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## Connecting - July 11, 2017

1 message

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# Connecting

July 11, 2017

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Colleagues.

Good Tuesday morning!

Retired AP photographer **James Finley** is now under hospice care at his home in St. Louis.

Connecting colleague **Cliff Schiappa** and I were joined Monday by St. Louis AP photographer **Jeff Roberson** in visiting James, who appeared comfortable but was under medication and sleeping most of the time.

'We were greeted at the door by James' sister **Denise Porter** who introduced us to the hospice caretaker," noted Cliff, who joined the AP as Kansas City photographer in May 1984, the same month James succeeded **Fred Waters** in St. Louis. "We were brought into the room where James is staying and his eyes were open, but obviously quite tired. We said our names to him, and he showed a smile when Paul said hello."

If you want to send an email message to James, send it to - [deniseporter1958@gmail.com](mailto:deniseporter1958@gmail.com) - and she will read it to him. If you are planning a visit, give her a call ahead of time. The best time to visit is probably noon to 2pm or 5pm to 8pm. Phone at the home is [314-339-5314](tel:314-339-5314).



**James Finley**

Keep our friend in your thoughts and prayers.

Paul

## **Former AP ENPS, BBC exec Eric Bowman dies at 73**

**Eric Bowman**, former AP director of international business development for ENPS (Electronic News Production System), died on Friday, July 7. His funeral will be at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, at Christ the Saviour Church, Ealing Broadway, London, where he was a regular worshipper. A gathering will follow in the church hall.



**Eric Bowman, pictured at far right, at the technology core of SBS, Singapore, in 1999. Lee Perryman is third from the left.**

Connecting colleague **Lee Perryman** ([Email](#)) remembers him in this post:

I received heartbreaking news from London about the untimely death of my one-time right-hand-man and mentor Eric Bowman. Eric introduced me to the BBC in the early 1990s, which ultimately led to a tremendously important, successful, and long-term partnership for AP and the world's largest broadcaster. He worked with me to blaze new trails as we put the BBC-inspired technology to work in almost 60 countries supporting some 50,000 reporters, writers, editors, and producers.

Eric was surely one of the world's only cultured walking encyclopedias. For example, in Washington, D.C., as if a tour guide, he could and would not just identify but carefully explain the political and dynastic history behind every statue and monument. Eric was my Director of International Business Development and, before joining the AP, had been Assistant Managing Director, BBC News & Current Affairs. He started with the BBC Arabic Service as News Producer in 1969; headed the Middle East office in Beirut from 1971-1976; headed the South East Asia office in Singapore from 1976-1979; ran World Service overseas operations from 1979-1981; headed the BBC's Arabic Service from 1981-1986; and was General Manager of the BBC's Monitoring Service from 1986-1989.

I will miss his sophisticated intellect, humor, wise counsel, and solid friendship. He was 73.

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### **A memory of Eric from Anthony Prangley:**

Lee, you've written a fitting tribute to a giant of a man. I first met Eric at my job interview, and I'll never forget his opening line to me. "We've only got 20 minutes as I have to go to lunch."

He had a zest for life like no other, boundless enthusiasm - how many other pensioners do an Art History degree and holiday in Iran - and a passion for the great things in life, including an "excellent lunch". The London office were all familiar with the text message we could expect if we interrupted his midday break - "F@\*k off, I'm having my lunch!".

He loved sharing his enthusiasm and was a joy to travel with, often insisting that we make time for sightseeing, whether it be a city tour after meetings in Dublin or a day trip to Macau on my first visit to Hong Kong so that he could take me to his favourite Portuguese restaurant there.

He was a brilliant leader, always knowing how to get the best out of his staff and how to read a meeting, and perhaps the best-connected person I've ever known. Everyone knew Eric. He was a fascinating, humane, witty man, full of anecdotes of life in the Parachute Regiment, of running the BBC bureau in Beirut as Lebanon turned ugly in the 70s, of his time in Singapore. He was so much more than the "simple lad from Sunderland" he always claimed to be. It's a tragedy that his retirement was cut so short. He'll be greatly missed.

# **Connecting mailbox**

## ***Vicki's Prince***

**George Zucker** ([Email](#)) - My recent essay, *An AP Life*, included a personal note from Walter Annenberg, the late publisher of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Daily*

*Racing Form* and *TV Guide*, who wrote me: "Last Sunday, I saw an item on my AP printer about your winning a bet with 17-1 odds on 'Vicki's Prince' and you were induced to bet on him because the horse winked at you. My old friend, Damon Runyon, would have loved this item."

Now that I have an audience old enough to know Damon Runyon, let me tell the story behind the story of the incredible racetrack bet I made that reminded the Ambassador of his old friend.

Vicki Bennett was our friend during my three-years in LA. Judi and I and our three children lived in Redondo Beach, 30 miles from downtown LA. Vicki found our quiet beach town a tad tame for someone who lived a past life as a Hawaiian princess. Vicki was a frequent flier to Kailua-Kona, convinced these flights to the west coast of Hawaii's Big Island refreshed her ancient spirit.

Her husband Bob did not talk much about his wife's cosmic royalty, mainly because his guru gave him other things to fret about, including a prophecy that an earthquake would soon tumble southern California into the sea.

Vicki was ecstatic the day in 1969 when I was named bureau chief in Honolulu, certain that our move to the islands would be blessed by her *alii* ancestors. Bob just rolled his eyes and retired to the bedroom to sulk in his ionization chamber, a coffin-like machine that bathed his body with calming ion rays. When we heard the thing buzzing it was our cue to say goodnight and leave him to his strange devices. We knew he would be on the phone with his guru, a hardware dealer in nearby Tarzana.

Many years later, our old friend Vicki came vividly to mind when I had my own visit with her royal Hawaiian past. I was then the Philadelphia news chief and had taken an afternoon off to enjoy a day at the race track. I went to the paddock bemused by a \$3,500 claimer named "Vicki's Prince." The trainer was walking the horse when I got there and stopped in front of me.

The trainer tugged at the reins, but "Vicki's Prince" refused to budge. Instead, the horse looked at me and blinked.

Did I hear the call of the *kahunas*, the trumpet of the conch shell? "I swear that horse just winked at me," I told a man standing next to me. The odds on "Vicki's Prince" were 17-1. *The Daily Racing Form* told why - 26 lifetime races and only one win. I could not resist a hunch bet.

Something magical occurred at the half-mile pole. "Vicki's Prince" shot along the rail from six horses back and closed so fast I didn't have time to shout encouragement. "Vicki's Prince" won by a nose, beating the 8-5 favorite in a photo finish. My \$10 bet returned \$184.

Aloha nui, Vicki, wherever you are!

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## ***Connecting sky shot - Marana, Arizona***



**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - This sunset photo was taken from our balcony Monday night. We're officially in monsoon season (although our neighborhood is woefully short of rain), but the clouds and sunsets have become dramatic.

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## ***Obituary for Kansas' journalist, mentor, educator Tom Eblen***

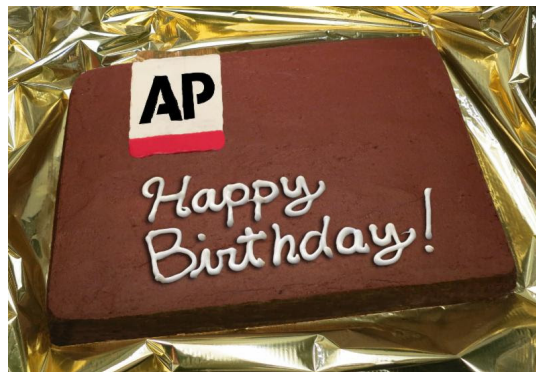
Tom Eblen, longtime journalist, mentor and educator, died June 10, 2017, at Brighton Gardens in Prairie Village, Kan., after a long illness. He was 80. A



celebration of Tom's life will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017, at Union Station's Sprint Festival Plaza, 30 W. Pershing Road, Kansas City, Mo. His career spanned six decades, including news leadership roles at The Kansas City Star and Fort Scott (Kan.) Tribune before joining the University Daily Kansan as general manager and news adviser to hundreds of students. He focused on community journalism in work with the Kansas Press Association member newspapers.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Kelly Kissel - [kkissel@ap.org](mailto:kkissel@ap.org)

## Welcome to Connecting



Candace Smith - [smith.candace.e@gmail.com](mailto:smith.candace.e@gmail.com)

Charles Westmoreland - [cwestmoreland@columbiatribune.com](mailto:cwestmoreland@columbiatribune.com)

## Stories of interest

### ***News Media Alliance seeks antitrust exemption to negotiate a better deal with Facebook and Google*** (Poynter)

In a shot across the bow of platform giants Facebook and Google, the News Media Alliance has asked Congress for an antitrust exemption to negotiate on behalf of its 2,000 members with the digital advertising "duopoly."

NMA president and chief executive David Chavern laid out the case this morning in a Wall Street Journal op-ed and a lengthy New York Times news story by media columnist Jim Rutenberg.

Chavern conceded in a phone interview that his proposal would face an uphill climb in the Republican-controlled House and Senate. But he is hoping to push forward



the idea that local news organizations may not be sustainable if Google and Facebook continue to feast on a giant slice of the digital ad pie.

Read more [here](#).

## **AND...**

**James Warren, Poynter** - Like Donald Trump Jr., the newspaper industry is rather late.

Trump belatedly fesses up about that Russian meeting. Meanwhile, the newspapers' trade group, after years of the industry watching Facebook and Google devour its ad revenues, now wants an antitrust exemption from Congress to bargain collectively with the two giants and others.

They're about 20 years late. When print was king, the industry made the catastrophic decision to not charge for its content, missed the importance of the internet and let the likes of Mark Zuckerberg and Sergei Brin destroy their business models.

They even had a hush-hush meeting in 2009 in Rosemont, Illinois that I disclosed in The Atlantic, as if they were Mafia dons. The question on the table was monetizing their content. Zilch came of it. Now some feel congressional help is justified, as their trade group's head argued is best in a Wall Street Journal op-ed.

Some of the initial modest reporting on the subject omits some relevant history:

Read more [here](#).

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***'Grandstanding' or truth teller? CNN's Acosta walks a fine line with Trump.*** (Washington Post)

These are times that try a White House reporter's soul. Jim Acosta hasn't kept quiet about what's been troubling him.

CNN's senior White House reporter has been frustrated by many things: the curtailment of live broadcasts of the press secretary's daily briefings; the lack of substantive answers from the administration; the alleged "blackballing" of CNN (or maybe just of Acosta), by all of the president's spokespeople, among others.

Other reporters share some of Acosta's irritation. The difference is, Acosta has been outspoken about his. At a time when CNN is under attack by President Trump and his supporters, Acosta has been fighting back.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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## ***WHCA president: White House asked organization to publicly criticize reporter*** (Politico)

The White House asked the White House Correspondents' Association to single out a reporter and criticize an article, WHCA President Jeff Mason said Monday evening.

Mason's comments were made at a WHCA town hall where White House reporters pose questions to the WHCA board.

"The White House has come to ask me specifically, asking me to intervene or criticize a news organization or a reporter... to release a statement criticizing a reporter's story," Mason said, declining to elaborate further on when the ask was made or about what article.

Mason said he declined to do so and that "we've made clear that's not our role."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Why I'm devoting a year to helping black newspapers survive*** (CJR)

By REGINA H. BOONE

IN 2003, I WENT TO WORK FOR the Detroit Free Press as a staff photojournalist. For nearly 14 years, I covered breaking news, features, and national news, from Rosa Parks' death to Barack Obama's historic journey to the White House, and significantly contributed to the Flint water crisis coverage.

While covering the Flint water crisis, a colleague and I met a young black mother, Ariana Hawk, and her children. At the time, my colleague and I wanted to put a face to the crisis, to show the impact of lead poisoning on people who lived in Flint.

I focused on Hawk's youngest child, Sincere, as he played. I photographed the scars all over his body. I noticed his size; he was larger than most two-year-olds because he was on steroids to treat the rash his mother blamed on the contaminated water. I watched his mother bathe him and saw him flinch.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Historical society acquires photographer's massive collection*** (Independence Examiner)



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By JEFF FOX

A wide range of images of Kansas City - and no few mysteries - lie in a major collection of photographs now in the hands of the Jackson County Historical Society.

The Historical Society, headquartered in Independence, is just now starting to sort through the estimated 500,000 to 1 million prints and negatives from the commercial photographer Chris Wilborn.

Within a couple years, the aim is to have them sorted and posted online.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

# 5 Lessons Most People Learn Way Too Late in Life (Inc)

*What are the lessons people most often learn too late in life? originally appeared on Quora- the place to gain and share knowledge, empowering people to learn from others and better understand the world.*

**Answer by Alyssa Satara, Co-founder at Refugee Code Academy, on Quora:**

## 1. Perception is reality

It's true. The way you interpret and understand the world directly affects your beliefs and the way you live your life. Perception creates bias as much as it creates understanding. It creates fear as much as it creates curiosity.

Do you want your reality to be narrow or vast?

Will the bliss that ignorance provides be sufficient, or do you need more?

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - July 11, 2017



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2017. There are 173 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 11, 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts.

### **On this date:**

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

In 1922, the Hollywood Bowl officially opened with a program called "Symphonies Under the Stars" with Alfred Hertz conducting the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

In 1937, American composer and pianist George Gershwin died at a Los Angeles hospital of a brain tumor; he was 38.

In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters at Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1960, the novel "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

In 1977, the Presidential Medal of Freedom was presented to polio vaccine pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk and (posthumously) to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. by President Jimmy Carter.



In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1989, actor and director Laurence Olivier died in Steyning, West Sussex, England, at age 82.

In 1991, a Nigeria Airways DC-8 carrying Muslim pilgrims crashed at the Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, international airport, killing all 261 people on board.

In 1995, the U.N.-designated "safe haven" of Srebrenica (sreh-breh-NEET'-sah) in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys. The United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

Ten years ago: Lady Bird Johnson, the former first lady who'd championed conservation and worked tenaciously for the political career of her husband, President Lyndon Johnson, died in Austin, Texas, at age 94. Pakistani army commandos completed an eight-day siege and storming of Islamabad's radical Red Mosque; some 102 people were killed, including 10 elite troops and at least 73 suspected militants.

Five years ago: Unflinching before a skeptical NAACP crowd in Houston, Republican Mitt Romney declared he'd do more for African-Americans than Barack Obama, the nation's first black president. Hillary Rodham Clinton became the first U.S. secretary of state to visit Laos in more than five decades. Cookbook author Marion Cunningham, 90, died in Walnut Creek, California. Donald J. Sobol, 87, author of the popular "Encyclopedia Brown" series of children's mysteries, died in Miami.

One year ago: Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that the United States would send 560 more troops to Iraq to transform a freshly retaken air base into a staging hub for a long-awaited battle to recapture Mosul from Islamic State militants. Two bailiffs at the Berrien County, Michigan, courthouse were shot to death by a jail inmate during an escape attempt; the inmate was also killed.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tab Hunter is 86. Actress Susan Seaforth Hayes is 74. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 70. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 68. Actor Bruce McGill is 67. Singer Bonnie Pointer is 67. Actor Stephen Lang is 65. Actress Mindy Sterling is 64. Boxer Leon Spinks is 64. Actress Sela Ward is 61. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 60. Singer Peter Murphy is 60. Actor Mark Lester is 59. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 59. Singer Suzanne Vega is 58. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 58. Actress Lisa Rinna is 54. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 52. Actress Debbe (correct) Dunning is 51. Actor

Greg Grunberg is 51. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 50. Actor Justin Chambers is 47. Actress Leisha Hailey is 46. Actor Michael Rosenbaum is 45. Pop-rock singer Andrew Bird is 44. Country singer Scotty Emerick is 44. Rapper Lil' Kim is 42. Actor Jon Wellner is 42. Rock singer Ben Gibbard is 41. Rapper Lil' Zane is 35. Pop-jazz singer-musician Peter Cincotti is 34. Actress Serinda Swan is 33. Actor Robert Adamson is 32. Actor David Henrie is 28. Actor Connor Paolo is 27. Tennis player Caroline Wozniacki is 27.

***Thought for Today: "All men profess honesty as long as they can. To believe all men honest, would be folly. To believe none so, is something worse." - President John Quincy Adams (1767-1848).***

## Got a story or photos 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:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **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.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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