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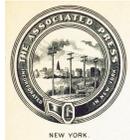
Connecting - September 08, 2017

1 message

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Fri, Sep 8, 2017 at 9:13 AM

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Connecting

September 08, 2017

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Hurricane Irma headed toward Florida



Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

We wish our best and our collective prayers go out to all our colleagues - and all journalists - covering the approach of Hurricane Irma to south Florida. May they be safe in reporting events to the rest of the world.

To them, "We thank you for your service" - a sentiment written so articulately by **Roy Peter Clark** of Poynter in a column we feature in today's issue, along with two top stories from the AP report on the hurricane that may be the long-awaited Big One.

AP Hurricane Headlines can be found [here](#). And here is the [AP reporting team](#) covering Irma and Harvey on the ground. You can also keep up to date with news and photos from Irma, and all the news, by clicking on AP Top News and AP Top Photos in the masthead of any issue of Connecting.

Today's issue begins with first responses to our call for your memories of your first day on the job at the AP. Thanks to **Michael Putzel** and **Steve Herman** for sharing their stories - and I hope to hear from you over the weekend with your own.

There were delivery issues with Thursday's Connecting. If you did not receive, drop me a note and I will resend.

Have a safe weekend.

Paul

Connecting series:

My first day with The Associated Press

Noel Yancey my savior on that first day in Raleigh

Michael Putzel ([Email](#)) - It wasn't exactly the first day; It was my second in the four-newsperson Raleigh (RA) bureau in January 1967. On the first day, I was introduced to 5-level paper tape and the Teletype machine and told my first duty the next morning would be to open the bureau (alone), edit down the news report to radio-style briefs and punch out a five-minute, all-caps "split" for the state broadcast wire precisely at the half-hour. Charlotte, the control bureau, would give me the go-ahead (GA) to take the wire.

Of course, I came in maybe an hour early to get a head start on readying the report and punching the tape, and I had a pretty nice loop of pale yellow perforated paper ribbon hanging almost to the floor when the Teletype pinged once at the appointed time. The dreaded GA appeared on the roll of newsprint inside the Plexiglass window (See photo atop Connecting's daily report.). I flicked on the tape reader (Wasn't it called a reperf?) that instantly began gobbling the tape I had punched.



Noel Yancey and his wife Frances at his retirement party in Raleigh in 1979.

It was quickly apparent that I couldn't type anywhere near the 66 characters a minute at which the reader was grinding out the brief report. Within a minute or two, my fingers were locking up trying to find the keys in full panic mode. The automatic cutoff intended to keep the rapacious reader from stretching and breaking the tape began clicking on and off, and the words on the teletypewriter stuttered onto the paper in uneven bursts. Sweat was pouring down my face in the middle of the North Carolina's winter, my heart was racing, and if I'd had time, I would have started

planning my next career move after I got fired for holding up the morning report to rip-and-read radio news announcers around the state.

At that very moment, as if by divine deliverance, a short, white-haired gentleman I had met briefly the day before appeared in the doorway, strode over to the struggling figure at the machine and suggested quietly that I surrender my chair to let him replace me at the infernal keyboard.

He was Noel Yancey, a former correspondent who had bailed out of running the bureau and returned to being a newsman sometime before I arrived. He wasn't due in the bureau for at least another hour or so that morning, but he knew what that first radio split would do to the new kid, and his timing was exquisite. He finished punching the split, left the bureau and returned in his customary dapper suit at his scheduled time. As far as I know, he never mentioned the incident to anyone. When he died at 90 in his native North Carolina ten years ago, I whispered yet another "thank you" to my savior that day. I am still grateful.

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First day got off to a slow start - I was two hours late for work

Steve Herman ([Email](#)) - My first day with AP, Feb. 2, 1970, got off to a slow start: I was two hours late for work.

Seems there was a power outage during the night, and my clock ended up two hours off. I didn't realize it until I was out the door and into my car. I still don't know why no one from the bureau tried to call me.

To journalists covering wars and disasters: 'Thank you for your service'

By ROY PETER CLARK

Poynter

Last weekend in Valdosta, Georgia I found myself in the rest room of a Cracker Barrel restaurant. Next to me at the sink was a Georgia State Trooper, uniformed, armed, and armored, a massive man with a short blond military haircut. We got to chatting. "Thank you for your service," I said, resorting to the greeting made popular for first responders after 9/11.



Roy Peter Clark

He was surprised by the gesture. I told him that my Uncle Pete had been a New York City police officer, as had Mr. Barron and Mr. McCloskey, who lived next door to the Clarks on Long Island. I told him that for 40 years my dad had worn the badge of a United States Customs Officer. I told him that I honored the courage of men and women who would be willing to run towards dangers and times when I would be running away.

So today, as a monster storm eyes the state of Florida, I want to say to all the first responders: police, fire fighters, EMTs and hospital workers, members of the National Guard: Thank you for your service.

And here I add a special thank you: For all the journalists covering the storm, working while I'm hiding, balancing your job with the care of your family, looking the storm in the eye while so many of us are running away, let me say: "Thank you, thank you, thank you for your service."

There is a narrative about journalists in the land that goes like this: You are elitists, detached from the concerns of real Americans. You are jackals, preying on the vulnerable. You are ideologues in disguise, distorting the news for your own interests. You don't care about your country. You are, in the words of the president, an enemy of the people.

To neutralize the poison of this vision, I have begun to think of journalists as among the first responders. When wars, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, riots, wildfires strike, it is often the journalist who is among the first on the scene, helping us to understand the dangers and looking for opportunities to help.

If they do their jobs well, they will act with caution, even as they try to get as close to the danger as humanly possible. Sadly, there is a long list of journalists sacrificing their lives to fulfill their missions, going back decades. Among the most famous was Ernie Pyle, the correspondent who told stories of common soldiers and their struggles during World War II. On April 18, 1945, near the end of the war, he was shot and killed by a sniper's bullet on an island off the coast of Okinawa.

News of his death brought this response from President Harry Truman, "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told. He deserves the gratitude of all his countrymen."

Former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt wrote this in her syndicated newspaper column: "I shall never forget how much I enjoyed meeting him here in the White House last year, and how much I admired this frail and modest man who could endure hardships because he loved his job and our men."

What a difference in tone and spirit from the attacks upon the American press coming from both ends of the political spectrum, but especially from the president and his supporters. Reporters are called out and booed at rallies. They are reviled online, on social media, and in person. And yet there they are in storm waters, on the edge of forest fires, embedded with soldiers on the front lines.

One of my favorite television journalists is Kerry Sanders of NBC News. I have been following his work from the beginning of his career in Florida. I like him for his versatility, ingenuity, courage, good humor, all expressed in a Tom Sawyer-like affect that defies the stereotype of the vapid, well-coiffed news stud.

Sanders is a veteran of Hurricane coverage. He has covered Andrew, Ivan, Katrina, Harvey, and is likely to be a key reporter on Irma. According to his Wikipedia page, "He has also been on the front lines in both Desert Storm in 1991 and as an embedded reporter with the U.S. Marines during the Iraq War in 2003. He had previously worked with NBC reporter David Bloom at WTVJ in Miami, who died from an embolism caused by DVT while also covering the Iraq war along with Sanders."

Such courage is nothing new. It can be traced to the beginnings of war and disaster coverage from the pens and cameras of eyewitnesses. No reporter embodied it more than Edward R. Murrow, who reported from embattled Britain and the liberation of concentrations camps and accompanied airmen on bombing runs of Berlin. And for what?

For fame and career advancement, we might suppose. But I think for something else. Reporters who head for the storm front or the front lines want a good story, one that can go on the front page. But not for its own sake. The sagas they write of tragedy and loss, of compassion and redemption, give us hope, even in the darkest of times.

I heard a story out of Texas that when the Houston Chronicle was delivered to a shelter, to those waiting there not knowing whether their homes were destroyed or loved ones were alive, they let out a cheer. Cheers to them for their resilience. And

for the journalists in Texas, and now in Florida, and all over America and the world: "Thank you for your service."

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Irma looms as the mythical 'Big One' Florida has long feared



AP Photo/Alan Diaz

By CURT ANDERSON

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - They call it the Big One - a mythic, massive hurricane that would obliterate the densely populated southeast coast. And it has long been the stuff of Florida's nightmares.

Irma, it appears, could be it. The storm has triggered near-panic in a region of more than 6 million people that includes Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, clustered along a narrow ribbon of coastline that has seen nearly double-digit population growth over the past five years.

Isabella Janse Van Vuuren just arrived - she left her home in South Africa two weeks ago to start a job as a stewardess on a yacht, which she and other crew members spent time securing. As Irma approached, she was trying to decide whether to stay or go.

"I'm terrified," she said. "I'm not used to this. I just want to go into a cave and hide, basically. This is not a nice feeling."

But for veterans of life in the Sunshine State, hurricanes are as Floridian as oranges and Mickey Mouse. And every hurricane season brings with it the chance of cataclysm.

Read more [here](#).

Nations rush to help islands devastated by Hurricane Irma



Photo provided by the Dutch Defense Ministry shows storm damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in St. Martin. | Gerben Van Es/Dutch Defense Ministry via AP



Storm damage in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in St. Martin. Irma cut a path of devastation across the northern Caribbean, leaving thousands homeless after destroying buildings and uprooting trees. Significant damage was reported on the island known as St. Martin in English which is divided between French Saint-Martin and Dutch Sint Maarten. (Jonathan Falwell via AP)

By EVENS SANON and DANICA COTO

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - French, British and Dutch military authorities rushed aid to a devastated string of Caribbean islands Thursday after Hurricane Irma left at least 11 people dead and thousands homeless as it spun toward Florida for what could be a catastrophic blow this weekend.

Warships and planes were dispatched with food, water and troops after the fearsome Category 5 storm smashed homes, schools and roads, laying waste to some of the world's most beautiful and exclusive tourist destinations.

Hundreds of miles to the west, Florida braced for the onslaught, with forecasters warning that Irma could slam headlong into the Miami metropolitan area of 6 million people, punish the entire length of the state's Atlantic coast and move into Georgia and South Carolina.

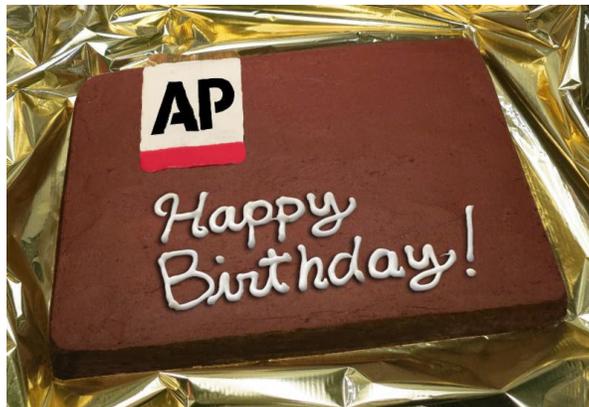
More than a half-million people in Miami-Dade County were ordered to leave as Irma closed in with winds of 165 mph (270 kph).

"Take it seriously, because this is the real deal," said Maj. Jeremy DeHart, a U.S. Air Force Reserve weather officer who flew through the eye of Irma at 10,000 feet (3,048 meters).

The first islands hit by the storm were scenes of terrible destruction.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Steve Paul - stevepaul92@gmail.com

Glenn White - gcwhite1@gmail.com

On Saturday to:

Bill Hancock - bhancock@collegefootballplayoff.com

Stories of interest

He posed as a heroic war photographer - and the news industry believed him (Washington Post)

By SAMANTHA SCHMIDT

The striking images in the portfolio of the photographer going by the name of "Eduardo Martins" captured the strife of refugees in Iraq and children in Gaza, of families fleeing destroyed towns in Syria.

The blue-eyed Brazilian portrayed himself as an intrepid photojournalist who risked his life on the front lines of war to "show the public the reality of these places" and move viewers to "make a difference," he said in one interview. His name appeared alongside images published in international media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, Vice and BBC Brasil. He claimed he did humanitarian work for the United Nations. He had almost 125,000 Instagram followers, including revered photographers worldwide.

And when he wasn't documenting conflict zones, he was jet-setting in tropical destinations and surfing.

As if the 32-year-old's supposed career wasn't compelling enough, his backstory made it better.

The man who called himself Martins said he was diagnosed with leukemia at 18 and spent seven years bedridden in intensive care. "It was chemo or college," he told a Brazilian surfing website. He said his father died of liver failure.

All of this, it turns out, was false.

When a Brazilian BBC correspondent became skeptical of Martins's story, she began to unravel the truth. For years, the person calling himself Eduardo Martins was stealing and using someone else's photographs, according to a BBC

investigation. Many of the images he sent to photo agencies and news websites were actually taken by other professional photographers, such as U.S. photojournalist Daniel C. Britt.

The real name of the impostor is still unknown.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Neal Ulevich.

-0-

How Mother Jones makes serious journalism in the age of cat videos: It asks readers for money (recode)

By **ERIC JOHNSON**

Like a lot of news outlets, Mother Jones puts all of its content on the internet for free. But unlike many of her peers, Editor in Chief Clara Jeffery has no qualms about asking people to pay for that work.

"It's important to our mission to get work we do out there to the widest audience," Jeffery said on the latest episode of Recode Media with Peter Kafka. "And frankly, we've found that people are happy to give us money, because we tell them that they should and it's important to support journalism. And they do."

Jeffery pointed to her nonprofit site as well as others like the (for-profit) New York Times that successfully appeal to their readers for cash, in exchange for serious and investigative journalism. Currently, "MoJo" is making between \$15 million and \$16 million a year in topline revenue, she said.

And the money is just part of the story: Earlier this year, Mother Jones won the top prize at the National Magazine Awards, for "Magazine of the Year." A blockbuster 35,000-word story from last summer, for which Shane Bauer spent four months undercover as a private prison guard, garnered some two million views, Jeffery said.

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

-0-

Charges Dropped Against Journalist Arrested for Asking HHS Secretary Health Care Question

(Observer)

Score one for the First Amendment.

Charges have been dismissed against Dan Heyman, the reporter who was arrested in May for asking Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price a question about the American Health Care Act at an event in West Virginia.

"The State has determined, after a careful review of the facts, that Mr. Heyman's conduct, while it may have been aggressive journalism, was not unlawful," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Heyman, who writes for Public News Service (PNS), had been charged with "willful disruption of governmental processes." A criminal complaint claimed he "aggressively breached Secret Service agents" to get to Price.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

The risk of nuclear war with North Korea (New

Yorker)



A military officer at the D.M.Z. This summer, the prospect of a nuclear confrontation between the United States and North Korea, the most hermetic power on the globe, entered a realm of psychological calculation reminiscent of the Cold War. Photograph by Max Pinckers for The New Yorker

By EVAN OSNOS,

The New Yorker

1. The Madman Theory

The United States has no diplomatic relations with North Korea, so there is no embassy in Washington, but for years the two countries have relied on the "New York channel," an office inside North Korea's mission to the United Nations, to handle the unavoidable parts of our nonexistent relationship. The office has, among other things, negotiated the release of prisoners and held informal talks about nuclear tensions. In April, I contacted the New York channel and requested permission to visit Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The New York channel consists mostly of two genial middle-aged men: Pak Song Il, a husky diplomat with a gray brush cut; and his aide-de-camp, Kwon Jong Gun, who is younger and thinner. They go everywhere together. (The North Korean government has diplomats work in pairs, to prevent them from defecting, or being

recruited as spies.) Under U.S. law, they can travel only twenty-five miles from Columbus Circle. Pak and Kwon met me near their office, for lunch at the Palm Too. They cautioned me that it might take several months to arrange a trip. North Korea periodically admits large groups of American journalists, to witness parades and special occasions, but it is more hesitant when it comes to individual reporters, who require close monitoring and want to talk about the nuclear program.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 8, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2017. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 8, 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion." It went: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

On this date:

In 1504, Michelangelo's towering marble statue of David was unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy.

In 1761, Britain's King George III married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz a few hours after meeting her for the first time.

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1921, Margaret Gorman, 16, of Washington, D.C., was crowned the first "Miss America" in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., was shot and mortally wounded inside the Louisiana State Capitol; he died two days later. (The assailant was identified as Dr. Carl Weiss, who was gunned down by Long's bodyguards.)

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1966, the science-fiction series "Star Trek" premiered on NBC; the situation comedy "That Girl," starring Marlo Thomas, debuted on ABC.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon covering his entire term in office.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds tied Ty Cobb's career record for hits, singling for hit number 4,191 during a game against the Cubs in Chicago.

In 1987, former Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart admitted during an interview on ABC's "Nightline" that he had committed adultery, and said he had no plans to resume his White House bid.

In 1994, USAir Flight 427, a Boeing 737, crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

Ten years ago: Sheriff's deputies in Logan County, West Virginia, removed Megan Williams, a 20-year-old black woman, from a house in Big Creek, where she'd

endured what authorities described as days of torture. (Seven white men and women pleaded guilty in connection with the case. In a strange twist, Williams recanted her accusations in 2009; however, one of the defendants, Frankie Brewster, said, "It did happen.") Top-ranked Justine Henin (EH'-nen) overwhelmed Svetlana Kuznetsova (svet-LAH'-nah kooz-NET'-so-vah) 6-1, 6-3 to win her second U.S. Open women's title and seventh Grand Slam championship.

Five years ago: Strong storms pummeled the East Coast, spawning a pair of tornadoes in the New York City boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, while temperatures at Washington Dulles International Airport plunged 25 degrees in one hour, falling from 89 degrees to 64. A suicide bomber struck near NATO headquarters in Kabul, killing at least six Afghan civilians in an attack that officials blamed on the Haqqani network.

One year ago: California and federal regulators fined Wells Fargo a combined \$185 million, alleging the bank's employees illegally opened millions of unauthorized accounts for their customers in order to meet aggressive sales goals. U.S. aviation safety officials took the extraordinary step of warning airline passengers not to turn on or charge a new-model Samsung smartphone, the Galaxy Note 7, during flights following numerous reports of the devices catching fire. Serena Williams was upset in the U.S. Open semifinals for the second year in a row, beaten 6-2, 7-6 (5) by 10th-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic. Greta Zimmer Friedman, identified as the woman in an iconic photo seen kissing an ecstatic sailor in Times Square celebrating the end of World War II, died in Richmond, Virginia, at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 77. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 76. Actor Alan Feinstein is 76. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 75. Author Ann Beattie is 70. Secretary of Defense James Mattis is 67. Cajun singer Zachary Richard (ree-SHARD') is 67. Musician Will Lee is 65. Actress Heather Thomas is 60. Singer Aimee Mann is 57. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 57. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gordon (Levert) is 53. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech (chehk) is 52. Alternative country singer Neko (NEE'-koh) Case is 47. TV personality Brooke Burke-Charvet is 46. Actor Martin Freeman is 46. Actor David Arquette is 46. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 45. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 42. Actor Larenz Tate is 42. Actor Nathan Corddry is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pink is 38. Singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson is 37. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 36. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 30. Dance music artist AVICII is 28. Actor Gaten Matarazzo (TV: "Stranger Things") is 15.

Thought for Today: "Censorship is the height of vanity." - Martha Graham, American modern dance pioneer (1893-1991).

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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9/17/2017

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