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Connecting - January 08, 2018

1 message

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Mon, Jan 8, 2018 at 9:01 AM

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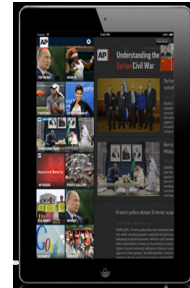
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Connecting

January 08, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

How do you become a photojournalist from a photographer?, asked our Connecting colleague **Art Loomis**, referring to the growing use of "photojournalist" in stories published in the newsletter.

So I asked someone who I thought would know - retired AP photo director **Hal Buell**, and as always, he delivered in our lead article for today's issue. We'd welcome your own thoughts.

Another colleague, **Terry Anderson** ([Email](#)), asked what his Connecting colleagues think about a story on international news that was written by his daughter **Sulome Anderson**. We bring that story to you today with hope that you will offer some response to her thoughts on its importance in today's world.

Now you have your homework for the day.

Have a great week!

Paul

Photojournalist rather than photographer?

Hal Buell ([Email](#)) - Why photojournalist rather than photographer, you ask.

Shakespeare said it best when Juliet proclaimed:

"What's in a word? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Does it make a difference what we call those who capture history's moments in a flicker of time? Over the years many names have applied, some not complimentary: Snapper, some were called in England. Industrialist JP Morgan called them "Kodakers" a century or more ago, an appellation that became paparazzi in recent times and then as now was preceded by a profanity. Or worst of all when a reporter (whoops, journalist) calls his/her camera carrying companion "My photographer." Or, even worse, Snaps! Or as some irritated Hollywood types have recognized the in courthouses with, "Oh, you again?"

Photographers in so many ways are real journalists simply because they have to be there, an eyewitness with a trained eye and some understanding of what is happening. After the fact phone calls won't do the job.

There are all kind of photographers -- advertising, portrait, art, wedding. Just as there are writers --- novelists, poets, script writers.

Maybe we should define precisely: Let's call 'em "word journalists" and "picture journalists."

In the end, however, Shakespeare had it right.

Covering Conflict Zones for the Modern Media

By **SULOME ANDERSON**

As an active foreign correspondent, it's difficult to hear my parents talk about how journalism used to be.

I'm an author and freelance journalist based in Beirut, where I report for outlets such as NBC, Newsweek, The Atlantic, Esquire, Foreign Policy and New York magazine. I've also covered conflicts or political unrest in Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Egypt. A couple of decades ago, my mother Madeleine Bassil worked for ABC News and my father Terry Anderson was the Middle East bureau chief of the Associated Press. They both covered Beirut during the Lebanese civil war.



My parents' stories about being foreign correspondents during the 1980s make me long for a very different time in journalism. Back then, most major national news outlets, including the Chicago Tribune and The Boston Globe, had well-staffed bureaus in the Middle East. And because the internet, hailed in its infancy as the savior of the news media, had not yet devastated a business model built around lucrative print advertising, there was enough money to ensure that foreign correspondents were paid a living wage. Without the echo chamber and feedback loop of social media, news companies didn't have to factor in the number of clicks a well-written, long-form piece on some depressing but important topic might get - they could just publish the piece with the understanding that their relatively stable readership would survive.

Distraction at Home and Danger Abroad

Things are quite different these days, as waning public interest in foreign news has driven an industry crisis. A 2008 Pew media survey found that over half of news executives polled reported drastically cutting resources devoted to foreign coverage. A 2014 Pew study found that the number of foreign correspondents working for American newspapers dropped by almost a quarter in 10 years. The same study estimated that network coverage of foreign news in 2013 was less than half of what it was in the late 1980s.

And those numbers predate the presidential election in 2016, when American coverage became even more internally focused. According to a study by Harvard University in 2017, 41 percent of news stories in American media during U.S. President Donald Trump's first 100 days in office were about Trump. By comparison, previous presidents dominated less than 14 percent of news coverage during their respective periods. When you factor in all the other domestic news, that doesn't leave much print space or airtime for foreign affairs coverage.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

A message for us all:

If I can help somebody

By WALTER ALBRITTON

Famous missionary David Livingstone once said, "I am ready to go in any direction - so long as it is forward!" Life's difficulties tend to drive us backward. But we can choose to move forward no matter what. And that is a wise choice as we begin a new year.

What does it mean to move forward? My answer is found in a song Mahalia Jackson used to sing: "If I can help somebody, as I travel along, if I can help somebody, with a word or song, if I can help somebody, from doing wrong, No, my living shall not be in vain."



That's the secret: help somebody! Don't try to help people; help somebody! Find a person who needs help that you can provide - and do it! There are hundreds of ways to help somebody; all you have to do is look around and you will soon see somebody who needs your help.

Across the years I have witnessed people move forward by helping somebody. I think of Fred. In retirement he helped several young people obtain an education. He supported more than one missionary. Fred helped somebody.

John was dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School when I was a student there. When he sent me a note to come to his office, I thought I was in trouble. Instead I was blessed. He gave me an envelope with a twenty-dollar bill inside. He said someone had left it for me. At that time twenty dollars would buy a week's supply of groceries. To this day I believe the money came out of John's own pocket. John helped somebody.

Charles worked hard at his own job, but he found the time to help dozens of people find work. He was constantly opening doors for people who needed a friendly recommendation to an employer. Charles helped somebody.

Paul was a busy pastor but he took an interest in me. I was serving a circuit of small churches near Shorter, Alabama. Paul called his friend Newman in Nashville and recommended me for a job. That phone call made it possible for me to go to seminary. Paul helped somebody.

Don is retired but refuses to sit at home and watch television. He drives across town and helps prepare and serve food to poor people. Every week Don helps somebody.

Linda is a retired school teacher but three afternoons a week she tutors English and math to struggling students in a blighted neighborhood. Linda helps somebody.

Ed loves to read but he does not sit in his easy chair at home reading novels. He reads about people who have lost a loved one, sometimes people in another state, and he obtains their address and sends them a letter of encouragement and a book that will help them cope with grief. Dozens and dozens of hurting people have benefitted from Ed's concern. Ed helps somebody.

I can help somebody. You can. We all can. Why not? It is a great way to move forward in the new year. Will you help somebody?

(Walter Albritton is pastor of Congregational Care at St. James United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. This article appeared in the Opelika-Auburn (Alabama) News and was shared by Connecting colleague Ed Williams.)

-0-

The meaning of -17- ?

Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - The Jan. 4 Connecting item on -30- raised a question. Didn't teletype operators of the 1930s, '40s and '50s use the designation of -17- for their traffic or personal messages? It was that or some similar designation. But then TT and TTS operators have been gone for (can you believe it?) 60 years and memory fades.

-0-

An Unreported "Incident"

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - During these troubled times, what with the furor over the "Condition" in the White House, the reporting of sexual abuses involving Hollywood moguls, television executives, television stars, and Congress persons, I found myself remember an incident in my life.

Like the others, this one has gone unreported, but it really happened to me. I have not gone through the agony of guilt, or fear, although I have carried this event in my mind since one evening in the early 1960's. I was covering a story about a beautiful movie star, and was on my knees to get a better angle for a picture. As an Associated Press photographer, I knew that New York and the Wirephoto network would love the shot.

Surrounded by other reporters, plus Hollywood hacks, and out of the blue, actress Tippy Hedron, of the "Birds" fame, reached down and gave me a lip-stick blossomed kiss, right in the middle of my forehead.

Wow, holy smoke, gosh. I was embarrassed, but just a teeny bit. We all laughed and had a good time over the spontaneous event.

Everything was fine until I got home, and proudly displayed my badge of honor to my wife. Suddenly, the joy of the warm and glowing event seemed to be splashed with ice. A whole lot of explaining finally leveled the playing field, and she quieted.

I've remembered this event for years, and only recently, due to all of the national concern over inappropriate behavior between the sexes, did I wonder if I should...

I think not. I enjoyed it too much.

-0-

A whole lot of elk



Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - I took this photo last week from my back deck in Loveland, Colorado. In total there were 13 bill elk. Later that day we saw nearby at least 70 elk cows.

-0-

116 years of history in this Iowa courthouse



Soldiers march up Fort Dodge's Central Avenue, past the Webster County Courthouse, following the end of World War I.

Paul Stevens - Sharing my latest Spotlight column in Sunday's edition of my hometown newspaper, The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa - a profile of the 116-year-old Webster County Courthouse on Central Avenue. And this journalistic reference:

Next door to the courthouse is another building with a long history on Central Avenue - that housing The Messenger newspaper. It was built in 1906 and there's a story relating to the two buildings, separated by an alley.

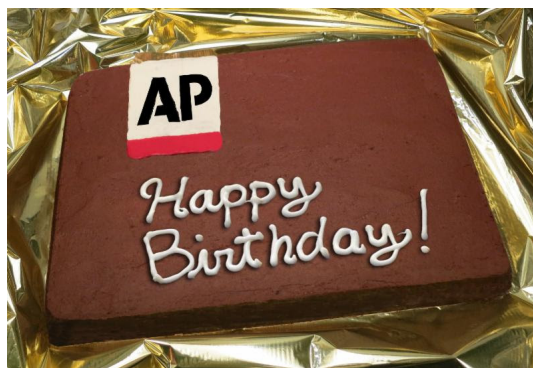


Walter Howey, a young Messenger editor in the early 1900s, enjoyed being first with the news - a trait that would carry him on to success on much larger newspaper stages in Chicago (where he was the prototype for the crusty editor in the famous Broadway play "The Front Page" - and later in Boston.

When a major murder trial was being conducted in the courthouse, Howey ran off two editions of The Messenger - one with a "Guilty" headline on the front page and one with a "Not Guilty" headline. He held both editions in the pressroom until he received a flash from the courtroom by a reporter signaling from a courthouse window to another reporter in The Messenger across the alley, and then let news boys rush out hawking the verdict even before the judge had dismissed the court.

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Latrice Davis - ldavis_76@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

Michael Wolff Did What Every Other White House Reporter Is Too Cowardly to Do (GQ)

By DREW MAGARY

I'm gonna begin this post with the same disclaimer that needs to come with every post about Michael Wolff, which is that Wolff is a fart-sniffer whose credibility is often suspect and who represents the absolute worst of New York media-cocktail-circuit inbreeding. But in a way, it's fitting that our least reliable president could finally find himself undone at the hands of one of our least reliable journalists.

All of Wolff's excerpts from *Fire & Fury* so far (the book was rushed into stores today) read like jayvee fan fiction. They read like a pilot that Steve Bannon himself wrote, pitched to Hollywood, and had rejected 17 times over. They read, in short, like bullshit. And yet...Wolff has audio. He's got hours upon hours of audio. Not only that, but the book has already caused legitimate upheaval in the administration, opened a permanent rift between President Trump and Bannon, AND it confirms what we have all always known to be true: that the president severely lacks the cognitive ability to do this job, and that he is surrounded at all times by a cadre of enablers, dunces, and outright thieves. As much as I wanna discredit Wolff, he got receipts and, more important, he used them. Wolff got it all. Wolff nailed them.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peg Coughlin.

-0-

'Fake News': Wide Reach but Little Impact, Study Suggests (New York Times)

By BENEDICT CAREY

Fake news evolved from seedy internet sideshow to serious electoral threat so quickly that behavioral scientists had little time to answer basic questions about it, like who was reading what, how much real news they also consumed and whether targeted fact-checking efforts ever hit a target.

Sure, surveys abound, asking people what they remember reading. But these are only as precise as the respondents' shifty recollections and subject to a malleable definition of "fake." The term "fake news" itself has evolved into an all-purpose smear, used by politicians and the president to deride journalism they don't like.

But now the first hard data on fake-news consumption has arrived. Researchers last week posted an analysis of the browsing histories of thousands of adults during the run-up to the 2016 election - a real-time picture of who viewed which fake stories, and what real news those people were seeing at the same time.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

Mike McGraw, Pulitzer-winning investigative reporter and 'real-life legend,' dies (Kansas City Star)

BY JUDY L. THOMAS, LAURA BAUER AND MATT CAMPBELL

Mike McGraw, a longtime Kansas City Star reporter whose insatiable quest to expose wrongdoing spanned four decades, prompted congressional investigations and prodded changes in government policies, died Saturday evening of cancer.



McGraw, who was 69, retired from The Star in April 2014 after a 30-year career, mostly as an investigative reporter. He then joined KCPT as a projects reporter for the Hale Center for Journalism. He also covered Midwestern agriculture and agribusiness for NPR and KCUR's Harvest Public Media.

His projects and occasional columns continued to appear in The Star.

"Mick was perhaps the best reporter in the history of The Star, and that's really saying something when you consider all the exceptional journalists who have worked here," said Mike Fannin, The Star's editor and vice president. "This I can say for sure: He was a hero to many people in this newsroom, myself included."

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Meet the Washington Bureau's Fact-Checkers

(New York Times)

By **ED WINSTEAD**

As far as Emily Cochrane is concerned, there is no Joe Biden. For Ms. Cochrane, per Times style, there is only Joseph R. Biden Jr. Ditto Michael T. Flynn, Eric H. Holder Jr., Roy S. Moore, Robert S. Mueller III, Christopher A. Wray, Michael E. Horowitz, and Donald J. Trump. The comedian Gilbert Gottfried had an old bit where he'd wander into the land of the three-name people, then escape to the land of the one-named people, before finally finding himself in the land of the people with initials in their names. Ms. Cochrane would have felt right at home. "The New York Times has a very specific style in terms of people who use middle initials," she said.

Middle initials are just the beginning. As the Washington bureau's fact-checker, Ms. Cochrane reads stories generated among the 50 reporters based there; as they and editors cobble pieces together, she looks over their shoulders to confirm names, dates, quotes and other factual points across the dozen or more articles the bureau publishes each day.

Fact-checkers, as the name implies, validate the information in stories written by colleagues. Their duties can include re-crunching arithmetic in search of errant decimals, verifying the spelling of names and ensuring Republican politicians are not called Democrats, or vice versa (a grievous error in these partisan times). Although common at magazines, where there is generally more time to review a story, in the fast-paced world of newspapers fact-checkers are so rare as to be virtually nonexistent. Peter Baker, The Times's chief White House correspondent, said that he had never before in his 30-year career come across a full-time newspaper fact-checker. (He added that copy editors do often catch mistakes.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

Today in History - January 8, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 8, the eighth day of 2018. There are 357 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

On this date:

In 1642, astronomer Galileo Galilei died in Arcetri, Italy.

In 1790, President George Washington delivered his first State of the Union address to Congress in New York.

In 1815, the last major engagement of the War of 1812 came to an end as U.S. forces defeated the British in the Battle of New Orleans, not having gotten word of the signing of a peace treaty.

In 1867, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in overriding President Andrew Johnson's veto of the District of Columbia Suffrage Bill, giving black men in the nation's capital the right to vote.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 1959, Charles de Gaulle was inaugurated as president of France's Fifth Republic.

In 1968, the Otis Redding single "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay" was released on the Volt label almost a month after the singer's death in a plane crash.

In 1976, Chinese premier Zhou Enlai, 77, died in Beijing.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1987, for the first time, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 2,000, ending the day at 2,002.25.

In 1998, Ramzi Yousef (RAHM'-zee YOO'-sef), the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced in New York to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner (LAWF'-nur) was sentenced in November 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

Ten years ago: Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton powered to victory in New Hampshire's 2008 Democratic primary in a startling upset, defeating Sen. Barack Obama and resurrecting her bid for the White House; Sen. John McCain defeated his Republican rivals to move back into contention for the GOP nomination. U.S. Army Lt. Col. Steven L. Jordan, the only officer charged in the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal, was cleared of criminal wrongdoing. Paintings by Pablo Picasso and Brazilian painter Candido Portinari, stolen from Brazil's Sao Paulo Museum in December 2007, were recovered.

Five years ago: Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Mark Kelly, launched a political action committee aimed at curbing gun violence as her Arizona hometown paused to mark the second anniversary of the deadly shooting rampage.

One year ago: A Palestinian truck driver rammed his vehicle into a crowd of Israeli soldiers, killing at least four people in one of the deadliest attacks of a year and half-long wave of violence (the driver was shot dead). "La La Land" won seven Golden Globe Awards, including best motion picture, comedy or musical, while "Moonlight" was recognized as best movie drama; Meryl Streep, accepting a lifetime achievement award, criticized President-elect Donald Trump without mentioning him by name.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Larry Storch is 95. Broadcast journalist Sander Vanocur is 90. CBS newsman Charles Osgood is 85. Singer Shirley Bassey is 81. Game show host Bob Eubanks is 80. Country-gospel singer Cristy Lane is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Gourdin (Little Anthony and the Imperials) is 77. Actress Yvette Mimieux is 76. Physicist Stephen Hawking is 76. Singer Juanita Cowart Motley (The Marvelettes) is 74. Actress Kathleen Noone is 73. Rock musician Robby Krieger (The Doors) is 72. Movie director John McTiernan is 67. Actress Harriet Sansom Harris is 63. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is 60. Singer-songwriter Ron Sexsmith is 54. Actress Maria Pitillo (pih-TIHL'-loh) is 53. Actress Michelle Forbes is 53. Singer R. Kelly is 51. Rock musician Jeff Abercrombie (Fuel) is 49. Actress Ami Dolenz is 49. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 45. Country singer Tift Merritt is 43. Actress-rock singer Jenny Lewis is 42. Actress Amber Benson is 41. Actor Scott Whyte is 40. Singer-songwriter Erin McCarley is 39. Actress Sarah Polley is 39. Actress Rachel Nichols is 38. Actress Gaby Hoffman is 36. Rock musician Disashi Lumumbo-Kasongo (dih-SAH'-shee LUHM'-uhm-boh kuh-SAHN'-goh) (Gym Class Heroes) is 35. Actor Freddie Stroma is 31.

Thought for Today: "The devil is easy to identify. He appears when you're terribly tired and makes a very reasonable request which you know you shouldn't grant." - Fiorello LaGuardia, mayor of New York City (1882-1947).

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.

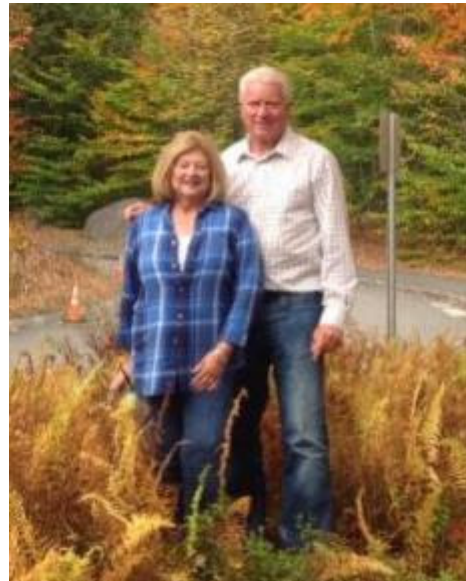
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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