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Connecting - December 30, 2016

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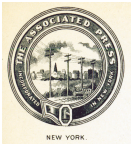

Connecting

December 30, 2016

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Top AP News

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AP World

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

2016's Final Passages

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

In today's issue of Connecting, we remember our colleagues who died during 2016.

This listing comes from the AP Human Resources and past Connecting issues, and if we have omitted someone's name, please let me know.

Connecting colleague **Charles Hill**, (**Email**), whose wife **Sylvia Rector** is among those we lost, shares this reminder - let those whom you love know they are loved, in their living years.

It happened for Sylvia - restaurant critic for the Detroit Free Press who got her start with the AP - after her death last week. Charles writes:

"It is nice for Sylvia to be remembered well in these stories and the wonderful comments from people are extremely comforting. But the really gratifying thing was that she knew how much she was loved while she was still alive. Hopefully she had known this all her life but it was reinforced in a big way with the reaction of friends, readers and restaurant people when she retired, then again in a more emotional way after her diagnosis. The constant support and love from so many people, especially her Free Press colleagues, was remarkable. The unvarnished expressions of love came every day. A wonderful thing for her, or anyone."

May they rest in peace. They made our world a better place.

Paul

Active duty

Amy Cabrera - 5/23/16

Carol Druga - 8/1/16

Steven Szkotak - 5/31/16

Thomas Wagner - 1/16/16

Retirees

D.L. Arrants - 11/24/16

John Bausman - 6/9/16

Don Blair - 5/11/16

Karen Boyd - 5/13/16

William "Jerry" Buck - 8/26/16

Mark Chellgren - 8/20/16

Douglas Cheney - 3/7/16

Deborah Foland - 8/14/16

Daniel Gabler - 1/25/16

Thomas Gardner - 3/25/16

Glen Robert Johnson - 5/13/16

Jack Kanthal - 8/3/16

Ferd Kaufman - 3/1/16

Charles Kelly - 6/3/16

Edward Kolenovsky - 5/17/16

Sofia Mannos - 11/29/16

Joseph Marquette - 11/5/16

William Mauk - 3/14/16

Edward Mazur - 2/19/16

David Montgomery - 2/2/16

Richard O'Neill - 10/7/16

Marie Randio - 8/29/16

Jerry Scarbrough - 4/23/14

Margaret Scherf - 2/15/16

Peter Seymour - 11/8/16

Frederick Standish - 2/7/16

Spouses of retirees

Helen Banas - 5/11/16

Susan Cappon - 4/2/16

Bella Fong - 7/29/16

Hazel Gabler - 3/18/16

Dorothy Geschke - 2/18/16

Doyne Lovelace - 4/16/16

Helen Moen - 1/9/16

Mary Lou Mulnix - 1/10/16

Carol Nosek - 11/17/16

Elizabeth O'Regan - 4/5/16

Judith Rose - 2/6/16

Connecting colleagues

Joseph Benham

Peter Binzen

Judi Boland

Bill Brown

John Buzbee

James Gilbert Dunn

Jim Fall

Michael J. Feeney

Steve Geissinger

Edward D. Hagan

Joe Marquette

Charles Gene McDaniel

Hubert Mizell

Ray Moscowitz

Ira Podell

Sylvia Rector

Joe Resnick

Al Schay

Fred Schiff

Jack Simms

Charles Smith

Bill Snead

Ellen Soeteber

Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton

Sylvia Rector, 'tough editor' in Twin Cities who became beloved food critic in Detroit

By DAVID PETERSON

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Joe Kimball remembers it as a tense period in his career at the Star Tribune: The time when his paper squared off against the rival Pioneer Press with an aggression it had never shown before. Suddenly it wasn't just the Minneapolis paper; it aspired to embrace the entire metro area.

A Star Tribune news bureau materialized in St. Paul, amply staffed and led by Sylvia Rector, a journalist who had been battle-tested in cities such as Dallas and Washington, where newspaper wars were the norm.

"We felt like troops landing on the beach," said Kimball, now retired. "It was a landmark moment for the paper, and Sylvia was our field general."

Rector, who joined the Detroit Free Press in 1992 and became well-known there as the newspaper's food critic for 17 years, died of colon cancer on Dec. 20 at the age of 66.

Her husband, Charles Hill, a retired Associated Press bureau chief, described her as a "force of nature" as a journalist but also "a very sweet and kind person," whose passing drew a torrent of appreciative memories from a culinary community that cherished her constructive approach in what can be a cutting line of work.

Read more **here**.

Your thoughts on journalism as 2016 ends

By MARC WILSON (**Email**)

For News & Tech

When Burhan Ozbilici's work day was over he decided to stop by a nearby art gallery to see the latest display of photographs, scenes of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. Photographers are always interested in other photographers' work.

"I decided to attend simply because it was on my way home from the Ankara office," he would recall later, after the crisis had passed.

As a dedicated AP photo-journalist, Ozbilici takes his cameras wherever he goes. When the Russian ambassador began to speak "I moved closer to photograph him, thinking the pictures would come in useful for stories on Turkish-Russian relations."

Ozbilici said the ambassador was "speaking softly...and lovingly about his homeland...I remember thinking how calm and humble he seemed."

Then came gunshots.

And panic.

"The ambassador's body lay on the floor...It took me a few seconds to realize what had happened: A man had died in front of me, a life had disappeared before my eyes," Ozbilici recalled.

Most of the audience fled to the right side of the room, but Ozbilici moved to the left, and kept his camera pointed at the gunman, who shouted "Allahu akbar." Ozbilici said he couldn't understand other words shouted by the gunman, who walked around the ambassador's body, smashing some of the photos in the exhibition.

"I was, of course, fearful and knew of the danger if the gunman turned towards me," Ozbilici said. "But I advanced a little and photographed the man as he hectored his desperate, captive audience."

Ozbilici said he thought of friends and colleagues who had died while taking photographs in conflict zones.

"This is what I was thinking: 'I'm here. Even if I get hit and injured, or killed, I'm a journalist. I have to do my work. I could run away without making any photos. But I wouldn't have a proper answer if people later ask me: Why didn't you take pictures?'"

Ozbilici's photographs sped around the world and were published by AP members and clients everywhere.

He had witnessed - and photographed - the assassination of Andrey Karlov, Russian Ambassador to Turkey, by an off-duty Turkish policeman Mevlut Mert Altintias.

Ozbilici only left the scene when security officials ordered him to do so, and after Altintias had fled the gallery.

The photographer's heroics came less than two weeks after his employer laid off another 25 employees, sending worries throughout the wire service's employees and families.

The AP layoffs hardly made news. Traditional journalism jobs - photographers, reporters and editors - have disappeared at an incredible rate in the last decade. Staff reductions are the norm, additions or pay hikes virtually unknown.

Being a journalist, according to Forbes Magazine, is the worst job in America in 2016, with average pay of just over $37,000 and a minus-9 rating for job growth. Loggers are better off.

So it's important that we celebrate the Burhan Ozbilici and his dedication, and his explanation for bravery under fire.

What a credo: "I am a journalist. I have my work."

There are today, sadly, too many journalists who can only say: "I am a journalist. I have no work."

According to a new survey by Pew Research Center, most Americans suspect that made-up news is having an impact.

"About two-in-three U.S. adults (64 percent) say fabricated news stories cause a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current issues and events. This sense is shared widely across incomes, education levels, partisan affiliations and most other demographic characteristics. These results come from a survey of 1,002 U.S. adults conducted from Dec. 1 to 4, 2016," Pew reported in late December.

So there is a clear need for real news produced by real journalists.

I've known many excellent and great journalists who dedicate their lives to gathering and authenticating news. Most of the craziest professional journalists I've known are photographers.

They would die to record history.

Ozbilici's heroics and photographs drew praise from around the globe, mostly from fellow journalists.

We need Burhan Ozbilici and his fellow professional journalists.

They are journalists, and they need work.

And we need them, now more than ever.

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Gene Herrick (**Email**) - Being a retired AP photographer/journalist, and somewhat a dinosaur, and reflecting on old times vs. current times in journalism, seems like the bully destroying my sandcastle.

It seems, to me, that what used to be an ever-developing proud, enthusiastic, and honorable challenge in the world's cry for honest and revealing news reporting, has turned into a mob controlled dismantling of the world's fraternity of truth seekers.

The news gathering profession has climbed the long arduous path from antiquated tools, to today's unbelievable cadre of modern instruments, including instant wireless transmission of the news and pictures throughout the world. The journalist's ability to delve into the bowels of government and industry to ferret out the truth has been phenomenal.

However, some of those inventions have become the professions worst enemy. The internet, and its heady alterations to life and process, especially as it relates to free access to the news, has caused a devastating bang to print journalism. The ad dollars seek the mass, and the mass wants their news - honest news, or fabricated news - for free, thus causing the demise of print media.

Another sad development is the knowledge, or lack of knowledge, and temperament, and seeming anger at the "establishment" among today's population, especially in the United States, has turned the world caddywompus. The usual

protocol of the political process has been turned upside-down by one presidential candidate whose ethicalness has been less than stellar, and even includes urging throngs of people to hate the media. News coverage has never been particularly safe, but today's journalists must be more wary than ever before. Fact checking, seemingly falls on deaf ears.

The news media today faces more challenges than ever before in history. Only time and perseverance while determine the salvation of a proud and honorable profession.

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Joe McKnight (**Email**) - Some thoughts on Journalism. Not everyone writes the word with a capital "J", but they should.

Like it or not, reporters, writers and editors are teachers. Teachers need to use correct English. It is incumbent on journalists to use the language correctly, and know how to construct a complete sentence. Colloquialism has no place in newspapers unless the writer makes it clear to the reader that frivolity is intentional. Every day in reading the newspaper, I find something to criticize, even the work of respected veteran reporters. I bite my tongue and don't because I know the local editor as a friend and know the restrictions he confronts.

I could rant one but this suffices for now.

More on the history of the AP Havana bureau after the Castro takeover

"Havana Bureau in Exile" at the Key Wester Motel in action during a Castro speech. Neil Gilbride, at left is dictating running copy, I am writing the running or taking down quotes and Lou de la Haba is editing. I believe the picture was made by Ray Howard, a New York-based photographer who joined us briefly.

Claude Erbsen (**Email**) - Henry Bradsher is right. Heinie Milks, Bob Berrellez and Dick Valeriani (by then with NBC) took refuge in the Swiss Embassy after the Bay of Pigs fiasco in April 1961. That left AP with nobody on the ground in Cuba. Local staffers were not allowed to file. For the first couple of days we tried to cover developments out of Miami, monitoring Cuban radio. I had been sent to Miami to join the second wave of the already-faltering invasion, but -- luckily for me, as it turned out -- there was no second wave.

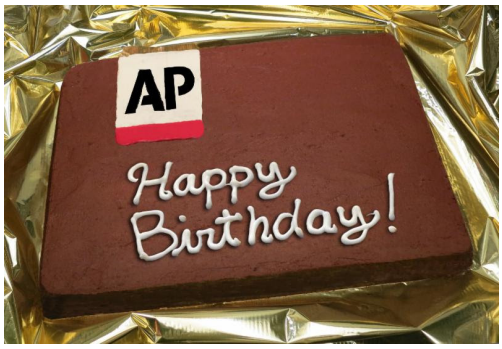
After a week or so it was decided to move the monitoring operation to Key West which was closer to Havana, and could receive Cuban TV signals. Lou de la Haba and I were sent down and set up shop in the Key Wester Motel on the edge of the Key West Airport. I was at the time assigned to the NY Locals desk in the New York Bureau, my first AP job. I don't remember where Lou was based, but it may have been the Latin American desk. After a few days we were joined by Neil Gilbride, from Atlanta, who later was for many years AP's labor writer. We jokingly called ourselves the "Havana Bureau in Exile."

Once we realized that the Key West operation was going to be around for a while, we rented a room above a garage next door to a shore side mom-and-pop motel which became our home. Unimpeded line-of-sight toward Havana allowed streaky but serviceable TV reception. We set up our equipment in the new "office," and hired some highly skilled bi-lingual Cuban exiles to provide 24/7 monitoring coverage. One of them, I recall, was a former high-ranking Cuban diplomat who had fled after the Castro takeover. Lou and I alternated the 8-to-4 and 2-10 shifts, doubling up in the middle of the day and whenever Castro spoke.

Being in Key West, with TV access, proved useful on several occasions, most notably when Castro was addressing the Bay of Pigs prisoners in a large sports arena and suddenly a burst of gunfire was heard. The camera panned to a sheepish-looking militiaman who had had accidentally dropped his weapon with the safety catch off. It was clearly not an assassination attempt, and the camera showed an unperturbed Castro looking on at the scene. But the audio had been cut off, and our esteemed UPI colleagues monitoring the radio in Miami were left literally in the dark, wondering if maybe he had been assassinated, as US newspaper deadlines loomed, while AP members were told exactly what had happened.

After a few months, non-American AP staffers were allowed to return to Havana, but the Key West operation remained alive for several years. I believe George Arfield has the sequence right. Jose Maria Orlando, from Montevideo, was first. Then George himself from Buenos Aires, followed by Daniel Harker from Bogota. I don't know who followed after Daniel, nor who the first American staffer was. But the last -- until we reopened in 1999 -- was John Fenton Wheeler, who -- I believe -- was expelled in 1969. He went on to be Chief of Bureau for the Iberian peninsula, based in Madrid. I think Ike Flores was also in the mix at some point. After the Cubans gave us the green light to reopen a full time Bureau in November 1998, Lou Boccardi named Anita Snow as its first Chief. Between Wheeler's expulsion and 1999 only occasional visits by AP staffers were allowed by the Cuban Government, usually to cover specific events.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

12/31 - Don Dashiell - lakehaven5@bellsouth.net

1/1 - Jim Carlson - jcarlson1657@sbcglobal.net

Stories of interest

Show Me a Story: Photographer Jim Cole Looks Back at a Career Spent Behind the Lens

By SEAN HURLEY

New Hampshire Public Radio

Last Wednesday at the State House, Governor Hassan declared December 21st to be "Jim Cole Day," in honor of the Concord-based AP photographer. Over his more than 30 years covering the news, Cole assembled a portfolio that spans the state. But it was his pictures of New Hampshire's political scene that had the biggest impact.

From George McGovern ice fishing on Lake Winnipesaukee to Barack Obama throwing a snowball in Exeter, Cole has "showed" us the story of Presidents - and would-be presidents.

Read more **here**. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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It's time to stop saying 'old media' (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

This year, I visited six newsrooms. Some had low-ceilinged cubicle mazes with coffee-stained carpets and newsprint towers. Some had quote-covered glass meeting spaces and slick, quiet rooms.

At all of them, I found local legacy newsrooms, or "old media" as they're often called, doing the work of digital journalism. In one case, the print product was an afterthought. In another, it had been rethought. At all of them, I found newsrooms that were both significantly smaller than they'd once been and significantly more digital.

When media reporters talk about "old media" and "new media," what they really mean is print and digital. Yes, it's taken newspapers a long time to catch up to their digitally native counterparts. There's no longer a single business model, as there once was. And it's still a brutal, unpredictable industry.

Read more here. Shared by Bob Daugherty.

Today in History - December 30, 2016

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 30, the 365th day of 2016. There is one day left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 30, 1916, Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who wielded considerable influence with Czar Nicholas II, was killed by a group of Russian noblemen in St. Petersburg.

On this date:

In 1853, the United States and Mexico signed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to buy some 45,000 square miles of land from Mexico for $10 million in a deal known as the Gadsden Purchase.

In 1865, author Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay, India.

In 1905, the Franz Lehar operetta "The Merry Widow" premiered in Vienna.

In 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which lasted nearly seven decades before dissolving in Dec. 1991.

In 1936, the United Auto Workers union staged its first "sit-down" strike at the General Motors Fisher Body Plant No. 1 in Flint, Michigan. (The strike lasted until Feb. 11, 1937.)

In 1940, California's first freeway, the Arroyo Seco Parkway connecting Los Angeles and Pasadena, was officially opened.

In 1954, Olympic gold medal runner Malvin G. Whitfield became the first black recipient of the James E. Sullivan Award for amateur athletes.

In 1965, Ferdinand Marcos was inaugurated for his first term as president of the Philippines.

In 1979, Broadway composer Richard Rodgers died in New York at age 77.

In 1989, a Northwest Airlines DC-10, which had been the target of a telephoned threat, flew safely from Paris to Detroit with 22 passengers amid extra-tight security.

In 1994, a gunman walked into a pair of suburban Boston abortion clinics and opened fire, killing two employees. (John C. Salvi III was later convicted of murder; he died in prison, an apparent suicide.)

In 1999, former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who'd broken into his mansion west of London and stabbed him in the chest. (Michael Abram was later acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity.)

Ten years ago: Iraqis awoke to news that Saddam Hussein had been hanged earlier that morning; victims of his three decades of autocratic rule took to the streets to celebrate. A state funeral service was held in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda for former President Gerald R. Ford. More than 8,500 James Brown fans filled an arena in Augusta, Georgia, for a final, joyful farewell to the "Godfather of Soul." Gerald "Wash" Washington, the first black mayor-elect of Westlake, Louisiana, was found shot to death in a parking lot; authorities ruled his death a suicide, a conclusion disputed by his family.

Five years ago: North Korea warned the world there would be no softening of its position toward South Korea's government following Kim Jong Il's death as Pyongyang strengthened his son and heir's authority with a new title: "Great Leader." Russell Brand announced that he and Katy Perry were divorcing after 14 months of what appeared to be a storybook marriage. British cartoonist Ronald Searle, 91, died in Draguignan, France.

One year ago: Bill Cosby was charged with drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004; it was the first criminal case brought against the comedian out of the torrent of allegations that destroyed his good-guy image as "America's Dad."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Bologna is 82. Actor Russ Tamblyn is 82. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Sandy Koufax is 81. Folk singer Noel Paul Stookey is 79. TV director James Burrows is 76. Actor Fred Ward is 74. Singer-musician Michael Nesmith is 74. Actress Concetta Tomei (toh-MAY') is 71. Singer Patti Smith is 70. Rock singer-musician Jeff Lynne is 69. TV personality Meredith Vieira is 63. Actress Sheryl Lee Ralph is 61. Actress Patricia Kalember is 60. Country singer Suzy Bogguss is 60. "Today" show co-host Matt Lauer is 59. Actress-comedian Tracey Ullman is 57. Rock musician Rob Hotchkiss is 56. Radio-TV commentator Sean Hannity is 55. Sprinter Ben Johnson is 55. Actor George Newbern is 53. Movie director Bennett Miller is 50. Singer Jay Kay (Jamiroquai) is 47. Rock musician Byron McMackin (Pennywise) is 47. Actress Meredith Monroe is 47. Actor Daniel Sunjata is 45. Actress Maureen Flannigan is 44. Actor Jason Behr is 43. Golfer Tiger Woods is 41. TV personality-boxer Laila Ali is 39. Actress Lucy Punch is 39. Singer-actor Tyrese Gibson is 38. Actress Eliza Dushku is 36. Rock musician Tim Lopez (Plain White T's) is 36. Actress Kristin Kreuk is 34. Folk-rock singer-musician Wesley Schultz (The Lumineers) is 34. NBA player LeBron James is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Andra Day is 32. Pop-rock singer Ellie Goulding (GOL'-ding) is 30. Actress Caity Lotz (TV: "DC's Legends of Tomorrow") is 30. Pop-rock musician Jamie Follese (FAHL'-es-ay) (Hot Chelle (shel) Rae) is 25.

Thought for Today: "Addresses are given to us to conceal our whereabouts." - H.H. Munro ("Saki"), British author (1870-1916).

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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