



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - October 13, 2017

1 message

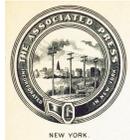
Jim Hood, Interloper <jimhood44@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 13, 2017 at 5:04 AM

Reply-To: jimhood44@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

October 13, 2017

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP photos](#)

[AP World](#)

[AP books](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[The AP Store](#)

[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Present and accounted for

Welcome news from Marty Thompson ([email](#)), who writes:



Smoke as seen from Cloverdale, Calif. (Mark Thayer photo)

Mark Thayer got it right in his account in Thursday's "Connecting." The Oakmont community where we live in Santa Rosa has a very good emergency volunteer group. Our block reps awakened us at 2:30 a.m. Monday. We left a bit later when evacuation was ordered.

That night we slept on pew mats on the floor of a church serving as a shelter. It is our church, so there were many familiar faces among the evacuees. We left Tuesday for the home of one of our sons, Chris, in El Dorado Hills east of Sacramento. We're still there - and as of Thursday morning, so was our house.

So we're glued to email updates from various authorities and the news. Everyone is on the story, of course. The Santa Rosa *Press Democrat* and San Francisco's KCBS have been especially our main sources.

We brought some clothing, medications and some important papers. But we now have a list of things we didn't bring - surely valuable "next time."

We are well supported by family and friends, both AP people and "civilians."

Charles McFadden ([email](#)) adds reports on a few others: Mike Rubin reports he is OK (as of two days ago) Dan Berger is OK, Mike tells me.

Know something? Say something. If you dare.

It's not always that simple, of course. NBC and other outlets are being castigated for supposedly sitting on stories about Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct. Mark Mittelstadt ([email](#)) forwards a [HuffPost account](#). It and a [Recode piece](#) by

Peter Kafka forwarded by Richard Chady ([email](#)) makes clear that, although numerous reporters had unsubstantiated reports alleging Weinstein had harassed and assaulted women, they didn't have solid evidence to support the accusations.

Publishing damaging allegations without ironclad evidence is a surefire way to wind up on the wrong end of a defamation action, something no one should have to go through. Your interloper editor survived several such lawsuits filed by businesses aggrieved by his reporting and will testify any day that they are no fun and, even when you win, as we did every time, they are fabulously expensive to defend against.

Lacking hard evidence about Weinstein, all reporters could do was hint at the scurrilous allegations, Kafka notes. As an example, he quotes a Ken Auletta piece in the New Yorker: "Weinstein doesn't want to share the costs of the movie or trade half an interest in a Miramax film; instead, his partners, this studio head said, feel 'raped' - a word often invoked by those dealing with him."

Some reporters had heard rumors of sealed court settlements but couldn't get their hands on copies and, even if they had, publishing a document sealed by the court can have unpleasant consequences. This is a dilemma we frequently faced at ConsumerAffairs.

Lawyer friends would "accidentally" leave lying around cold-blooded documentary evidence of settlements by major automakers in cases involving flimsy roof pillars or exploding gas tanks, complete with gory pictures.

I didn't dare quote from the settlements and couldn't admit I had seen them; all I could do was use the knowledge that they existed to try to find consumers who were willing and legally permitted to talk about similar experiences. It was frustrating to know that certain models of a particular pickup truck, for example, were almost certain to kill their occupants in a rollover while being unable to write about it. It also made it hard to document the laggardly pace of federal safety agencies charged with investigating such cases and ordering recalls since specific examples couldn't be cited.

Kafka notes the frustration reporters face in these instances. If Auletta and others had been able to document the whispers about Weinstein 15 or 16 years ago, it "may well have prevented Weinstein from abusing some women," he notes. I lived with this realization every day at ConsumerAffairs.

Every time I learned of a fatal rollover of a Brand X pickup or a fatal runaway acceleration case involving a certain SUV, I was frustrated by my inability to say flat-out that there was a known defect that the companies had admitted to in court as part of multiple multi-million-dollar settlements.

As in the Weinstein stories, we could do little more than hint. Even that frequently touched off a ferocious blizzard of threats from corporate attack-dog lawyers. It's sad but true that the First Amendment only goes so far.

Leaf Peepers take a break from leaves

A Connecting contact on Martha's Vineyard with Jane Seagrave came about Wednesday for Ye Olde Connecting Editor and his wife Linda during their

Leaf Peeping trip in New England.



Jane has been publisher of the Vineyard Gazette since 2011 after she left AP as chief revenue officer and senior vice president at AP Headquarters in New York.

But it was her first AP position in 1979 that provided their tie. Stevens was Albuquerque chief of bureau when he hired her for an opening in Santa Fe, where she teamed with Correspondent Bill Feather. Stevens and Seagrave were part of the onsite AP team that covered the 1980 prison riot in Santa Fe where 33 inmates died.

Seagrave, who lives on the island with her husband John Kennedy, gave a tour of the historic Gazette to the visiting Kansas group, part of a bus tour. Her email is janerseagrave@gmail.com



The weekly newspaper was born in 1846 and is printed on over-sized broadsheet on a press in the Gazette building. Beyond local distribution, it is mailed to all 50 states and several foreign countries.

Here is a link to its robust web site <https://vineyardgazette.com/>

John Morris memories

Earlier this week, we noted the passing of John Morris, 100, the legendary photo editor responsible for publishing some of the most iconic photos of our time. This brought a response from Rich Clarkson ([email](#)):

I came to know John Morris well and over the years, at the Topeka Capital-Journal, the Denver Post and the National Geographic Society -- all of where I was director of photography.

I came to understand and appreciate him. I included him on programs I organized, had many luncheons and dinners with him -- and Midge on occasion. (John trying to take away her third drink on many occasions. . .)



Many in our profession disliked him for his penchant of talking of his own accomplishments. I remember sitting next to the founders of the famed Missouri Workshops, Cliff Edom and his wife, Vi, listening to John who was not on the invited faculty of some 8-10 photographers and editors -- but had shown up on his own and eased himself into a spot on the program.

Cliff was clearly agitated. As part of his talk, John talked of his many job postings and accomplishments -- the kind of talk that rubbed his critics the wrong way. And often infuriated them.

And particularly annoyed Cliff.

But while John was promoting himself, he was influential and helpful in advancing the careers and opportunities for many other photojournalists -- photographers, editors and managers -- whom he regularly recommended for job openings and appointments. He helped advance the careers of many including myself.

John spoke often of his experiences and accomplishments in his talks and on this occasion, was going into great detail starting with his "finding" the great Capa pictures of the Normandy landings in the Life bureau in London. How many of the negatives were ruined in the film dryer and only a few were serviceable -- which included the famous picture of soldiers lying on the beach with their rifles at the ready.

As he ended his talk, he went on to say something to the effect that of his many accomplishments, in a self-effacing way, his many honors and awards, were overblown.

Cliff quietly whispered to me, "Truer words were never spoken . . ."

John talked of himself regularly, of his career accomplishments and influence. Which was fodder for his critics like Cliff, of which there were many. And like many achievers, John had a big ego. And he kept outlining those accomplishments -- much to the chagrin of those critics.

The only trouble with their skepticism and criticism was -- he actually accomplished all those things. Or most of them . . .

Less is more ... sometimes



Even the giants are trying to reduce. Time Inc. is cutting back the frequency and circulation of some of its biggest titles, including Time, Sports Illustrated and People, according to a Wall Street Journal story Paul Albright ([email](#)) forwarded. The goal, of course, is to save money.

Time's circulation will be cut by one-third to 2 million copies. Many of the cuts will be to promotional copies, while the others will be readers who aren't considered valuable to advertisers. People faces the same fate.

Sports Illustrated, Entertainment Weekly and Fortune, meanwhile, will be printed less often. That's partly the result of research that shows people don't have as much leisure time to devote to magazines. Gee, wonder why that would be? Read the whole story (subscription required) [here](#).

Important stuff goes here

That was the headline that famously appeared on WhiteHouse.gov during the first few hours of the George W. Bush presidency. It was soon replaced by something a bit more substantial. At the AP, portions of novel being written by a bored 50 Rock staffer moved on the sports wire back in the late 1970s.

And just the other day, Dow Jones accidentally published nearly 2,000 dummy headlines and articles that had been created during training exercises for reporters and editors learning how to use Dow Jones's news-production system.

Dow Jones said the items "were never intended for publication" and regrets that they were published. The company said the problem was caused by an internal technology glitch and that its systems had not been infiltrated by hackers.

The WSJ piece was sent to us by Paul Albright ([email](#)). Again, if you have a WSJ subscription, you can read all about it [here](#).

A joy forever



A lot of unseemly stuff goes on under the dome of the U.S. Capitol (not to mention the many state capitols). But the building is still beautiful, at least when seen at its best, notes Bob Daugherty ([email](#)), who forwarded this photo by veteran Washington staffer J. Scott Applewhite, who covers Capitol Hill regularly.

Golfing in paradise

From Doug Kienitz ([email](#))



Here is an addendum to go with the Jim Hood and John Willis item about Anne Jackson, the lady in the Dallas buro for so many decades.

Tom DeCola, Willis and I were perched high up on the volcanic hillside of the Kapalua Resort course when we decided to call Annie. We all had worked with her in our broadcast exec days in Texas, thus the call back to Dallas in May 2002.

She loved the chat, and we enjoyed the opportunity to share some minutes with her. That memory has stuck with us to this day, as Willis so aptly noted.

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](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by jimhood44@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today