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Connecting - August 17, 2017

1 message

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Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 8:57 AM

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Connecting

August 17, 2017

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Colleagues,

Got a favorite **Hugh Mulligan** story to share?

The following note in the Connecting mailbox Wednesday from **Neal Ulevich** ([Email](#)) and the need for a bit of levity these days prompt my question:

John Kuglin's mule rental account reminds me of a story, no doubt apocryphal, told of the late Hugh Mulligan. On return from an assignment to Alaska he expensed a heavy parka, cost \$100, only to be told AP does not buy clothing for its staffers. He is said to have resubmitted his expense account with a \$75 expense for 'funeral for lead sled dog,' and \$25 for 'flowers for bereaved bitch.'



Mulligan, who in a half-century with The Associated Press covered everyone from presidents and popes to astronauts and combat soldiers while traveling to nearly 150 countries and battlefields in more than half a dozen conflicts, died in 2008 at the age of 83. But his memory and his stories live on. ([Click here](#) for link to his obituary.)

Connecting received some great stories to date relating to the Total Solar Eclipse set to happen next Monday. I am hoping that you make plans to contribute a story and photo if you're in the path of the eclipse, for use in the newsletter the next day.

Be sure to read today's Connecting Profile on our new colleague **Joel Stashenko**, longtime AP Albany journalist, who might not be with us today had it not been for the quick thinking of his son **Casey**.

Finally, this item from today's Today in History reminds me of my dad: "In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina." As an Army artillery captain, **Walter Stevens** took part in this action, and he and his fellow soldiers' next stop was the landing at Anzio. Here's to all who gave us our freedom.

Have a great day!

Paul

On the 40th anniversary of Elvis' death



Flowers, signs and other tributes left by fans fill the meditation garden where Elvis Presley is buried alongside his parents and grandmother at Graceland, Presley's Memphis home, on Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2017, in Memphis, Tenn. Fans from around the world are at Graceland for the 40th anniversary of his death. Presley died Aug. 16, 1977. (AP Photo/Brandon Dill)

'Suddenly a generation feels old' - one of greatest leads ever written

Marcus Eliason ([Email](#)) - Reading Linda Deutsch's rich contribution to our Elvis remembrances, I started thinking back to my much younger self hunched over a teleprinter in the cramped AP newsroom in Tel Aviv, reading Dennis Montgomery's stop-you-in-your-tracks lead, "Suddenly a generation feels old," which is on my short list of greatest leads ever written.

And I'm thinking of the AP all-pointer asking for contributions to the world reaction roundup. I knew this was the one story I really, really wanted to be a part of. Finally the memory came back and I started typing.

I didn't make the lead of the roundup, but I did make the kicker.

Marcus Eliason, an Associated Press newsman in Tel Aviv, who grew up listening to Presley in Rhodesia, recalled:

"When I left Rhodesia and moved to Israel at the age of 16, my greatest fear was that I would lose contact with Elvis. If Rhodesia was remote, I reasoned, what was the embattled Middle East?

"My fears were unfounded. The first thing I saw from the Tel Aviv bus station was a slogan in tall Hebrew letters daubed on a tenement wall. Fifteen years later it is still there. It says: 'Long live Elvis.'"

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Those were the days

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Noting Linda Deutsch's story about Elvis Presley in yesterday's Connecting, I am reminded of my experiences with him in the early 50's when he started his famous career.

There are no longer children's screams coming from outside the swinging gates to Graceland; no longer are their little hands reaching under the steel fence to get some trophy grass of Elvin Presley's home; no longer do some of the Memphis parents have a child-free Friday, or Saturday night.

It was in 1948 when a young, good-looking boy moved from his birthplace, a little two-room tenant house in Tupelo, Mississippi. Having been there, I am reminded of

the those types of homes in the deep South, which were then called "Shotgun" houses, because one could open the front and rear doors, and fire a shotgun load right through the house and not hit anything.

Remembering those times brings a bit of awe to this old Associated Press photographer, who was assigned to Memphis at that time. Ironically, it wasn't but a few miles from Presley's home in Tupelo, to Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, where the infamous Emmitt Till killing took place in 1955, which became the start of this country's Civil Rights Movement.

Presley got "turned on" as a young person to the gospel and blues type of music, especially during his trips to Memphis' famous Beale Street, which was also made famous by W.C. Handy, the father of the Blues (Who I also took a picture of as an old man, sitting in W.C.Handy Park, with his trumpet just held to his mouth, no longer able to whip out the musical sounds that made him famous.

Presley's parents accompanied their soon to become famous son to the home in Memphis' Southside, named Graceland, on a very low-traffic street. It was a grand edifice resembling those old southern mansions. I covered many an event there, including covering Elvis and his parents, Gladys and Vernon, both of whom seemed like old Mississippi country type folks. Gladys was always dressed in a woman's housecoat, and Vernon always wore a sleeveless under-shirt. They were what we used to call "good ole country folks."

Elvis was always affable, and full of life, including his unique hip swinging. Along his big roadster cars, he also owned a motorcycle, which he enjoyed revving up the engine, and racing down the long driveway as the gates automatically opened, and waving to the large crowd of screaming children and teen-agers, who had been left there by their parents for babysitting while they went out for the evening. It was at least a five-hour event every weekend when Elvis was home. Elvis would also come to a front window about ever hour, and pull the drapes apart, and wave to the kids, who responded with some of the loudest screams one could imagine.

One time I was with him when he was at a gasoline station filling the tank of one of his big convertibles. Two tough dudes, who today would be called "rednecks," challenged Presley. Little did they know that Presley was no pansy, but had actually done some competitive boxing in his earlier days. Presley decked them both, without even messing up his famous coiffure.

Presley really stepped up his music, and developing his own style. I was with him when he made his first recording at the now famous Sun Records Studio in Memphis, where he recorded his first song, "That's All Right." He soon met, and was managed for years by Col. Tom Parker. I visited the studio again about five years ago. It had turned into a very commercial area that I did not recognize. I had to ask if this was the same Graceland that Presley lived in. One of the guides laughed at my question and then said, "Yes it is. Sure has changed, hasn't it?"

Ah yes, those were the days.

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Screaming, Fainting, Unplugged Jukeboxes: How Memphis and the Media Reacted to Elvis Presley's Death

By Chris Morris

Music Writer, Variety

On Tuesday, Aug. 16, 1977, Rose Phillips was one of the first people in Memphis to learn firsthand of [Elvis Presley's](#) death.

On that day, she had gone to a late lunch with her friend Arlene Cogan, who was former president of the Chicago Elvis Presley Fan Club and a regular visitor at Graceland, at the Piccadilly Restaurant, in a shopping center just a block from Elvis' mansion.

"We had finished," Phillips recalls, "and we were walking through the parking lot and we heard this ambulance go by. I remember Arlene joking, 'They're coming after us.' It was just a joke. Right after that we saw [Elvis' security chief] Sam Thompson and his dad just flying through the parking lot.

"We got back to her house, which was only a block away from there. We're only a quarter of a mile from Graceland. We just got settled in the room, and the phone rang. Arlene went to answer the phone, and it was Pauline, one of the cooks up at Graceland. And she said, 'Arlene, Elvis is dead.' And I heard Arlene yell, 'No! I knew it! I knew it!' I knew what had happened without her telling me. I saw the grief on her, and I just knew. Somehow or another, Elvis was gone. And my thought was, it's over."

Read more [here](#).

Donald Trump's die-hard supporters show no signs of straying



Dr. Charles Thomson, 92, of Sun City, Ariz., gets in his golf cart after talking about his support for President Donald Trump, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017, in Sun City, Ariz. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

By MATT SEDENSKY

CONNECTING EDITOR'S NOTE: A roundup that includes contributors Jonathan Drew in Raleigh, North Carolina; Tamara Lush in Tampa, Florida; Barbara Rodriguez in Des Moines, Iowa; John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio; John Raby in Charleston, West Virginia; Bob Christie and Clarice Silber in Phoenix; Rick Callahan in Indianapolis; and Michael Rubinkam in Hamburg, Pennsylvania.

NEW YORK (AP) - They wash their hands of neo-Nazis and wag their fingers at leftists. They denounce a press corps they see as biased and controversies they view as manufactured. But in the frenzied blame game over the deadly violence at a rally of white supremacists, Donald Trump's loyal base is happy to absolve the president himself.

Even as Trump's zig-zag response to the weekend bloodshed in Charlottesville, Virginia, has brought criticism from some Republican lawmakers, many men and women who helped put him in office remain unmoved by the latest uproar.

"He has done nothing to turn me away from him," said Patricia Aleeyah Robinson, of Toledo, Ohio.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Immigrants and aliens

Bob Greene ([Email](#)) - I don't like disagreeing with The AP Stylebook, but in the case espoused by Lee Mitgang in Wednesday's Connecting, I must defer to a friend, Matthew P. Ward.

A retired U.S. foreign service officer who served in many places in the world, Matt has repeatedly lectured that "immigrant" is a legal term as far as U.S. foreign policy is concerned. According to Ward, a person becomes an "immigrant" only and when they enter the immigration system, usually meaning they have filed the paperwork to immigrate to the United States.

Therefore, he says, no one can be an "illegal immigrant." Instead, a person in this country illegally should be referred to as an "undocumented alien."

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500th anniversary of Martin Luther posing of the 95 theses

Ray Newton ([Email](#)) - I wonder how many people know this is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 theses on the door of the Wittenberg, Germany church.

Legend has it that Martin Luther, a professor of moral theology at Wittenberg University, nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church. That action provoked the Reformation that changed the religious history of the world. The city is anticipating thousands of visitors from throughout the world for the Oct. 31 celebration. In fact, events acknowledging the event has been occurring throughout the year.

Here's a photo of the church door, where the theses were recreated in bronze many years ago.

I took the photo at right during our recent land and river cruise tour of Germany, Austria and Hungary on the Danube River.

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Those Hemingway ties continue



Bill Tammeus ([Email](#)) - My first wife's college roommate at Syracuse University (and later maid of honor at our 1968 wedding) was Gayle Hemingway. Her father, Frank, was the son of Alfred Tyler Hemingway, the guy who helped get Ernest a job at The Star. (See August 9 Connecting on Ernest Hemingway's start at The Kansas City Star.)

Gayle died way too young (cancer, as I recall) and my marriage died after almost 27 years when the first Marcia Tammeus (I later married another Marcia) decided she loved our pastor more than she loved me.

Still, Gayle was a good human being, and I liked her folks, too, who ran a furniture/art gallery in Jamestown, N.Y.

Connecting profile - Joel Stashenko

Joel Stashenko ([Email](#)) - I am a graduate of the Newhouse school at Syracuse University, where I met my wife of 37 years, Claudia Hutton. We have one son, Casey, who is 19 and beginning his second year at Hudson Valley Community College outside of Albany, N.Y. We live in Loudonville, N.Y.

My AP career: Started as a vacation relief person in May 1979 upon getting out of Syracuse U. and was hired full-time in December 1979. I stayed in the Albany

bureau throughout my tenure, which ended in February 2005, when I went to work as a reporter at the Albany Business Review (where former Albany news editor Mike Hendricks continues to be the editor). While in Albany with the AP, I did stints as the day supervisor and, from 1995-2005, I was Capitol Editor in charge of the Capitol bureau. From 2007-2017, I was Albany correspondent for the New York Law Journal covering state court, court administration, legal industry and legal news. I retired in May 2017 and have not done anything of note much professionally since then.



While an APer in Albany, I worked for or with several names I think were or are familiar in AP circles: Chuck Green, Dick Chady, David Shaffer and Mary Fiess, Mike Hendricks, Marc Humbert, Lew Wheaton, Beth Grace, Robert Naylor. There were a host of others, of course.

One notable oddity of my life is detailed [here](#) - and the story in the Times Union of Albany from July 2012 begins:

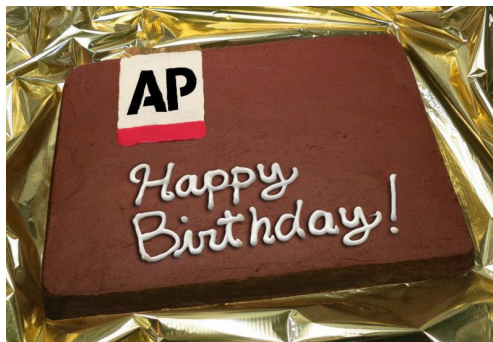


Casey

COLONIE - When his father went into cardiac arrest, Casey Stashenko watched in alarm as his mother tried to perform chest compressions to help save his life. But Casey, four days shy of his 14th birthday, saw that she was doing it wrong and pushed her aside. He had practiced on a dummy in health class and knew that when they are done correctly, the dummy's chest would make a clicking sound. "I remember it

was really hard to do," he said. His quick action is credited with saving Joel Stashenko's life. So on Tuesday, the Shaker Road Loudonville Fire Department gave Casey an award for his heroic efforts.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Yvette Mercourt - yvette.mercourt@orange.fr

Stories of interest

Diversity in newsrooms has been bad for decades and it probably won't get better: study (CJR)

A NEW STUDY SAYS SOME OF THE BIGGEST NEWSROOMS in the country are still failing to fulfill a nearly 50-year-old pledge to increase the employment of people of color in top masthead positions, despite repeated reviews and greater coverage of the issue.

The report, titled "Missed deadline: The delayed promise of newsroom diversity" and conducted by student reporters in the Asian American Journalists' Association's Voices program, analyzed the mastheads of several news organizations to examine how closely they reflected the nation's demographics.

In 1978, the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) made a pledge to achieve parity with the percentage of people of color in the general population by the year 2000. After that deadline was blown and a new one was set for 2025, data in the Voices report shows many American newsrooms are still nowhere close to achieving this goal.

The report focused on the mastheads of five national newspapers-The Washington Post, The New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, The Los Angeles Times, and The

Wall Street Journal-as well as NPR, Fox News, and CNN.

Read more [here](#).

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Israel revokes Al-Jazeera reporter's press permit

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's press office said Wednesday it is revoking the credentials of a prominent Al-Jazeera reporter pending a hearing after he told another TV station that the work of Palestinian journalists is part of the "resistance."

The Government Press Office said the remarks made by Elias Karram raise concerns about his ability to objectively cover the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Karram is an Arab citizen of Israel from Nazareth who has been reporting on Israel for Al-Jazeera for many years.

Nitzan Chen, the head of the press office, said the press card is revoked pending a hearing to clarify "whether or not he is part of the Palestinian people's resistance to the 'Zionist occupation', as he stated in the interview, and if so, how this affects his work as a journalist according to universal ethics."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

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How a colorful Iowa newspaperman is taking on big interests (Christian Science Monitor)

STORM LAKE, IOWA-Chicago newspaperman Wilbur F. Storey once reviewed a local performer with unvarnished bluntness: She was a "large-limbed, beefy specimen," he wrote in 1870. The offended woman tracked him down on Wabash Avenue and horsewhipped him.

Art Cullen is not afraid of horsewhipping, but he allows that some folks really don't like what he writes in his newspaper.

Mr. Cullen, too, has a penchant for telling it like he sees it. In the small town of Storm Lake, Iowa, where agriculture and slaughterhouses rule, he has taken on powerful interests.



He forced the mighty Agribusiness Association of Iowa to back down, and embarrassed the local county superintendents. He has berated the area's popular congressmen ("morally reprehensible"), jabbed the legislature ("abysmal"), and run roughly on his longtime friend, former Gov. Terry Branstad. He dismissed a chunk of his own farmer readers (20 percent "could beat the devil at his game"). Deep in Trump Country, he has defended the tide of immigrants who have rushed into this conservative northwest corner of Iowa.

For that, he won the Pulitzer Prize this year. His editorials foiled a secret arrangement by local authorities to allow big-farm interests to fight a lawsuit seeking improved water quality in the town's namesake lake. The Pulitzer board said his commentary was "fueled by tenacious reporting, impressive expertise and engaging writing."

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Internet 101: Beginners Quick Reference Guide (Lifewire)

By Paul Gil

The Internet and the World Wide Web, in combination, are a worldwide broadcast medium for the general public. Using your desktop computer, smartphone, tablet, Xbox, media player, GPS, and even your car and home thermostat, you can access a vast world of messaging and content through the Internet and the Web.

The Internet is a gigantic hardware network. The Internet's biggest readable content is what we call the 'World Wide Web', a collection of several billion pages and images that are joined by hyperlinks. Other content on the Internet includes: email, instant messaging, streaming video, P2P (peer-to-peer) file sharing, and FTP downloading.

Below is a quick reference to help fill in your knowledge gaps, and get you participating in the Internet and the Web quickly. All of these Lifewire.com references can be printed, and are free for you to use thanks to our advertisers.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - August 17, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2017. There are 136 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 17, 1807, Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat began heading up the Hudson River on its successful round trip between New York and Albany.

On this date:

In 1863, Federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of pounding.

In 1915, a mob in Cobb County, Georgia, lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who'd maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)

In 1943, the Allied conquest of Sicily during World War II was completed as U.S. and British forces entered Messina.

In 1945, Indonesian nationalists declared their independence from the Netherlands. The George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.

In 1962, East German border guards shot and killed 18-year-old Peter Fechter, who had attempted to cross the Berlin Wall into the western sector.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille slammed into the Mississippi coast as a Category 5 storm that was blamed for 256 U.S. deaths, three in Cuba.

In 1978, the first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.

In 1982, the first commercially produced compact discs, a recording of ABBA's "The Visitors," were pressed at a Philips factory near Hanover, West Germany.

In 1985, more than 1,400 meatpackers walked off the job at the Geo. A. Hormel and Co.'s main plant in Austin, Minnesota, in a bitter strike that lasted just over a year.

In 1987, Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, died at Spandau Prison at age 93, an apparent suicide. The musical drama "Dirty Dancing," starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, premiered in New York.

In 1996, the Reform Party announced Ross Perot had been selected to be its first-ever presidential nominee, opting for the third-party's founder over challenger Richard Lamm.

In 1999, more than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck Turkey.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Dean roared into the eastern Caribbean, tearing away roofs, flooding streets and causing at least three deaths on small islands as the powerful storm headed on a collision course with Jamaica and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

Five years ago: In Moscow, a judge sentenced three punk rock-style activists, members of the band Pussy Riot, to two years in prison for hooliganism for briefly taking over a cathedral in a raucous prayer for deliverance from Russian President Vladimir Putin; the court decision drew protests around the world. (One of the three defendants was later released on probation; the other two were released several months short of their two-year sentence in December 2013.)

One year ago: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump announced a shake-up of his campaign leadership, naming Stephen Bannon of the conservative Breitbart News website as chief executive officer and promoting pollster Kellyanne Conway to campaign manager. Caster Semenya of South Africa made her debut at the Rio Olympics amid questions about how track and field can deal with hyperandrogenic women; Semenya qualified for the 800 semifinals, an event she won three days later. Movie director Arthur Hiller ("Love Story") died in Los Angeles at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin (jahng zuh-MEEN') is 91. Author V.S. Naipaul is 85. Former MLB All-Star Boog Powell is 76. Actor Robert DeNiro is 74. Movie director Martha Coolidge is 71. Rock musician Gary Talley (The Box Tops) is 70. Actor-screenwriter-producer Julian Fellowes is 68. Actor Robert Joy is 66. International Tennis Hall of Famer Guillermo Vilas is 65. Rock singer Kevin Rowland (Dexy's Midnight Runners) is 64. Rock musician Colin Moulding (XTC) is 62. Country singer-songwriter Kevin Welch is 62. Olympic gold medal figure skater Robin Cousins is 60. Singer Belinda Carlisle is 59. Author Jonathan Franzen is 58. Actor Sean Penn is 57. Jazz musician Everette Harp is 56. Rock musician Gilby Clarke is 55. Singer Maria McKee is 53. Rock musician Steve Gorman (The Black Crowes) is 52. Rock musician Jill Cunniff (kuh-NIHF') is 51. Actor David Conrad is 50. Actress Helen McCrory is 49. Singer Donnie Wahlberg is 48. College Basketball Hall of Famer and retired NBA All-Star Christian Laettner is 48. Rapper Posdnuos (PAHS'-deh-noos) is 48. International Tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier is 47. Retired MLB All-Star Jorge Posada is 46. TV personality Giuliana Rancic is 43. Actor Mark Salling is 35. Actor Bryton James is 31. Actor Brady Corbet (kohr-BAY') is 29. Actress Taissa Farmiga is 23. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Gracie Gold is 22.

Thought for Today: "There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it." - Edith Wharton, American author (1862-1937).

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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