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Connecting - December 19, 2016

1 message

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Mon, Dec 19, 2016 at 8:49 AM

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Connecting

December 19, 2016

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'Bulgaria Out'

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

When Connecting colleague **Ed Breen** ([Email](#)) was inducted earlier this year into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame (photo at left), I made the trip to Indianapolis to



be on hand for a journalist and friend whose first newspaper job was working for my father in Iowa.

And I asked him, "Obviously, the people of Bulgaria had nothing to do with the voting."

We've been including your great AP lingo submissions in the past week, and one that has yet to be mentioned is "Outing" - the practice of newspapers in competitive markets preventing their competitor from using a photo they submitted for the AP wire. This was done in the body of the

photo caption.

Ed put a new wrinkle on outing, working at the Marion Chronicle-Tribune (and later at the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette), and I asked him to explain:

Working out here on the frontier -- Fort Dodge, Dubuque, Marion, Fort Wayne -- and watching the flow on Wirephoto and, later, Laserphoto, it was fun to see who "outed" whom. Competitive edge and all that. "Outing" meant that the photo was restricted and not available to "outed" clients in competitive markets. Tribune and Sun Times and Daily News, Free Press and Detroit News, Journal and Sentinel in Milwaukee. And entire cities outed other cities. Philadelphia and Camden come to mind.

So, out of a misbegotten desire to run with the big dogs, I started outing "Bulgaria points" on occasional Wirephoto captions. I mean, was a "Bulgaria point" ever going to want a mediocre picture of soybean harvest in Indiana? Doubtful. And it is easier to ask forgiveness than permission.

It befuddled Chicago picture desk a couple of times on regional splits (remember those?).

But the only Chief of Bureau who ever asked was Paul Stevens -- and I suspect he was prompted by Charles A. Robinson.

Certainly there must have been other forms of subtle amusement tucked away on the wire in a simpler time. Would love to hear from other perpetrators.

Here's to a great week!

Paul

Connecting mailbox

AP's Jim Cole will be missed in Northern New England

Marie McConnell ([Email](#)) - I feel bad that Northern New England will be without Jim Cole. RCChild III and Jim were AP institutions in New England and always "got their man or woman as the case may be". One of Bob's that I remember was the very long distance shot of an elderly Katherine Hepburn going to her sister's funeral in Hartford, and doing his expense account for a pair of pants he tore going over the fence at Yale to get a photo at Bart Giomotti's funeral. I loved both these fellows and I know Jim will still be "covering" Northern New England because he will never be without a camera.

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In defense of Dean Wasserman's piece in Connecting

Chuck McFadden ([Email](#)) - Terry Anderson fully deserves his reputation as one of the most courageous, and, yes, better, among us. But he's wrong in his assault on Edward Wasserman's terrific piece that ran in Friday's Connecting. Dean Wasserman pointed out a number of truths that should be hammered home over and over again, never mind Anderson's niggling about the fact that he's heard it before. We all have.

Hardly anyone makes a distinction these days between "the press" (presumably respectable) and "the media" (louche). Anderson's silly attack on the statement "Evenhandedness has its limits" is useless. Wasserman was pointing out one of the basic problems reporters for The Associated Press and every other respectable news outlet (The Press"?) face: How do you deal with a candidate so outlandish that any accurate reporting of his utterances makes the candidate sound, well, outlandish?

You have to do your best to give readers, listeners, and viewers the most accurate picture possible of a candidate. "He said, she said" doesn't cut it anymore, as Anderson and most of us have long realized. But giving readers the most complete picture we can of a candidate we can doesn't translate into an attack on Trump, as Anderson should know, but doesn't say. It isn't an either/or situation.

And Wasserman put his finger square on what reporters and editors are going to have to wrestle with in coming years - exposure trumps substance: "the saturation exposure of his rallies conferred on him stature and credibility."

I do agree with Anderson's last graf:

"My reaction to the election (aside from personal anger and disgust) is to tell journalists - keep doing what you're doing, but lots harder. And to deans of journalism schools: Journalism is changing, you bet, but not its purpose, and not its principles." Well, Gee. Here's a news flash: water is wet.

The New York Times and The AP did their damndest. But we live in an evolving "media" world, you bet, and Wasserman's piece was a useful reminder of the challenges today's reporters face and a call to up their game. It deserves better than a dose of churlish.

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Remember those dreaded blue envelopes?

Anonymous - Here's a suggestion for you: the dreaded blue envelope. I'd rather not be attributed as source if used because I'd have to admit blue envelopes still make me anxious, 17 years after leaving AP. I only remember getting one (there may have been more); it was when Paula Froke was news editor in Minneapolis and I was on the solo overnight desk. I think she scolded me for not having enough budget-length items on the PM digest; it was like scraping the bottom of the barrel sometimes for news of statewide interest. I was a very young and green newswoman and probably took the blue envelope to the restroom to open it and cry. I'm presuming there was a worse punishment for something really, really bad... and glad I never found out.

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More words that should be banned from the report

Jeffrey Ulbrich ([Email](#)) - Add to your words that should be banned from the report:

Pachyderm. Ninety percent of AP stories involving an elephant manage to slip in pachyderm, for what reason God only knows. Have you ever had a conversation about elephants wherein you or your interlocutor used the word pachyderm? I doubt it. But our writers love it.

Shuttered. Used to mean closed, or gone, or went out of business. An unnecessary affectation. Anyway, how many businesses or corporations actually have shutters?

Impact, used as a verb. An attempt at drama. Why not simply use affect? Or better yet, something more meaningful and specific like increase, or lower, or swell, or enlarge.

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Back in the days when the Brickyard was really brick

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Follow-up to Joe Young's story on Indy 500:

As the Indianapolis AP photog in 1948-49, I covered the old Indy Brickyard when it was brick, and the car's tires and drivers had a little bounce over the old surface.

In those days, they did not have a tower for photographers. Our staff, AP folks and stringers, was idyllically spaced around the track, some high, but mostly on the ground, with Chicago AP great Charlie Knoblock stationed in the second deck of the stands on the first turn. His job was to get the start of the race, with the cars zooming into the first turn, and showing the whole field of racers. The film was brought to our darkroom by a messenger, running like heck.

We used 4x5 Speed graphic, and Big Bertha cameras.

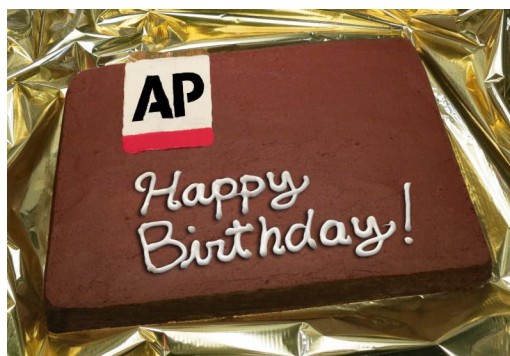
We had a darkroom under the race-control Pagoda, where the editors nervously awaited Charlie's first shot, which was the first transmission of the day. Charlie would also leave his position near the end of the race and traverse to the Winner's Circle. He had to go down stairs from his perch, go through a tunnel under the first turn of the track, and to a stand in the circle.

I remember the 1948 race well as I also shot the winner coming across the finish line. Looking back, I realize how dangerous that was. The man with the checkered flag was ON the race track, and the speeding winner was with just a few feet from him. I stood just a few feet down-wind of him to get the picture of him waving the checkered flag and the winner zooming past both of us.

Track President Wilbur Shaw, the great 3-time Indy 500 winner, usually drove the speeding pace car. That year they decided to let a celebrity do the honors with Shaw in the jump seat. That year the pace car was in, I believe, third place at the start! Next year, Shaw did the driving.

Shaw told the story that he took a friend for a couple of laps around the Indy 500 track during a time before practice sessions started in May. As they pulled into the pits, the friend started to open the door to get out. Shaw said he grabbed his friend and pulled him back into the modified race car. Since they had been going at race speed, and then slowed to enter the pit area, the guest thought it was just time to get out. "Do you know we are still going 70 miles per hour?" Shaw said.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Sibby Christensen - sibbyc@msn.com

Stories of interest

The Long and Brutal History of Fake News (Politico)

The fake news hit Trent, Italy, on Easter Sunday, 1475. A 2 ½-year-old child named Simonino had gone missing, and a Franciscan preacher, Bernardino da Feltre, gave a series of sermons claiming that the Jewish community had murdered the child, drained his blood and drunk it to celebrate Passover. The rumors spread fast. Before long da Feltre was claiming that the boy's body had been found in the basement of a Jewish house. In response, the Prince-Bishop of Trent Johannes IV Hinderbach immediately ordered the city's entire Jewish community arrested and tortured. Fifteen of them were found guilty and burned at the stake. The story inspired surrounding communities to commit similar atrocities.

Recognizing a false story, the papacy intervened and attempted to stop both the story and the murders. But Hinderbach refused to meet the papal legate, and feeling threatened, simply spread more fake news stories about Jews drinking the blood of Christian children. In the end, the popular fervor supporting these anti-semitic "blood libel" stories made it impossible for the papacy to interfere with Hinderbach, who had Simonino canonized-Saint Simon-and attributed to him a hundred miracles. Today, historians have catalogued the fake stories of child-murdering, blood-drinking Jews, which have existed since the 12th century as part of the foundation of anti-Semitism. And yet, one anti-Semitic website still claims the story is true and Simon is still a martyred saint. Some fake news never dies.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Larry Blasko.

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The Right Staff (BillMoyers.com)

By LYNN SHERR

Ten seconds before John Glenn thundered into space atop a giant NASA firecracker in 1962 - to salvage America's reputation as we raced the Russians to the moon - fellow Mercury astronaut Scott Carpenter radioed up to his colleague, "Godspeed, John Glenn." It is one of the iconic sound bites in space history, a spur-of-the-moment sendoff that has always struck me as a perfect combination of the spiritual and scientific: humbly entreating whatever higher power might guarantee Glenn's

safety, while matter-of-factly acknowledging that only the rocket's velocity - painstakingly calculated by teams of mathematicians to suit the machinery crafted by engineers - could finally, and safely, lift a human from the United States into orbit around Earth.

Some combination of the two clicked, making Glenn the first American to circle the planet and tipping the scales of the Cold War slightly westward. Finally, the US was competitive with its archenemy, the Soviet Union. Suddenly, President John F. Kennedy's bold directive and full support for "landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth" seemed within reach.

For more than half a century we have, properly, celebrated the grit and the know-how that led to that moment, and far beyond.

Read more [here](#).

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Larry Colburn, Who Helped Stop My Lai Massacre, Dies at 67 (New York Times)



Hugh Thompson, center, and Larry Colburn, right, receiving their Soldier's Medals in 1998 in Washington. MICHAEL WILLIAMSON / THE WASHINGTON POST, VIA GETTY IMAGES

Larry Colburn, who became an 18-year-old American hero when he intervened with two comrades to halt the massacre of unarmed Vietnamese civilians by United States soldiers in 1968, elevating an innocuous hamlet named My Lai into a watchword for the horrors of war, died on Tuesday at his home in Canton, Ga. He was 67.

The cause was liver cancer, his wife, Lisa, said.

Mr. Colburn was the last surviving member of a three-man helicopter crew that was assigned to hover over My Lai on Saturday morning, March 16, 1968, to identify enemy positions by drawing Vietcong fire.

Instead, the men encountered an eerie quiet and a macabre landscape of dead, wounded and weaponless women and children as a platoon of American soldiers, ostensibly hunting elusive Vietcong guerrillas, marauded among defenseless noncombatants.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest - Where "WWW" means "Wretched Writers Welcome"

Michael Rubin ([Email](#)) - Great reading even if you don't include it in Connecting...The real contest for good bad writing. Thanks to the San Jose State English Department for doing this every year.

Even from the hall, the overpowering stench told me the dingy caramel glow in his office would be from a ten-thousand-cigarette layer of nicotine baked on a naked bulb hanging from a frayed wire in the center of a likely cracked and water-stained ceiling, but I was broke, he was cheap, and I had to find her. -

William "Barry" Brockett, Tallahassee, FL

The winner of this year's Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, the XXXIVth Lyttoniad, is William "Barry" Brockett of Tallahassee, Florida, a 55-year-old building contractor who has specialized in additions, home makeovers, and bathroom/kitchen remodels for about twenty years. His particular enjoyment is reading, with true crime and the "hardboiled" genre being his favorites, hence his winning entry.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - December 19, 2016



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 19, the 354th day of 2016. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1813, British forces captured Fort Niagara during the War of 1812.

In 1843, "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens, was first published in England.

In 1907, 239 workers died in a coal mine explosion in Jacobs Creek, Pennsylvania.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. began transmitting overseas with its Empire Service to Australia.

In 1957, Meredith Willson's musical play "The Music Man" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, former U.S. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., 73, suffered a debilitating stroke while in Palm Beach, Florida.

In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In 1975, John Paul Stevens was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1986, the Soviet Union announced it had freed dissident Andrei Sakharov (AHN'-dray SAHK'-ah-rawf) from internal exile, and pardoned his wife, Yelena Bonner. Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1996, the television industry unveiled a plan to rate programs using tags such as "TV-G" (suitable for all ages), "TV-Y" (suitable for all youngsters) and "TV-M" (for mature audiences only). Actor Marcello Mastroianni died in Paris at age 72.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

Ten years ago: A Libyan court convicted five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor of deliberately infecting 400 children with HIV and sentenced them to death.

(The six later had their death sentences commuted, and were transferred to Bulgaria, where they were pardoned and set free.)

Five years ago: North Korea announced the death two days earlier of leader Kim Jong Il; North Koreans marched by the thousands to mourn their "Dear Leader" while state media proclaimed his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, a "Great Successor." Paroled American Lori Berenson, who had stirred international controversy after being convicted of aiding Peruvian guerrillas, left Lima on a flight to the United States for her first visit back home since her arrest in 1995.

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton debated in Manchester, New Hampshire, where they engaged in a pointed but polite discussion of national security, Americans' heightened terrorism fears and the economy. Conductor Kurt Masur, 88, died in Greenwich, Connecticut. Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named the winner of the Miss World 2015 competition in a Chinese island resort, an event dogged by controversy over China's refusal to allow Canada's entrant to attend.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cicely Tyson is 92. Former game show contestant Herb Stempel is 90. Former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak is 75. Actress Elaine Joyce is 73. Actor Tim Reid is 72. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 72. Musician John McEuen is 71. Singer Janie Fricke is 69. Jazz musician Lenny White is 67. Actor Mike Lookinland is 56. Actress Jennifer Beals is 53. Actor Scott Cohen is 52. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 50. Magician Criss Angel is 49. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 49. Actor Ken Marino is 48. Actor Elvis Nolasco is 48. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 48. Actor Derek Webster is 48. Actress Kristy Swanson is 47. Model Tyson Beckford is 46. Actress Amy Locane is 45. Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp is 44. Actress Rosa Blasi is 44. Actress Alyssa Milano is 44. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal (JIH'-lihn-hahl) is 36. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 36. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 31. Actor Iain de Caestecker is 29.

Thought for Today: "Serious-minded people have few ideas. People with ideas are never serious." - Paul Valery, French poet and critic (1871-1945).

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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