



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - September 12, 2017

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Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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September 12, 2017

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Today's issue of Connecting brings you more fascinating stories from your colleagues of that first day on the job at The Associated Press.

I look forward to hearing your story.

We lead with a report from AP on the debut of its "Newsmakers" interview series that will be presented on Facebook Live. To be livestreamed on Wednesday morning, House Speaker **Paul Ryan** will be interviewed by AP Washington CoB **Julie Pace**.

Have a great day!

Paul

AP to stream Washington interview series on Facebook Live

The Associated Press will debut its "Newsmakers" interview series on Facebook Live on Wednesday, Sept. 13, with a conversation with House Speaker Paul Ryan.

AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace will lead the discussion with Ryan, who is expected to address his plans for tax reform and other policy issues that directly affect Americans.



The conversation will include questions from additional AP journalists who regularly cover the White House, Capitol Hill and politics.

"We look forward to engaging Speaker Ryan in a meaningful and robust discussion on taxes and all the complex issues facing leaders in Washington," said Pace. "With its broad reach, the AP is in a unique position to connect the speaker with people around the country."

AP will livestream "Newsmakers" on its Facebook page, where viewers will be able to submit questions. The interviews will also be available to APTN clients.

Ryan's interview will be livestreamed at 10:45 a.m. ET on Wednesday.

Future installments of "Newsmakers" with decision makers and leaders in Washington are expected monthly.

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

Connecting series:

My first day with The Associated Press

At 16, entering Columbus bureau to become office boy - and later, so much more

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - It was 1943, and I was just a lop-eared 16-year-old kid who walked into The Associated Press office in Columbus, Ohio, and was quickly surrounded by the sounds and sights of another world.

The experience was awesome, overwhelming, empowering, and absolutely exciting. I was awestruck. No, I was not some recent J-school grad, nor one of the techies, but just an office boy to be.

The first sight was the AP newsroom, where men (no women in those days), were answering jangling upright telephones, while others pounded big ole typewriters. To the right was a room, with big strange looking equipment, and surrounded by a high-pitched sound that quickly gave one the feeling of being in another world. They called this area AP Wirephoto.

The third room sounded like a vibrant clickity-click place with a group of men sitting at funny looking typewriters. They called them Teletype machines, with long rolls of paper coming out of them, and men sitting in front typing. However, their typing was with a long strip of narrow paper with holes in it, which ran through a little box. Weird.

My mind was spinning from those entry sights, but I was ready to learn my job as "Office Boy."

Little did I know then that those first moments would lead me on an adventure trail that lasted 28 years, that included being a full-fledge AP photographer and writer. That adventure took me to the war in Korea, many sports and political events, plus the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in the deep South.

It was an adventurous, and rewarding professional life, and one that I still, to this day, wish I was back participating. No where can you meet such talented compatriots, nor have the professionally rewarding life that the AP trustingly provided.

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First night in New Orleans bureau, meeting Ernie Fischer and Tom Pendergast

Carl Leubsdorf Jr. ([Email](#)) - Later AP's Chief Political Writer and, for many years, Washington Bureau Chief of The Dallas Morning News:

I remember the first night in June 1960 that I set foot in the old AP office, a small room off the main news room of the New Orleans Times-Picayune in the paper's old building on Lafayette Square. The first AP staff members I met were Ernie Fischer, a grizzled, mustached veteran whose job was to write regional news summaries for radio station announcers to "rip and read," and Tom Pendergast, a lean, far younger man who had the title of regional membership executive, a job devoted to selling the AP service and tending to the needs of its member newspapers and radio and television stations.

Ernie had been a foreign correspondent in the Berlin bureau in those tumultuous days before World War II. Now, two decades later, he seemed tired and bitter; I soon learned why. As the AP's correspondent in Bern, Switzerland, at the time of the 1948 Winter Olympics, he reportedly clashed with the AP's sports editor, Ted Smits, reputedly by questioning the latter's expense account. When the dust cleared, Fischer was on the Night Radio Desk in New Orleans, rewriting newspaper wire stories for the radio wire. Three years later, when the ultra-conservative former Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker sued the AP for libel over its reporting of his efforts to block desegregation of the University of Mississippi, Fischer testified in behalf of Gen. Walker that the AP was biased against him.

By contrast, Tom Pendergast was on his way up. He told me so. He had started out with the AP as its correspondent in a one-man bureau in the downstate Illinois town of Centralia, population about 15,000. Now, he had been promoted into the job that was a traditional stepping stone to becoming a bureau chief; an AP bureau chief -

officially a Chief of Bureau -- spent as much or perhaps even more time selling the AP as he did supervising the news product. Ultimately, Tom became the Chief of Bureau in Los Angeles and the AP's personnel chief in New York before losing a power struggle and repatriating to Texas where he later ran some weekly newspapers. If I worked hard, Tom told me that first night, I could aspire to some of the positions he had attained. Of course, I didn't want to go to Centralia, Ill., or become an RME; I wanted to go to Washington. As I told everyone I encountered.

The next morning, I set out for my first assignment as a professional journalist. A group of German parliamentarians was visiting, and I had been assigned to write a story for the AP's World Service, through which the world's largest wire service supplied U.S. news to overseas newspapers and broadcast outlets.

Shortly after my arrival at the meeting room, a short, plump, middle-aged woman came up to me and started asking me questions about the group, identifying herself as Podine Schoenberger of The New Orleans Times-Picayune. She was, I later learned, a veteran on the Picayune staff, and I was, of course, the new guy in town. But I was able to answer her questions and I suddenly realized that, if I knew as much if not more about the story we were both covering, I'd probably be able to handle the rest of my new job.

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'What do I do?' 'I don't know, I just got here myself'

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - I walked into The AP bureau in Los Angeles on the morning of May 9, 1967, a couple of days after completing my cross-country drive from New York. I introduced myself to Jack Quigg, who was running the desk, and asked, "What do you want me to do?"

He pointed to a nearby desk and said, "He'll fill you in."

So I walked over and said, "Hi. I'm Bruce Lowitt." And he said, "Don Harrison," and we shook hands.

And I said, "What do I do?" And he said, "I don't know. I just got here myself." It turns out he'd started the day before.

But from that answer and our laughter that followed, a friendship developed that lasts to this day.

By the way, Don had been assigned to do preparedness files, obits on living persons. So I joined him. He was working on actor Raymond Massey (who died July 29, 1983); my first was Jack L. Warner, president of Warner Bros. (who died Sept. 9, 1978).

Working preparedness probably helped me avoid total panic about seven weeks later when I was working rewrite on the overnight. We got a call from the General Desk in New York that Jayne Mansfield had been killed in a car crash and the A Wire needed an obit - now. We had none; she was 34 when she died. So I grabbed her clip file and wrote it on the fly.

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Thanks to Kathryn Johnson for teaching broadcast writing to young staffer

Kendal Weaver ([Email](#)) - It was timely that Jim Carrier recalled his first day with the AP (Connecting, Sept. 7) at a time when Hurricane Harvey had left the Houston area in flooded wreckage and Hurricane Irma was bearing down on Florida. As it happens, Carrier in his post-AP career is the author of two terrific non-fiction books on hurricanes and their deadly impact: "The Ship and the Storm: Hurricane Mitch and the Loss of the Fantome" (2001), and "Charity: The Heroic and Heartbreaking Story of Charity Hospital in Hurricane Katrina" (2015).

As for my first day with AP (July 10, 1971), I was at the AP bureau in Atlanta for a week or so of training before going to my night shift assignment at the Montgomery bureau, which was smaller than a walk-in closet and featured a circa-1940s hand-held telephone. In Atlanta, that first day was truly memorable for me thanks to one person - I was given training in how to write for broadcast by none other than Kathryn Johnson! Among AP's most gifted reporters, Johnson had returned to the Atlanta AP bureau after a year at Harvard as a Nieman Fellow. It seemed a lowly assignment - to teach broadcast writing to a young new staffer, after being picked for a Nieman fellowship - but she went about teaching me with her typical energy and AP journalism savvy. That alone was a lesson in AP character. Thanks to Kathryn Johnson, it was a memorable day - the first of many over 40 years in my AP career.

Connecting mailbox

Two former AP Southeast Asia bureau chief meet up in Oahu



Denis Gray (Email) - Two former Southeast Asian bureau chiefs -- Robert Liu (Hong Kong) and Denis Gray (Bangkok) -- met up again in Oahu this month. Denis and his wife Sarah were passing through from Thailand en route to a California visit. Bob and wife Judy are retired in Oahu. Talk at dinner included Trump, the current state of the AP and a number of great AP folks no longer with us who made Hawaii their final home including Roy Essoyan, Ed White and John Roderick. Other AP Hawaii residents -- David Briscoe and Tad Bartimus -- were sadly visiting the mainland during the mini-reunion. Shown are (left to right) Judy, Bob, Denis, Sarah and mutual friend Jon Fukuda.

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Daughter inherited both parents' journalistic skills

Doug Richardson (Email) - Thought you might enjoy this story from my daughter, Maggie, who is the B-side editor of the wonderfully named student newspaper at the University of Vermont. The Cynic. B-side means features.

She has some talent, which I ascribe to her mother, a Pulitzer Prize winner, rather than me, an AP political. But maybe the best from both.

On Being your own Outing Club

By **MAGGIE RICHARDSON** ([Email](#))

As I near the start of my senior year, every so often I stop to look around this little college town in that starry-eyed way I did as a first-year: in awe of mountains, water and vast open spaces in every direction. It's the kind of feeling that draws so many students here and leaves so many missing their once-temporary home in the dog days after graduation.

Living in Burlington and going to UVM, there is an undeniably strong connection between community and the outdoors. This weekend, I saw newly moved in first-years walking out of Outdoor Gear Exchange with new gear for their first fall season, and last week I saw the first TREK groups pouring into the Outing Club house together.



Read more [here](#).

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(The classic on the John F. Kennedy assassination)
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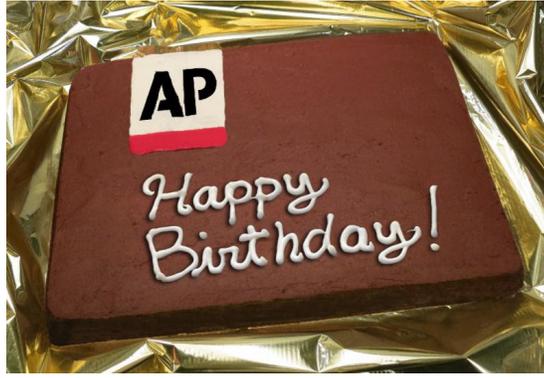
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Steve Graham (Email) - Remember those "The World in ..." Books?

As we were moving last month, this slip dropped out of one of my treasured AP books. Somehow, I don't think they're filling orders anymore ,... at least not at those prices.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Dale Leach - daleleach21@gmail.com

Bill Vogrin - billvogrin@msn.com

Stories of interest

The Story Behind the Haunting 9/11 Photo of a Man Falling From the Twin Towers (Time)

The most widely seen images from 9/11 are of planes and towers, not people. Falling Man is different.

The photo, taken by Richard Drew in the moments after the September 11, 2001, attacks, is one man's distinct escape from the collapsing buildings, a symbol of individuality against the backdrop of faceless skyscrapers. On a day of mass tragedy, Falling Man is one of the only widely seen pictures that shows someone dying.

The photo was published in newspapers around the U.S. in the days after the attacks, but backlash from readers forced it into temporary obscurity. It can be a difficult image to process, the man perfectly bisecting the iconic towers as he darts toward the earth like an arrow.

Falling Man's identity is still unknown, but he is believed to have been an employee at the Windows on the World restaurant, which sat atop the north tower. The true power of Falling Man, however, is less about who its subject was and more about what he became: a makeshift Unknown Soldier in an often unknown and uncertain war, suspended forever in history.

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

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Seven days of heroin: This is what an epidemic looks like (Cincinnati Enquirer)

By Enquirer and Media Network of Central Ohio staff

It's a little after sunrise on the first day of another week, and Cincinnati is waking up again with a heroin problem. So is Covington. And Middletown. And Norwood. And Hamilton. And West Chester Township. And countless other cities and towns across Ohio and Kentucky.

This particular week, July 10 through 16, will turn out to be unexceptional by the dreary standards of what has become the region's greatest health crisis.

This is normal now, a week like any other. But a terrible week is no less terrible because it is typical. When heroin and synthetic opiates kill one American every 16 minutes, there is little comfort in the routine.

There is only the struggle to endure and survive.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell.

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The E.U. Agency Fighting Russia's Wildfire of Fake News with a Hosepipe (Time)



**A journalist looks at an internet story rated as 'fake' on the 'Pinocchio scale' in the newsroom of Correctiv, a nonprofit investigative organization, in Berlin, Germany
Bloomberg-Bloomberg via Getty Images**

By Charlotte McDonald-Gibson

In 2015, as Russia plunged millions of dollars into an escalating disinformation campaign against the West, the European Union's defense consisted of just one person.

A former journalist had been seconded from the Czech Republic to the E.U.'s newly-established East StratCom Task Force, and was working furiously to de-bunk the Kremlin-backed fake news that flooded people's inboxes, TV screens, and social media timelines. "[He was working] literally seven days a week," said an E.U. official involved in the bloc's strategic communications efforts, who asked for anonymity in order to speak freely. "He was going to an early grave if we didn't get some help."

Getting help proved tricky. Despite a clear, and explicitly stated, aim from Moscow to use disinformation as part of its foreign policy, the E.U. moved at its customary slow pace. "Some countries didn't really feel the threat," said the official, citing the usual divisions which plague a co-ordinated E.U. response. While places like the Baltic nations, Poland, and Scandinavia-having been victims of Russian disinformation for years-advocated a robust response, others including Hungary and southern European nations which depend on Russian investment or energy were less enthusiastic.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - September 12, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2017. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 12, 1942, during World War II, a German U-boat off West Africa torpedoed the RMS Laconia, which was carrying Italian prisoners of war, British soldiers and civilians; it's estimated more than 1,600 people died while some 1,100 survived after the ship sank. The German crew, joined by other U-boats, began rescue operations. (On September 16, the rescue effort came to an abrupt halt when the Germans were attacked by a U.S. Army bomber; as a result, U-boat commanders were ordered to no longer rescue civilian survivors of submarine attacks.)

On this date:

In 1814, the Battle of North Point took place in Maryland during the War of 1812 as American forces slowed British troops advancing on Baltimore.

In 1846, Elizabeth Barrett secretly married Robert Browning at St. Marylebone Church in London.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler demanded the right of self-determination for the Sudeten (soo-DAYT'-un) Germans in Czechoslovakia.

In 1944, the Second Quebec Conference opened with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in attendance.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier (boo-vee-AY') in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed questions about his Roman Catholic faith, telling the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see) was deposed by Ethiopia's military after ruling for 58 years.

In 1977, South African black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko (BEE'-koh), 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1986, Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIHP'-ee-oh), the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped (he was released in December 1991).

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off, carrying with it Mark Lee and Jan Davis, the first married couple in space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space; and Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese national to fly on a U.S. spaceship.

Police in Peru captured Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman. Actor Anthony Perkins died in Hollywood at age 60.

Ten years ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin replaced long-serving Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov with an obscure Cabinet official, Viktor Zubkov. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh ah-bay) announced his resignation.

Five years ago: The U.S. dispatched an elite group of Marines to Tripoli, Libya, after the mob attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. President Barack Obama strongly condemned the violence, and vowed to bring the killers to justice; Republican challenger Mitt Romney accused the administration of showing weakness in the face of tumultuous events in the Middle East.

One year ago: Striking a conciliatory tone after an Oval Office sitdown, President Barack Obama and the top Senate Republican declared themselves hopeful that an agreement could be reached to keep the government running and to provide money to take care of the worsening Zika (ZEE'-kuh) crisis. Two men disrupted a live broadcast of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" by rushing onto the stage to protest Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte's presence on the show. (Lochte and his swimming teammates faced criticism since they were involved in an early-morning drunken encounter at a gas station in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Freddie Jones is 90. Composer Harvey Schmidt ("The Fantasticks") is 88. Actor Ian Holm is 86. Former U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., is 78. Actress Linda Gray is 77. Singer Maria Muldaur is 75. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 66. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 65. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 65. Rock musician Neil Peart (Rush) is 65. Actor Peter Scolar is 62. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 61. Actress Rachel Ward is 60. Actress Amy Yasbeck is 55. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 52. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 51. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 51. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 50. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 49. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 48. Actor-singer Will Chase is 47. Actor Josh Hopkins is 47. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 43. Actress Lauren Stamile (stuh'-MEE'-lay) is 41. Rapper 2 Chainz is 40. Actor Ben McKenzie is 39. Singer Ruben Studdard is 39. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 37. Singer-actress Jennifer Hudson is 36. Actor Alfie Allen is 31. Actress Emmy Rossum is 31. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 24. Actor Colin Ford is 21.

Thought for Today: "Find the good. It's all around you. Find it, showcase it and you'll start believing it." - Jesse Owens, Olympic gold medal track and field athlete (born this date in 1913, died in 1980).

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.

Paul Stevens
 Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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