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Connecting - September 13, 2017

1 message

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Here's to you!

From AP Midwest Reunion gang



2017 AP Midwest Reunion participants, from left: Debbie and Garth Burns, Steve Graham, Dave Lubeski, Gary and Fay Clark, Paul Stevens, Kia Breaux, Glenn White, Mike Holmes, Bunny and Lindel Hutson, Peg Coughlin, Jim Bagby, Rod Richardson, Remy Martin and Cliff Schiappa.

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

About 20 of us - 17 to be exact! - gathered Tuesday night at the Char Bar in Kansas City for the third annual AP Midwest Reunion.

Conversation was lively and filled with good memories of today and days gone by, of hobbies, of grandkids, of the aches and pains of aging, and on and on. And we toasted our colleague **Law Ferguson** - who relished the event and had made plans to attend before heart failure took the life of the retired Topeka correspondent.

Traveling the farthest to join us was **Steve Graham** from his home in Portland, Oregon. The states of Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Oregon were represented. Flight issues from Hurricane Irma prevented reunion originator **Brent Kallestad** from joining us from Tallahassee. Today, some of the group continue the reunion at the National World War I Museum and Memorial.

And Ye Olde Connecting Editor got promises for more remembrances of first days on the job at the AP - a theme that has resonated with you and continues in today's issue.

Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting series:

My first day with The Associated Press

On first day as St. Louis newsman, he walked into a party (for retiring photographer Fred Waters)

Tom Cohen ([Email](#)) - 1) On the eve of my very first day with AP -- the night before starting an internship in the Jefferson City, Missouri bureau in 1982 -- I was in a bind. The tiny apartment I would rent near the Missouri Penitentiary was unavailable until the next day. A cursory check of nearby lodging showed all booked as the Missouri legislature session began. Somehow, I found the phone number for Paul Nowell, my fellow intern also starting his AP career the next day. I phoned and sheepishly explained my predicament. Paul and his wonderful wife, Mary Ann, didn't hesitate. Come stay on our couch, they said, and I drove my overloaded car to their place for what turned out to be a wonderful dinner and evening. We bonded over our Missouri J-school roots, nervous anticipation of this new chapter and love of Bruce Springsteen. Our friendship and working relationship even survived the night when Paul and I somehow managed to lose my story because we couldn't figure out the two-screen system of the old Hendrix computer. Working with Paul in Jefferson City and then St. Louis was always a great pleasure, and I'll never forget the kindness of the Nowell family way back when.

2) On my first day as an AP newsman -- in the St. Louis bureau in 1984 -- I walked into a party. Legendary photographer Fred Waters was retiring from full-time duty, and AP Managing Editor Wick Temple was in town to celebrate with Chief of Bureau Eric Newhouse, Ed Schafer, Paul Lebar, James Finley, Paul Nowell, Bruce Olmsted, Ken Fields and many others, including Fred's son Oscar. As the new guy, I shut up and listened to an endless stream of hilarious and educational tales from AP giants. It was a dream come true for a wide-eyed kid.

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'Where are you?... Your shift started 30 minutes ago'

Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - It was February of 1969 and I was hired to begin my AP career in the Chicago bureau. That worked out great since my in-laws lived in the Chicago suburb of Skokie. My wife, Judy, and I were going to stay with the in-laws until we could find a decent apartment.

I had been working at the Rockford, IL, newspapers for the previous 18 months and my work week always began on Monday and ended on Sunday. I was excited about getting started with the AP and was sitting down to Sunday dinner with my wife and in-laws and chattering about the new job when their phone rang.

My mother-in-law said, ``Mike, it's the AP for you."

I grabbed the phone, expecting to be told something about showing up at the right time the next day. Instead, the voice at the other end said, ``Where are you?"

I said, ``I'm in Skokie at my in-laws."

The unknown voice replied coldly, ``You're supposed to be here. Your shift started 30 minutes ago."

That's when I found out that AP's work week began on Sunday and ended on Saturday.

I threw on a shirt and tie, jumped into my car and sped to Chicago's Loop, a drive of about 30 minutes. Fortunately, since it was Sunday, I got there in record time and found a parking place within a block of the office. I hurried into the building, found the AP office on the third floor and walked in.

There were only two people in the cavernous news room. I walked up to the nearest one, who turned out to be the shift supervisor, Carroll Arimond. He did not shake my hand. Instead, he looked me up and down and said, there's a fatal auto accident in Sterling (IL). Get the details and give me a brief.

I asked where I should work and he pointed vaguely toward the corner of the room. I quickly found a desk with a typewriter and a phone and got to work.

It took me a few minutes to figure out where to even start, but I called the police, got the report and wrote the brief. I handed it to Arimond, who glanced at it and tossed it back to me and said, ``That's no good. Rewrite it. Get the lead in the first graf."

I wrote that auto fatal three times before he decided it was good enough.

That was my welcome to the AP and the start of my 41-year career. It was also my first session of Wire Service 101 from the veteran Arimond, AP's City Editor, who turned me into a decent newsman by at first terrorizing me and eventually mentoring me.

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Tipped by fellow j-student, he scrambled and got the AP opening in Fresno

Bill Schiffman ([Email](#)) - It was a lovely spring day in May 1972. I was hard at work at my job as News Editor at The Daily Collegian office at Fresno State University, just a few weeks from graduation, when a fellow budding journalist who worked at the rival J-Dept. weekly dropped by to talk to my boss.

He mentioned he was planning to visit the AP bureau in Fresno the following week. He'd heard they had a vacancy and he was going to apply. Being a go-getter, I tossed my Air Force field jacket on my desk, donned a crumpled tie and headed downtown that day to apply. I don't know what happened to him. After a visit to the San Francisco bureau, I got the job and actually started a few weeks before my degree was awarded.

I was a bit taken aback by the bureau. Located in the Fraternal Order of Eagles clubhouse, it apparently had served as the building's broom closet until the brooms got better digs. A narrow, windowless, wood-paneled tomb with two desks and a bit of room for a printer and boxes of paper and punch tape, the only charm I could see was its proximity to the club's bar. The AP chose it, I'm sure, because it was cheap and The Fresno Bee at the time was across the street.

When I arrived for my first day of work, Correspondent Joe Bigham sat me down and showed me how to punch tape, who to call in the predawn hours in search of news for the first morning broadcast split and how to store things away in case historians might want to know what was going on in the San Joaquin Valley in the early '70s (not much). Bigham taught me far more about how to cover news than I learned in college and I'll always be grateful to him.

I was a self-taught typist and the idea of being accurate at about twice the speed I was actually capable of was a bit daunting, but I quickly got the hang of it, including how to handle corrections. There were a few.

We spent a lot of time on the farm labor movement. The United Farm Workers was about a decade old and growing in strength, thanks to the vision of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Growers were coming to the table to bargain and by the end of the '70s the UFW represented some 50,000 field workers in California and Florida.

I stayed in Fresno for about three years, while my wife at the time finished an MA. We moved to San Francisco in 1976 and I spent 28 years there, most as News Editor. Hippies were everywhere, popular music was turning in a whole new direction and I lived through the first of many earthquakes. More earthquakes followed, along with floods, fires, the murder of the mayor and a city supervisor, mass killings, attempted Presidential assassinations and the Patty Hearst-SLA saga. I shared those moments of drama with the dozens of wonderful journalists I worked with over the years.

The AP wasn't perfect, but it sure was fun.

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Her start involved editing the AP's World in 19- - books

Lynn Sherr ([Email](#)) - Steve Graham's post of the order form for the "World in..." books brought back the very fondest memories. I started at 50 Rock in early 1965, a refugee from the fashion/beauty/home furnishing world of Conde Nast. Not that there's anything wrong with that, if that's what you want. But in my year and a half post college, I knew that wasn't my future. Thanks to Keith Fuller, who hired me, The AP was. Or at least its beginning.

My first job was as the #1 (and only) news assistant to Robert Price, who had moved from front-line reporting to editing the World In... books. He was a charmer: full of stories about his beloved Gettysburg, regular as a clock in his arrival, his lunch breaks, his departures on the dot of 5p. And he was a boss who wanted his underling to do well.

The books were mostly written from clips -- a smart way to amortize the great reporting done by so many. And my main job was organizing the clips -- in folders, by date, by subject. But at a time when my female colleagues at Time and Newsweek were consigned to the clip-desk forever (see Lynn Povich's book and film, "The Good Girls Revolt"), I was given a chance to write some of the pieces. Little ones at first -- Bob

was nothing if not cautious -- and then the big feature. I just pulled my dusty "World in 1965" off the shelf, and my piece on the Northeast Blackout (pp. 208-213) brought it all back. I'd actually gone out on the street that night with APN writer Jules Loh, who taught me how to watch and listen and dictate poetry. And when I later put it all together with others' reports for our version of a history book, I was allowed to start flexing my wings. No doubt Bob edited me heavily, for which I am always grateful. But most of the words are mine. And I got full credit up front, listed right up there with the cool guys under "Feature Narratives" from New York. Nothing like a byline, even 52 years later. So thanks to you, Bob Price. And to Keith, and Wes, and all of my AP pals and mentors. It was a perfect beginning.

Washington:
Art Edson
Adren Cooper
Frank Cormier
Geoffrey Gould
W. B. Ragsdale Jr.

New York:
John Barbour
George Cornell
Bernard Gavzer
Will Grimsley
Jack Hand
Tom Henshaw
Jules Loh
Sid Moody
John Morgenthaler
Hugh Mulligan
Joe Reichler
Austin Scott
Lynn Beth Sherr
William L. Ryan

Contributing Reporters:

Berlin:
John Koehler
Bonn:

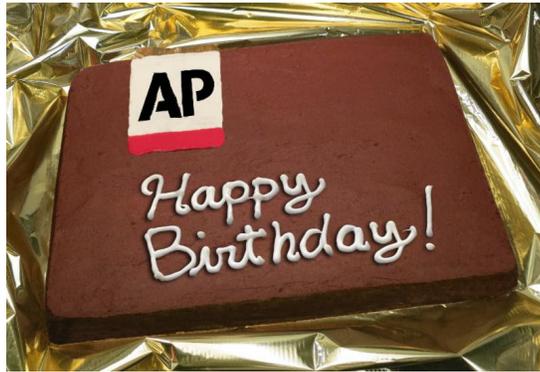
Nominee for tasteless lede of the week

Scott Charton ([Email](#)) - Pet stories should be uplifting, but this is my nominee - from Forbes - for The Week's Most Tasteless Lede (of course, it's only Tuesday):

"Novelist Ernest Hemingway committed suicide in 1961 (as did his father, father-in-law, brother, sister, and granddaughter). Fifty-six years later, the caretaker of Hemingway's former Key West estate (now a museum and National Historic Landmark) is engaging in what meteorologists call another suicide mission."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Carol Riha - criha@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Terry Badger - terrybadger@yahoo.com

John Harris - jharris@bhphoto.com

Don Harrison - sdheritage@cox.net

Stories of interest

After a Dozen Hurricanes and 40 Years, Familiar Dangers With Higher Stakes (New York Times)

By JOSEPH B. TREASTER

MIAMI - Every hurricane tells a story.

Hurricane Andrew in 1992, with a 17-foot storm surge and winds so intense that they destroyed the gauges meant to measure them, was the disaster that changed construction standards in Miami and much of the southeastern United States.

Katrina in New Orleans and Rita in Houston, both in 2005, taught terrifying lessons about evacuations.

For millions of people drawn to Florida for its sunshine and its reputation for easy living, Hurricane Irma, whose story is still playing out, was their first major hurricane. It was not mine.

I covered more than a dozen hurricanes over more than three decades as a New York Times reporter before I left in 2008 to teach journalism and work on environmental issues at the University of Miami.

Over those years, many things changed. Sporadic radio and television advisories have morphed into round-the-clock coverage on local television, CNN and the Weather Channel. Forecasts have become far more accurate. Preparedness is infinitely more advanced. And with climate change, storms are viewed not just as acts of nature but perhaps of unwitting human intervention as well.

Read more [here](#).

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Tiny paper doggedly carries on amid Irma destruction (Poynter)



Gordon Snow, managing editor of Daily Herald

By JAMES WARREN

No matter the wind and water, journalists covering Harvey and Irma tend to have reassuring safety nets. Their employers pay for the best equipment, rent SUVs, pony up for helicopters, take care of plane fares and book multiple hotel rooms. Some sport designer outerwear with company logos.

It's why newspapers are usually able to operate and publish, perhaps executing emergency business plans and moving to a safer location, frequently winning plaudits from colleagues elsewhere for keeping the faith.

And then there's Gordon Snow, managing editor of his family-owned Daily Herald on St. Martin in the Caribbean. No bagels, doughnuts, pizza or booze have arrived in his newsroom with plaudits from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington or Boston. But he deserves them.

Read more [here](#).

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Newsday: 109 Sources Can't be Found in Kevin Deutsch Crime Reporting (iMediaEthics)

Finally. It took nearly five months, but Newsday finished its review of Kevin Deutsch and his 600 crime stories for the newspaper. The results - 77 problematic stories out of 600 stories, with 109 sources that could not be found - were revealed in a 960-word editor's note this afternoon.

"The main points of the stories were not affected. While two stories about the Orlando nightclub shooter Omar Mateen were based on sources Newsday could not locate, other media reported the main points of those stories but with attribution from different sources," Newsday said.

The Long Island newspaper had reviewed its former staff crime reporter's work for nearly five months, since mid-February. Deutsch worked for Newsday from 2012 until last summer. Even after the results of this damaging review have been reported by his former employer, Deutsch still stands by his work and insists that his sources are real.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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For Time's Nancy Gibbs, it's time (Vanity Fair)



Nancy Gibbs in New York City. By Larry Busacca/Getty Images.

By JOE POMPEO

Time editor in chief Nancy Gibbs, who rose through the ranks over three decades from her start as a fact-checker to become the first female top editor of the century-old publication, is stepping down. "I've loved every day of this, but there's a time for everything," Gibbs told me during an interview Tuesday morning at the lower Manhattan headquarters of parent company Time Inc. "It's time for me to figure out what I'm gonna do next."

Gibbs, 57, has spent her entire career at the magazine. She started fresh out of an Oxford master's program in 1985, and came up alongside other name brands who occupied the editor's chair, including Walter Isaacson, Jim Kelly, and Rick Stengel. Gibbs has written more cover stories than any other writer in the magazine's history. "I think it's always good to have an editor who has performed every trick in the playbook," Isaacson told me when I profiled Gibbs in 2013.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Photographer settles 'monkey selfie' legal fight

(BBC)



A photographer has settled a two-year legal fight against an animal rights group over a "monkey selfie" picture.

Naruto the macaque monkey took the image in the Indonesian jungle in 2011 when it picked up a camera owned by David Slater from Monmouthshire.

US judges had said copyright protection could not be applied to the monkey but Peta said the animal should benefit.

Peta's appeal on the "monkey's behalf" was dismissed but Mr Slater has agreed to donate 25% of any future revenue.

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

Today in History - September 13, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 13, the 256th day of 2017. There are 109 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 13, 1788, the Congress of the Confederation authorized the first national election, and declared New York City the temporary national capital.

On this date:

In 1759, during the French and Indian War, the British defeated the French on the Plains of Abraham overlooking Quebec City.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British naval forces began bombarding Fort McHenry in Baltimore but were driven back by American defenders in a battle that lasted until the following morning.

In 1911, the song "Oh, You Beautiful Doll," a romantic rag by Nat D. Ayer and Seymour Brown, was first published by Jerome H. Remick & Co.

In 1923, Miguel Primo de Rivera, the captain general of Catalonia, seized power in Spain.

In 1948, Republican Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was elected to the U.S. Senate; she became the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress.

In 1959, Elvis Presley first met his future wife, 14-year-old Priscilla Beaulieu, while stationed in West Germany with the U.S. Army. (They married in 1967, but divorced in 1973.)

In 1962, Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett rejected the U.S. Supreme Court's order for the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a black student, declaring in a televised address, "We will not drink from the cup of genocide."

In 1971, a four-day inmates' rebellion at the Attica Correctional Facility in western New York ended as police and guards stormed the prison; the ordeal and final assault claimed the lives of 32 inmates and 11 hostages.

In 1977, conductor Leopold Stokowski died in Hampshire, England, at age 95.

In 1989, Fay Vincent was elected commissioner of Major League Baseball, succeeding the late A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee).

In 1997, funeral services were held in Calcutta, India, for Nobel peace laureate Mother Teresa.

In 2002, the earliest known online use of the term "selfie" (a photographic self-portrait, usually taken with a smartphone) occurred on an Australian Broadcasting Corp. website forum; it came from a man named Nathan Hope, who denied coining the term, saying it was "common slang."

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, defending an unpopular war, ordered gradual reductions in U.S. forces in Iraq and said in a televised address, "The more successful we are, the more American troops can return home." Abdul-Sattar Abu Risha, the most prominent figure in a U.S.-backed revolt of Sunni sheiks against al-Qaida in Iraq, was killed by a bomb planted near his home in Anbar province. The NFL fined New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick \$500,000 and the team \$250,000 for spying on the New York Jets during a game.

Five years ago: Chanting "death to America," hundreds of protesters angered by an anti-Islam film stormed the U.S. Embassy compound in Yemen's capital and burned the American flag. New York City's Board of Health passed a ban on the sale of big sodas and other sugary drinks, limiting the size sold at restaurants, concession stands and other eateries to 16 ounces.

One year ago: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump rolled out a plan aimed at making child care more affordable, guaranteeing new mothers six weeks of paid maternity leave and suggesting new incentives for employees to provide their workers childcare during a speech in Aston, Pennsylvania. Former Israeli President Shimon Peres, 93, suffered a major stroke (he died 15 days later).

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Bain is 86. Actress Eileen Fulton (TV: "As the World Turns") is 84. Actor Joe E. Tata is 81. TV producer Fred Silverman is 80. Rock singer David Clayton-Thomas (Blood, Sweat & Tears) is 76. Actress Jacqueline Bisset is 73. Singer Peter Cetera is 73. Actress Christine Estabrook is 67. Actress Jean Smart is 66. Singer Randy Jones (The Village People) is 65. Record producer Don Was is 65. Actor Isiah Whitlock Jr. is 63. Actress-comedian Geri Jewell is 61. Country singer Bobbie Cryner is 56. Rock singer-musician Dave Mustaine (Megadeth) is 56. Radio-TV personality Tavis Smiley is 53. Rock musician Zak Starkey is 52. Actor Louis Mandylor is 51. Olympic gold medal runner Michael Johnson is 50. Rock musician Steve Perkins is 50. Actor Roger Howarth is 49. Actor Dominic Fumusa is 48. Actress Louise Lombard is 47. Tennis player Goran Ivanisevic (ee-van-EE'-seh-vihch) is 46. Country singer Aaron Benward (Blue County) is 44. Country musician Joe Don Rooney (Rascal Flatts) is 42. Actor Scott Vickaryous is 42. Singer Fiona Apple is 40. Contemporary Christian musician Hector Cervantes (Casting Crowns) is 37. Former MLB pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka is 37. Actor Ben Savage is 37. Rock singer Niall Horan (One Direction) is 24. Actor Mitch Holleman is 22. Actress Lili Reinhart (TV: "Riverdale") is 21.

Thought for Today: "Better to be without logic than without feeling." - Charlotte Bronte (BRAWN'-tee), English author (1816-1855).

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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