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Connecting - November 22, 2016

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Connecting

November 22, 2016

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving week -

Is there someone in your career to whom you owe special thanks - someone who was a mentor, a friend, someone who was there for you when you needed an ear or a helping hand?

That was the question posed Monday in Connecting - and the first responses lead today's issue. So now it is your turn to share your own story.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Paul

Giving thanks to special people in your career

David Andelman (**Email**) - Seymour Topping, who will turn 95 later this month (!)

When he was foreign editor (later managing editor) of The New York Times in late 1968, he took a chance on a 24-year-old cub reporter from Newsday yearning desperately to become a foreign correspondent, hired him as his news assistant and launched his career in international news. Later, this same, now aging, foreign correspondent, recruited HIM as chairman of my editorial board at World Policy Journal. Top and his amazing wife Audrey have been lifelong friends and counselors!

An amazing gent...who started his career as an AP-er in SE Asia (Saigon) where at least one of his daughters was born!!

-0-

Gene Herrick (**Email**) - My mentor, and silent opportunity-giver was Al Resch, who was AP's Executive Newsphoto Editor back in the 1940's.

I had been an office boy, market gummer, practicing teletype operator and Wirephoto operator in the Columbus, Ohio, bureau. I transferred to Cleveland in about 1944 as a Wirephoto operator, but did a lot of being a teletype operator. I rented a room from AP photographer Jim Mahler and his family. I was like a cocker

spaniel dog with Mahler, and used every free moment to tag along, write captions, ask questions, learn as best I could, and even do a lot of his film and print processing. I had also covered a night Indians baseball game when Mahler was out of town. I had my own Burk & James 4x5 camera in those days.

About 1946, Al Resch asked me to accept a staff photographer's position. You talk about a surprise! I was honored, floored, surprised, humbled, and felt totally inadequate for such a position. In those days, you had to have five years of experience on a metropolitan daily newspaper to even be considered for such a position. Resch never told me what he had to do to offer me the position.

I worked hard at my AP photo career, covering, among other things, the Korean War, five U.S. Presidents, and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. I guess I made it, and didn't let Resch down. The irony of it all was that I knew Resch was supportive, but he seemingly never went out of his way to say anything. It wasn't until my 25th anniversary with AP that Resch told me the background. He told me he had to go before the AP's Board of Directors for permission to offer me the photographer position. Resch said, "If you hadn't made it, we both would have been fired." Even today, that conversation brings tears to my eyes.

There were lots, and lots, of other folks who nudged my elbow during those years, and some of them were John Jamison, Indianapolis, Ed Ball, Nashville, Clem Brossier, Little Rock, Arkansas, Murlin Spencer, Seattle, Russ Brines, Tokyo, Bill Weeks, Milwaukee, Al Orton, Chicago, all COB's. Fred Wright, Chicago photo editor, Preston Stroup, photographer, Detroit, Jim Mahler, photographer, Cleveland, Charlie Knoblock, photographer, Chicago. There are so many others that had an influence on my life, including my ole buddy, Bill Chevalier, an AP reporter in Minneapolis.

My greatest thanks to all of these folks, and the many others who touched me in my career.

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Robert Meyers (Email) - Among the living, I would like to thank Bob Daugherty for his support and encouragement. He created a positive work environment, rich with humor, where great work was done. I would like to thank Bill Waugh for his example of diligent, thorough and high quality work, and the time he took to connect and help people.

Among those no longer with us, I would like to thank Horst Faas for his humanity, intelligence, competitiveness and the world class contribution to the world of news photography. I would like to thank Madge Stager for her unerring focus on accuracy, and commitment and high standards of work.

I would like to thank you, for this Connecting newsletter, and the great contributions from Connecting members.

-0-

Jim Salter (**Email**) - I hate to embarrass "Ye Olde Editor" of Connecting, but I owe my career to Paul Stevens.

I was a small-town assistant managing editor at my hometown Hannibal (Mo.) Courier-Post in 1993 when I took the AP test. I thought I failed miserably because I guessed on about half of the 25-word spelling quiz. Turned out I got 24 of the 25 right. I still remember the excitement when Paul, then COB in Kansas City, called to offer me a job.

Since then I've spent all 23 years of my career in the AP's St. Louis bureau, the last 18 as correspondent. I've covered four World Series, two NFC championship games, the Joplin tornado, the events in Ferguson, nearly 50 executions, and countless other stories of international interest.

More importantly, I learned from Paul the value of decency and respect. Unfortunately, I never learned his backhand, but I'm still working on it.

Happy Thanksgiving to my mentor and friend, and thanks for all you've given me.

-0-

Mike Tharp (**Email**) - Connecting colleague Rich Clarkson first helped me by making me a darkroom boy at the Topeka Capital-Journal, where I was already a copyboy. Working for Rich taught me how to seek excellence, time after time. A decade later he helped me by guiding me to the KU Graduate School of Journalism where I pursued a master's. One Sunday evening that spring, Dean Ed Bassett called me at the one-room apartment the GI Bill rented for me off campus. He said he'd noticed that I hadn't signed up for the next day's interviews with the Wall Street Journal. I told him I didn't think the Journal's 'ideology' suited me. Well, he said, I signed you up. Be there at 8 o'clock. And try to be enthusiastic. So I met Ken Slocum, the Dallas bureau chief. We got along. And Slocum, the best boss I've ever had, hired me. Four years later managing editor Fred Taylor sent me to Tokyo, which changed my life in so many ways. For these folks and plenty of others I am thankful.

-0-

Peggy Walsh (**Email**) - As I think back on my career at AP, there are so many people for whom I give thanks.

Chronologically:

Ron Autry, the late Atlanta bureau chief, started me on the road to becoming a bureau chief. I'll always remember him telling me "if you have to stand up and say you're the boss, you're not." He was a caring man who sat with me in the hospital during a cancer scare, rejoicing that it had been caught early even though, at the time, he was fighting a losing battle with cancer himself.

Lamar Matthews, Atlanta ACOB, who wrote my dad to tell him I had a great future with AP.

Dick Pettys, the late Capitol reporter, who was a model of professionalism and morality.

Wick Temple, who cheered me on and guided me through which opportunities to take and which to reject, always with my best interest first.

Margy McCay, the best friend a woman could have when women were finally given an opportunity to shine.

The incomparable Jim Lagier, who sang Peg O My Heart when I called, always giving just the right advice and encouragement.

All of the AP staffers who went above and beyond the call during the 1989 World Series earthquake.

I could fill a month's worth of Connecting (but I'm not volunteering!) with all the people who have been there for me during my AP career. Twenty-six years later many of them were there for me again when my husband Jim died.

I am thankful for them all.

On the 53rd anniversary of JFK's death

Phil Sandlin (Email) - What can you say about the 22nd of November? There probably aren't words to cover the emotional reactions to the death of John Kennedy.

I found a tattered old tearsheet from the Columbia, S.C. State newspaper that best describes how my day was spent November 22, 1963, as a photographer for United Press International based in Columbia, S.C., where I covered the State House legislation but spent most of my time covering Civil Rights demonstrations.

November 22 found me dressed in boots, jeans and warm clothes headed for the forest with a friend who repaired the UPI teletypes and fax machines for RCA. We were going squirrel hunting. Before we were able to get too deep down a wet South Carolina boggy road, the car radio came on with the announcement that President John F. Kennedy had been shot while driving in a cavalcade in Dallas, Texas.

My first reaction was where should I be? Not in the woods that's for sure. I couldn't think of anywhere I should be to help out in what I knew was going to be a very busy day.

Knowing I had to get in touch with the bureau (didn't have cells in those days) I told my friend, Clyde Hansen, to get me back to town. I called the local TV photographer for WIS--TV, Jim Covington, to see what he had on the story and we both decided we'd better get to the governor's office to find out more about the situation in Dallas.

Unlike 9/11 where I sat for hours watching the events unfold on TV, there wasn't that technology in '63. Either our bureau, which was a little garret on the 3rd floor of an office building, or the TV station would seemed to be the logical place to be but, being in the state capitol at Gov. Donald Russell's office proved to be the best spot.

I got to the State House, boots, wet pants, hunting parker with shotgun shells in my pocket, and went immediately to the press room. Covington had already arrived and was setting up his gear. We were it, no other TV and the local newspaper, The State wasn't there either. No AP.

Donald Russell appeared right away. It was obvious he was shaken as he started to read a prepared comment on the events that had taken place. He was asking for our prayers as he read his statement and hoped for a speedy recovery when from behind him a door opened and his press secretary, Fred Sheheen told him that President Kennedy had died.

After hearing this Governor Russell just wilted.

I was using a Leica 35mm camera - we weren't using motor drives on the cameras then, to catch the reaction of the governor as the information sank in.

My office was several blocks from the State House so I hooked a ride with Covington, whose office was across the street from mine.

When I developed the film and looked at the negatives I knew I had some good images when I called Atlanta, which was my control bureau, I was told to forget trying to move an image from South Carolina on the wire with all the activity going on in Texas and Washington. You have to figure back then that each black and white image took 8 minutes to transmit and color took 30 minutes so those cities directly involved were flooding the network and Donald Russell just wasn't that important.

After seeing, later on, so many great images made that day and days to follow, I didn't feel left out.

Mail the negatives.

The local newspaper called me, knowing by now that I was the only still photographer who covered the press conference, and wanted to know if they could see the images. The State was an AP member and did not take UPI services. So no pictures, but I knew the pictures were worth printing somewhere. UPI Atlanta made the decision to let the State newspaper print the pictures if they gave UPI credit. They did and my pictures were well featured and those readers of the State were able to see how their governor was affected by the event. The tearsheet is my only record of the event.

The pictures were never distributed on the wire by UPI that I know of.

Any tinkerers/restorers in the crowd who'd like these parts?

Walter Rastetter (**Email**) - AP Business Continuity Manager - I work in Technology in NYC and have been cleaning out storage rooms in preparation for our move downtown. I saved many of these parts during our move from 50 Rock but this time there will be no extra storage space available to me. Please see if there are any tinkerer/restorers in our crowd who would be interested in having them.

It appears to me that most of them are from laser photo machines and many are in their original small manila envelopes. There are mostly small springs, spacers, screws and small parts and a few rollers.

Getting started with 360-degree video

By Jake Kreinberg

In this second of a two-part series, our lead experimenter with 360-degree video shares the type of equipment we use to produce our immersive stories and the ethics involved in framing them.

For the past year, we've experimented with 360-degree video, sharing stories and scenes from around the world, including North Korea, Brazil and France. We've covered political conventions, award shows and even summer symphonies to immerse audiences in events they may not otherwise be able to experience.

Many of our 360-degree videos have been produced by Nathan Griffiths, an editor on our interactive journalism team. I talked with Nathan about the type of equipment we use to produce our immersive stories and the ethics involved in framing them in this second of a two-part series.

Read more **here**.

Maybe a Few Former Marines Could Help the Press See More Clearly

By JACK LIMPERT

Andrew McGill of the Atlantic has some suggestions on Fixing America's Nearsighted Press Corps:

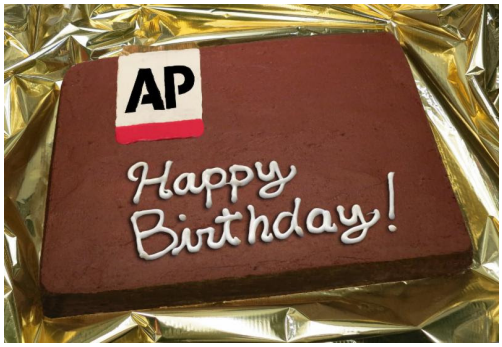
Of all the parties with egg on their faces after Donald Trump's surprise election-Democrats, pollsters, political bettors-my colleagues in the media felt especially yolky....

In the aftermath, many of the immediate post-mortems blamed a coastal bubble: Too many journalists had grown nearsighted in urban Democratic enclaves, the

reasoning went, blinding them to what was taking place in Middle America. If more reporters actually spent time in fly-over country, instead of jetting through for a rally, they'd understand why Donald Trump won voters over. And if national newsrooms prioritized hiring folks who didn't graduate from elite journalism programs-and maybe didn't graduate from college at all-well, that wouldn't hurt, either....

Read more **here**.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Ron Johnson - ronjohnson77@gmail.com

Stories of interest

A defiant Trump blasts TV news in private meeting - then snubs New York Times (Washington Post)

President-elect Donald Trump met Monday with television news executives and some well-known TV journalists and repeatedly told them that the campaign reporting about him was "unfair" and "dishonest."

Participants in the meeting at Trump Tower in New York described it as a contentious but generally respectful gathering.

But if the media elite attended in hopes of improving relations with the forthcoming Trump administration, that wasn't quite in the cards. The president-elect specifically called out reporting by CNN and NBC that he deemed unfair, according to four people who attended the meeting, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because the meeting was off the record. (The ground rules prevented the networks from reporting the very story they were part of.)

Read more **here**. Shared by Marty Thompson.

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Fake-news writers need to meet the real reporters who die trying to do their jobs (Washington Post)

Ben Goldman, co-founder of Liberty Writers News, cranks out fake stories in the apartment he shares with co-founder Paris Wade in Long Beach, Calif. (Stuart Palley /For The Washington Post)

By Petula Dvorak

Charnice Milton.

That's whom those two guys cranking out fake news in a California apartment should have given some thought to during this election cycle.

Milton was a 27-year-old journalist fatally shot at a bus stop in Southeast Washington last year, on her way home from covering a late-night community meeting at Eastern Market.

She was used as a human shield in a gunfight, her killing still unsolved. And she was at that deadly place because of the precise way she practiced her craft, the real journalism that so much of America walked away from during the presidential campaign.

Instead of relying on the kind of quality reporting done by dedicated, trained journalists who value facts, too many Americans devoured the kind of fake news that the likes of Paris Wade and Ben Goldman vomit into the universe.

Read more **here**. Shared by Richard Chady.

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In Trump territory, local press tries to distance itself from national media (CJR)

ABOUT A MONTH BEFORE THE ELECTION, a radio station in Fairfield, Illinois, stopped taking calls to its popular morning talk show. It was the first time in 25 years that news director Len Wells remembers ever having to shut off the phones.

"It was awful," Wells says of the comments about the presidential race. "We had people calling and saying incredibly hateful and ugly things. We just couldn't have a civil conversation."

WFIW is broadcast from Wayne County in Southern Illinois, where voters overwhelmingly voted for President-elect Donald Trump. In fact, Trump had the largest margin of support in Wayne out of any county in Illinois, with 83 percent of the vote. (Hillary Clinton won the state because of the large Democratic base in more populous and diverse Chicago and its ring suburbs).

This may be Trump territory, but that doesn't mean the local press in Wayne County-or other places like it in Middle America-has escaped the profound challenge confronting journalism: to tell the truth when truthfulness is often determined by perspective. To be a local journalist after the 2016 election means reminding readers and viewers that the local press is not the national media but they nonetheless share the same responsibility to report the news.

Read more **here**.

Today in History - November 22, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 22, the 327th day of 2016. There are 39 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Nov. 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States, was shot to death during a motorcade in Dallas; Texas Gov. John B. Connally, riding in the same car as Kennedy, was seriously wounded; suspected gunman Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested. The same day, authors Aldous Huxley and C.S. Lewis also died.

On this date:

In 1515, Mary of Guise, the second wife of King James V and the mother of Mary, Queen of Scots, was born in Lorraine, France.

In 1718, English pirate Edward Teach - better known as "Blackbeard" - was killed during a battle off present-day North Carolina.

In 1890, French president Charles de Gaulle was born in Lille, France.

In 1914, the First Battle of Ypres (EE'-pruh) during World War I ended with an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1928, "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel (rah-VEL') had its premiere at the Paris Opera.

In 1935, a flying boat, the China Clipper, took off from Alameda, California, carrying more than 100,000 pieces of mail on the first trans-Pacific airmail flight.

In 1944, the MGM movie musical "Meet Me in St. Louis," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere in St. Louis.

In 1955, comic Shemp Howard of "Three Stooges" fame died in Hollywood at age 60.

In 1965, the musical "Man of La Mancha" opened on Broadway. Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan married Sara Lownds (the marriage lasted 12 years).

In 1975, Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain.

In 1989, Rene Mouawad was killed by a bomb after serving 17 days as president of Lebanon.

In 1990, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, having failed to win re-election of the Conservative Party leadership on the first ballot, announced she would resign.

Ten years ago: A chemical factory explosion in Danvers, Massachusetts, destroyed the surrounding neighborhood but caused no deaths or serious injuries.

Five years ago: Baseball players and owners signed an agreement for a new labor contract, a deal making baseball the first North American professional major league to start blood testing on human growth hormone and expanding the playoffs to 10 teams by 2013. Ryan Braun was voted the NL MVP after helping the Milwaukee Brewers win their first division title in nearly 30 years. Death claimed France's former first lady Danielle Mitterrand at age 87 and Svetlana Alliluyeva (ah-lee-loo-YAY'-vah), daughter of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, at age 85. Soldier-turned-soap opera star J.R. Martinez and his professional partner, Karina Smirnoff, were named champions of season 13 of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

One year ago: Trying to reassure a nation on edge, President Barack Obama said in Malaysia that the Islamic State group "cannot strike a mortal blow" against the U.S., and he warned that overreacting to the Paris attacks would play into extremists' hands. Opposition candidate Mauricio Macri won Argentina's presidential election, marking an end to the left-leaning era of President Cristina Fernandez. Former South Korean President Kim Young-sam, 87, who led the country's transition to democracy, died in Seoul. Actress and artist Adele Morales Mailer, 90, died in New York. Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) won his fourth straight title at the season-ending ATP finals by beating six-time champion Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4. Kyle Busch won his first career Sprint Cup title claiming the season finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway. One Direction won artist of the year at the American Music Awards.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Callan is 81. Actor Allen Garfield is 77. Animator and movie director Terry Gilliam is 76. Actor Tom Conti is 75. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 75. Astronaut Guion Bluford is 74. International Tennis Hall of Famer Billie Jean King is 73. Rock musician-actor Steve Van Zandt (a.k.a. Little Steven) is 66. Rock musician Tina Weymouth (The Heads; Talking Heads; The Tom Tom Club) is 66. Retired MLB All-Star Greg Luzinski is 66. Actress Lin Tucci is 65. Rock musician Lawrence Gowan is 60. Actor Richard Kind is 60. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis is 58. Alt-country singer Jason Ringenberg (Jason & the Scorchers) is 58. Actress Mariel Hemingway is 55. Actor Winsor Harmon is 53. Actor-turned-producer Brian Robbins is 53. Actor Stephen Geoffreys is 52. Rock musician Charlie Colin is 50. Actor Nicholas Rowe is 50. Actor Michael K. Williams is 50. Actor Mark Ruffalo is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Boris Becker is 49. Actress Sidse (SIH'-sa) Babett Knudsen (TV: "Westworld") is 48. Country musician Chris Fryar (Zac Brown Band) is 46. Actor Josh Cooke is 37. Actor-singer Tyler Hilton is 33. Actress Scarlett Johansson is 32. Actor Jamie Campbell Bower is 28. Singer Candice Glover (TV: "American Idol") is 27. Actor Alden Ehrenreich is 27. Actress Mackenzie Lintz (TV: "Under the Dome") is 20.

Thought for Today: "Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him." - Aldous Huxley (1894-1963).

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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