cover - he never made a comment or said a word. He didn't concede that night; it would have been redundant as he was buried in the LBJ landslide. I waited until well after midnight, then decided to retreat from his hotel headquarters after his conservative supporters started talking about throwing reporters into the swimming pool.



In elections after that, I was the roundup man in the Washington bureau on primary and general election nights. That was my role when I called Richard Nixon's 1972 victory a lonely landslide, when I wrote the running, with 18 leads, before the final one declaring Jimmy Carter elected at 4:19 a.m. UPI had called the election for Carter nearly two hours earlier - their editor admitted later that it was a guess that succeeded. AP waited until we were sure - and I got the Pulitzer Prize for my campaign and election coverage. The Los Angeles Times looked at the election night running and said Mears was honored "for the volume of his work." A colleague said that made mine the first Pulitzer for over-filing.

My most difficult election night was in Philadelphia in 1980, on the Pennsylvania primary between Carter and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the challenger who desperately needed an upset that night. AP declared him the winner while the votes were still being counted in some precincts. The margin was not enough to warrant the early morning call. It was late in the afternoon before the final precincts came in and Kennedy had the edge by a handful.

It wasn't my call; that is not the AP system, which leaves the verdict to the bureaus and state experts. But it was my name on the story and my reputation on the line as other national reporters called me all that day to ask if we were sure of our call.

That's part of the deal for a national reporter writing roundups in our system. You get the byline; you take the hit if the story is wrong. I dealt with the latter when we made an incorrect call on Vermont, saying John Anderson had upset Ronald Reagan. Again, it wasn't my call but it was my byline.

There had been pressure to call the election after UPI declared Anderson the winner. A UPI friend told me later that they were delighted when we called it for Anderson, too, because their call was so shaky.

The lesson: Get it right even if you don't get it first. And don't let the competition affect your decision.

I could go on - I already have, over-filing again. So I will close with some thoughts on the last election I covered for the AP, in 2000. I remember thinking at the time that I would like to see one more suspenseful election like those in my early career. But I had election night in mind, not the month of uncertainty after the election, until the Supreme Court called for George W. Bush.

I think Al Gore's concession was one of his finest moments - he said he disagreed with the court but accepted its decision, which made Bush his president, too.

It was a graceful exit, in our tradition of the peaceful transfer of power. Watching from the distance of retirement, I hope that tradition will be upheld in 2016.

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Getting election photos to 50 states always a challenge

Robert Meyers (**Email**) - Back in the day, Bill Waugh put on a wonderful selection of food for our overnight all hands on deck election nights at the State Photo Center. Getting election photo coverage out to 50 states was always a challenge. There was always a new stringer or two that would send in images and when we couldn't find them searching the metadata for a name would ask what a caption was? One of those elections was a high water mark of image numbers at the State Photo Center, maybe 10,000. Bob Daugherty might remember. Mark Duncan wrote about waiting for Al Gore in 2000. In the 2004 election, I was at the Republican Election central at the Reagan Building in Washington with a crew for George W. Bush. When we started work that evening, news reports were indicating we'd expect a concession speech. Then over the course of the night as battleground states fell one by one to Bush we heard he was expected in five minutes several times around 3 a.m. but he didn't appear until noon the next day. By then I'd had my two hours sleep at a D.C. hotel and half a day's work at the bureau.

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Making printer's hats an art taught to her by her dad

Peggy Walsh (**Email**) - I loved Michelle Morgante's piece (in Thursday's Connecting) about making printer's hats. Years ago, the little boy across the street (now almost 20) had a show-and-tell at school and asked me for an idea. My dad taught me so I taught him how to make the hats. He was such a big hit he couldn't wait to tell me.

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Here's Yvette's strange experience. What's yours?

Yvette Merecourt (**Email**) - retired accountant from AP Paris, wrote from her home in Velizy, Villacoublay, France:

Back to the year 1982, my best girlfriend Emily Willis from Oradell, New Jersey, offered me a trip to Florida to visit her children. With her Mustang we arrived, and the whole family decided to go to the Everglades. Soon, we were on a boat. It was horrible, and we got stuck nowhere. Finally, we managed to get out. What a relief! We took the car and stopped nowhere again on a creek. There, to change my mind, I picked up shells and coral debris - and a little intruder, that I kept in my hands. We had to leave...

Back to France, no time to look at the debris and the intruder, my handful went down to the basement. It stayed there 34 years. So many things happened. Life goes so fast!

In my town, Velizy, we had a flood in June 2016. A few months later, on September 11, 2016, I had the urge to get down to my house basement to see if it had dried. Right away I saw my shells and for the first time, I looked at the intruder. Guess what? A soldier in uniform from WW I or WW II about two inches tall and covered with tartar.

I am so puzzled, why September 11, 2016, after 34 years? I am sure that I am not the only one with such strange experience. It's be nice to hear about others' stories.

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Two smiling candidates? This is a historic photo!

Donald Trump, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, and Hillary Clinton share a laugh during the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation dinner in New York on Oct. 20. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

Kim Johnson Flodin new Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma news editor

DALLAS (AP) - Kim Johnson Flodin, a veteran photo-news journalist and editor at The Associated Press, has been named news editor for Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

"This promotion reflects AP's move toward a cross-platform management structure and plays to Kim's strengths of sound news judgment and organizational skills," said Maud Beelman, editor for the three-state region.

In her new role, Flodin will work with AP reporters and photographers throughout the three states to break news on the biggest stories of the day as well as to produce

deeply reported enterprise that sets the news agenda.

Flodin, 51, was the Texas-Arkansas-Oklahoma news editor for photos for six years prior to transitioning to interim Texas news editor in early July. She joined the AP in 2000 as a staff photographer in the Los Angeles bureau.

Previously, Flodin worked as a staff photographer at The Wichita Eagle in Kansas, The Times-Picayune in New Orleans and The Sacramento Bee, where she covered sports and news features in Asia and Europe, as well as northern California.

She is a graduate of Santa Clara University and did post-graduate work at San Francisco State University.

Click here for a link to this story.

AP and Graphiq expand collaboration to offer interactive visualizations to all AP customers

The Associated Press and Graphiq announced today that the company's complete interactive database is accessible to all of AP's member news organizations and customers.

Leveraging the world's largest visualization library, Graphiq will pair relevant data visualizations with AP's global news coverage to make it easier for customers to find applicable graphics.

An initial collaboration between Graphiq and AP was announced last year. Under our expanded relationship, AP will now vet, select and link to Graphiq visualizations that most closely match AP stories. Customers can publish or set up an auto-publishing feed for the content, allowing them to increase the number of interactive graphics on story pages. Inclusion of Graphiq's interactives in stories has resulted in up to 40 percent more reader time on-site for some customers.

AP and Graphiq have already begun pairing graphics with top news, business and sports stories and will roll out matched infographics in new verticals over the next year.

As part of the collaboration, Graphiq will place a team at AP's global headquarters in New York to work with the news cooperative's editorial personnel.

Click here to read more.

Welcome to Connecting

Paul Montgomery - montyvideo@gmail.com

Stories of interest

These front pages capture what it was like to watch the final debate (Poynter)

USA TODAY RESHUFFLED MANAGERS MAKE UP VA'S 'NEW LEADERSHIP' PAGE 3B

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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Reds, FSO extend deal through 2032

[Sports, 1C]

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 2016 CINCINNATI.COM

'SUSPENSE'

ELECTION 2016 Trump leaves voters hanging on acceptance of election results [Page 6A]

ASSOCIATED PRESS/DAVID GOLDMAN

Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton square off in the third presidential debate at UNLV in Las Vegas on Wednesday.

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Front pages around the country Thursday led with the final debate between GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Many fronts showed Trump's unwillingness to commit to the results. As they have in past debates, many envisioned the debate as a fight, a joust or a battle. And several

newspapers captured a sense of what it was like to watch the debate, from images of both candidates' many faces to headlines that encapsulated the "bitter end."

Click here to view. (And note an abundance of AP photographs.)

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Fox's Wallace asks precise follow-up that makes news

NEW YORK (AP) - Fox News' Chris Wallace worked hard to keep the final presidential debate substantive with tough questions to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, but it was the simplest of queries that extracted the biggest headline.

Noting Trump's claims Wednesday night that the election was being rigged against him, Wallace asked the Republican whether he would accept the results win or lose, pointing out GOP vice presidential candidate Mike Pence had said that he would. When Trump answered that "we will look at it at the time," Wallace seemed incredulous.

The veteran newsman pointed out that a peaceful transition of power is one of the nation's longest traditions, no matter how tough the campaign.

"Are you saying you're not prepared to commit to that principle?" Wallace asked.

Answered Trump: "I will keep you in suspense."

Wallace walked the finest of lines during a campaign where debate moderators received an intense focus. As the first-ever general election moderator of Fox News, he had the hopes of an organization in the midst of a tough year riding on him along with additional baggage. Fox critics worried that he'd go easy on Trump because of the GOP bent of Fox's prime-time lineup.

Click here to read more.

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Plummeting Newspaper Ad Revenue Sparks New Wave of Changes (Wall Street Journal)

Newspapers are suffering an accelerating drop in print advertising, a market that already was under stress, forcing some publishers to consider significant cost cuts and dramatic changes to their print and digital products.

Global spending on newspaper print ads is expected to decline 8.7% to $52.6 billion in 2016, according to estimates from GroupM, the ad-buying firm owned by WPP PLC. That would be the biggest drop since the recession, when world-wide spending plummeted 13.7% in 2009.

That decline is hitting every major publisher, increasing pressure on them to boost digital-revenue streams even faster to make up for lost revenue and, in some cases, even reconsider the format of their print products and the types of content they publish.

Many newspapers have trimmed costs to cope with the worse-than-expected revenue decline. The New York Times Co. and Wall Street Journal-owner News Corp, likely have further head-count reductions on the way, and the Guardian and the U.K.'s Daily Mail recently eliminated jobs. Analysts such as Jefferies & Co. have pared back their third-quarter estimates for publishers including the Times and Gannett Co.

Click here to read more. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Kevin Walsh.

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Press Association set to use 'robot' reporters across business, sport and elections coverage (Press Gazette)

Press Association is to begin looking at using robot journalists to report some sport and news stories in the next few months.

The national agency's editor-in-chief Pete Clifton (pictured) made the revelation this morning at the Society of Editors conference in Carlisle in a presentation which outlined how technology is transforming the way PA works.

He said: "This won't be replacing any of our fantastic journalists, it will be more a case of offering an extra level when it comes to short market reports, election results and football reporting."

Click here to read more. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

Today in History - October 21, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Oct. 21, the 295th day of 2016. There are 71 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 21, 1966, 144 people, 116 of them children, were killed when a coal waste landslide engulfed a school and some 20 houses in Aberfan, Wales.

On this date:

In 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides," was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1805, a British fleet commanded by Adm. Horatio Nelson defeated a French-Spanish fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar; Nelson, however, was killed.

In 1892, schoolchildren across the U.S. observed Columbus Day (according to the Gregorian date) by reciting, for the first time, the original version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy for The Youth's Companion.

In 1917, members of the 1st Division of the U.S. Army training in Luneville (luhn-nay-VEEL'), France, became the first Americans to see action on the front lines of World War I.

In 1941, superheroine Wonder Woman made her debut in All-Star Comics issue No. 8, published by All-American Comics, Inc. of New York.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen (AH'-kuhn).

In 1959, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, opened to the public in New York.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon clashed in their fourth and final presidential debate in New York.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court. (Both nominees were confirmed.)

In 1985, former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White - who'd served five years in prison for killing Mayor George Moscone (mah-SKOH'-nee) and Supervisor Harvey Milk, a gay-rights advocate - was found dead in a garage, a suicide.

In 1986, pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon abducted American Edward Tracy (he was released in Aug. 1991).

In 1991, American hostage Jesse Turner was freed by his kidnappers in Lebanon after nearly five years in captivity.

Ten years ago: Al-Jazeera television aired an interview with State Department official Alberto Fernandez, who offered a striking assessment of the Iraq war, saying in Arabic that the United States had shown "arrogance" and "stupidity" in Iraq. (Fernandez issued an apology the next day.) Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, visiting Moscow, delivered a symbolic rebuke to Russia over shrinking press freedoms, even as she courted President Vladimir Putin for help punishing Iran over its nuclear program. The St. Louis Cardinals cruised past the Detroit Tigers 7-2 win in Game 1 of the World Series.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared that America's long and deeply unpopular war in Iraq would be over by the end of 2011 and that all U.S. troops "will definitely be home for the holidays."

One year ago: Vice President Joe Biden announced he would not be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Rodham Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels, 79, died in Los Angeles. The New York Mets finished an NL playoff sweep of the Chicago Cubs to advance to the World Series as the Mets brushed aside the Cubs 8-3. The Blue Jays beat the Kansas City Royals 7-1 to close to 3-2 in the best-of-seven AL Championship Series.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joyce Randolph is 92. Author Ursula K. Le Guin is 87. Rock singer Manfred Mann is 76. Musician Steve Cropper (Booker T. & the MG's) is 75. Singer Elvin Bishop is 74. TV's Judge Judy Sheindlin is 74. Actor Everett McGill is 71. Musician Lee Loughnane (LAHK'-nayn) (Chicago) is 70. Actor Dick Christie (TV: "The Bold and the Beautiful") is 68. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is 67. Actress LaTanya Richardson Jackson is 67. Musician Charlotte Caffey (The Go-Go's) is 63. Movie director Catherine Hardwicke is 61. Actress-author Carrie Fisher is 60. Singer Julian Cope is 59. Rock musician Steve Lukather (Toto) is 59. Actor Ken Watanabe (wah-tah-NAH'-bee) is 57. Actress Melora Walters is 56. Rock musician Che (chay) Colovita Lemon is 46. Rock singer-musician Nick Oliveri (Mondo Generator) is 45. Christian rock musician Charlie Lowell (Jars of Clay) is 43. Actor Jeremy Miller is 40. Country singer Matthew Ramsey (Old Dominion) is 39. Actor Will Estes is 38. Actor Michael McMillian is 38. Reality TV star Kim Kardashian (kahr-DASH'-ee-uhn) West is 36. Actor Matt Dallas is 34. Actress Charlotte Sullivan is 33. Actor Aaron Tveit (tuh-VAYT') is 33.

Thought for Today: "Happiness is not a horse; you cannot harness it." - Russian proverb.

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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