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Connecting - January 09, 2018

1 message

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Tue, Jan 9, 2018 at 9:11 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

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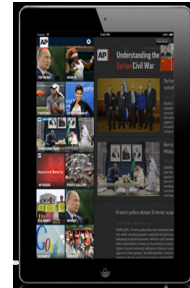
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Connecting

January 09, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Photographer or photojournalist? Hal Buell's thoughts on the use of the two terms yielded this interesting response from former AP photographer David Tenenbaum ([Email](#)) - who is now CEO of [MerlinOne](#), a digital asset management platform.

He writes:

I was an AP staff photographer from 1977-1989, and the best explanation I ever heard came, as I recall, from TIME Magazine photographer Steve Northup: "A photojournalist is an unemployed photographer".

Of course, way back then we were just transitioning from photo credits being "stf" to using our names, but we also understood that no matter how great our photo today was, tomorrow they would be wrapping fish in it. The photographers I most respected were humble and took all their satisfaction from doing a great job day in and day out, and not building their "personal brands" by using words like "photojournalist". That our colleagues recognized we had gone out and done a good job (and that we had beaten UPI in the play reports) was all that mattered.

Got your own opinion? Share it with your colleagues.

This morning, the Newseum hosts THE POWER SHIFT SUMMIT - described as a high-level gathering of invited leaders across journalism and the media industry that will focus on sexual misconduct in newsrooms and how to create meaningful and sustainable change.

It goes from 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST. **Click here** to watch it live.

Have a great day!

Paul

Heeee's back! One more time in AP's Washington bureau for Merrill Hartson



Merrill Hartson with Washington bureau chief Julie Pace. AP Photos/Carolyn Kaster.

Larry Margasak (Email) - It didn't take Merrill Hartson long to return to the Washington Bureau.

He was back on Monday for his party, a week after he retired from the bureau that he served since 1977.

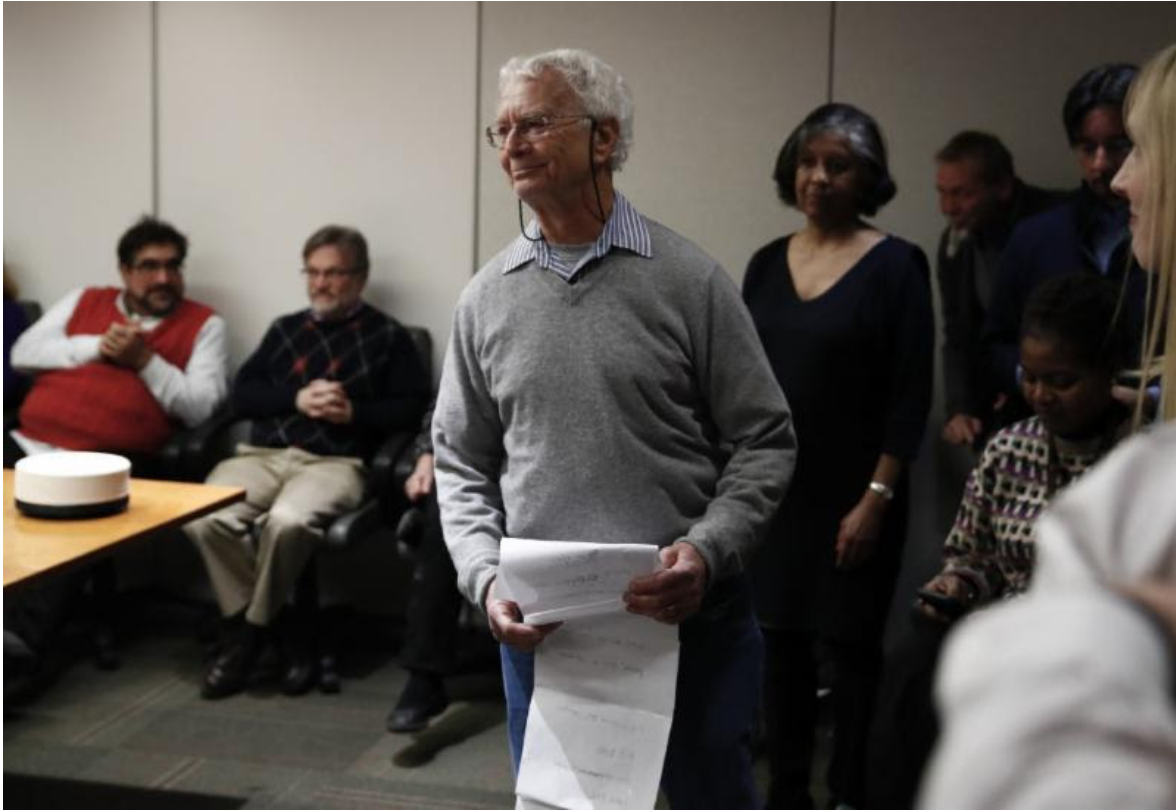
Bureau Chief Julie Pace spoke about all the positions Merrill held in the bureau. I called Merrill the AP's Jose Oquendo, who became famous by playing every position for the St. Louis Cardinals in the late 1980s. Merrill either covered, or oversaw as a manager, just about every aspect of the bureau's journalism the past four decades.



Merrill with Carole Feldman

News editor Carole Feldman related how Merrill and his twin brother Mitch looked so much alike that, during a brotherly bureau visit, she was quizzing Mitch about upcoming work _-thinking she was talking to Merrill.

Staffer Nancy Benac told of working with Merrill on presidential coverage on Martha's Vineyard, and retired news editor Matt Yancey recalled how Merrill - finishing a stint as the labor writer - taught him how to build sources among the union bosses.



Several people recalled how comforting it was, in the days before laptops, cable news and cell phones, to find Merrill on the other end of the line when reporters dictated a story from their notebooks (remember that anyone?).

Merrill ended the speeches by telling everyone how lucky he was to spend his career in such a great job.

Then the party was over, and Merrill could officially move on to the rest of his life.

Reflections on the Past and Present

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - While joining millions of other football fans watching the National Championship game Monday night, my thoughts not only viewed the present, but also quickly reflected on the past.

While the world seems to be full of incongruity, ambivalence, and generally in disorder, my thoughts reflected to the early 1950's, when Negroes, or People of Color, or Black people were down-trodden by the era of slavery and disrespect, especially in the deep South. Black people throughout the south, including, Alabama, and Georgia were victims of prejudice, hate, and segregation.

Last night Alabama faced Georgia in this championship game. What I clearly noted was that there were a large number of black players on each team. In fact, most of the heroes, those who were outstanding players, were black men. My, we have come a long way. Or, have we?

It is okay for black players to be on the big teams of the country, but have societal things changed? I remember the recent political battle in Alabama, a state of many southern states, who still inflict laws blocking voting rights of blacks. Other states use the technique of re-districting as a means of controlling voting, especially the black voters. As that Senate special election turned out, the black vote probably made the difference once they lost their fear and showed up at the polls.

But I also remember the Emmitt Till trial in Mississippi in 1955, in which a 14-year-old black boy was slain for whistling at a white woman; I remember the South's barring black people from sitting in white restaurants, or being banned to balconies of movie theaters, and churches, or having separate bathrooms, and drinking fountains. Yes, I remember Autherine Lucy, a black student, being kicked out of the University of Alabama; yes, I remember Rosa Parks being arrested in Montgomery, Ala., in 1956, for refusing to move to the black section of a public bus; yes, I remember a young preacher named Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., being arrested right after Parks, and his years-long battle for the freedom and rights of black people; yes, I remember the riots at Clinton, Tennessee, just weeks later, because the local white people didn't want their children going to school with local black children; Yes, I remember, because I covered those events And that is why watching outstanding black players being the heroes of last night's football game made me wonder about the reality of life.

Yes, it is apparently okay to mix the races, but only if the black people are outstanding football players.

Connecting mailbox

On Sulome Anderson, -17- and Hal Buell

Linda Deutsch (Email) - Some responses to a notably provocative edition of (Monday's) Connecting.

Terry Anderson's daughter is a wonderful writer and she highlights a very important change in coverage of foreign news, particularly in conflict zones. Taking chances as a free-lance reporter is too dangerous to recommend to anyone and she is realistic enough to know that organizations accepting such reports will not be as supportive as the AP was for Terry. What to do? It's a tough question. We need these reports now more than ever.

Congratulations to Sulome Anderson for shining a light on an underreported problem. I have posted her piece on Twitter and Facebook.

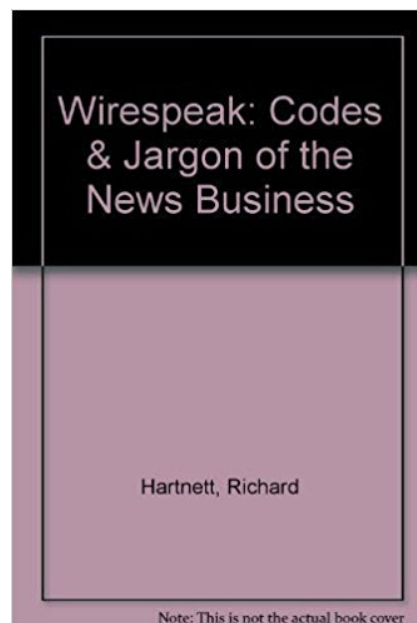
On the issue of the old number designations on the wire. I remember that -17- meant the message was going out to everyone in the bureau. There was also no mention of -95- which meant Urgent and was usually accompanied by bells. It was a step down from a Bulletin.

Hal Buell, of course, got it right on the use of photo journalist. It's the talent that counts, not the title.

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Wirespeak a good source for meaning of wire codes, history

Kent Prince (Email) - A good reference book on wire codes and history is Richard Harnett's *Wirespeak*, available through the used book catalog of abebooks.com which has an unexpectedly large supply, probably unleashed on the world when newspapers closed their copy desks and history died along with truth. Harnett has explanations for -17- (all points), as well as -95- (very urgent) and -30- (end it) and -21- (lunch). He also has a vast collection of the Phillips "shorthand" (some still used when I retired, like pox for police and POTUS for you know what).



Back in the day, I was put onto Harnett by Lou Milliner, who anchored the overnight desk in New Orleans after a career that went back to Morse and stints with UP and UPI. Harnett had an early email blog called BONG -- Burned Out Newspapercreatures Guild -- that started collecting this stuff. Milliner said he was a heavy contributor. Buy a copy. Don't let it go out of circulation.

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And more on wire codes...

Elton Byington ([Email](#)) - Regarding Joe McKnight's post in Monday's Connecting on the meaning of -17-:

Many of the wire terms had faded from view by the time I joined The AP (February 1968), but some were still used. -17- meant an all-points message. -95- was an urgent message and -97- was an urgent markets (stocks) message.

An obscure one was -69-, which meant the whole message was sent in shift mode, i.e., in figures rather than letters. To decypher these messages you had to look at a TTY keyboard, the substitute then unshifted letter for the shifted figure in the original message. Of course, if you happened to see the -69- slug coming in, you could simply whack the teletype's platen down to its unshifted position, thus saving a lot of time.

Another fairly obscure practice on the telegraph and teletype circuits was the wiresign, which identified the operator who sent the message. I inherited my wiresign from my grandfather, who had used it since World War I. I asked his permission to revive the sign (BI) on AP wires. (It's a contraction of my last name, by the way, and has nothing to do with my sex life ...)

73 -- BI0122PES JAN 9

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Memories of saving a life

Yvette Mercourt ([Email](#)) - September 2001 from my home I took a short cut to the woods to go, to the cemetery to visit my husband Claude's grave. As I walked I

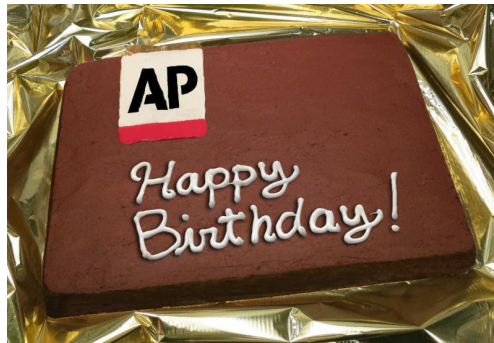
came across a couple that I knew and we exchanged words. Suddenly, the man fell down backwards. His wife thought that he was dead and she was lost. She did not react.

Thinking of my husband I left them and run as fast as I could on a road and stopped right in front of a driving school. The instructor was furious when I told him what was going on but he followed me,

When I saw that no one moved a finger, I jumped on the man's chest and I tried my best even though myself I was no more in shape. My efforts were rewarded. I just couldn't believe it. What a spectacle! HIS HEART WAS BEATING AGAIN !! HE WAS BREATHING AGAIN!!

Urgencies arrived from everywhere and they took care of him. After several surgeries he is doing well and happy to be alive.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Kevin Walsh - walshtraveling@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Richard Cooley - rjcooley9@gmail.com

Peter Honey - malsped@gmail.com

Candice Hughes - candicehughes@gmail.com

Chad Stebbins - stebbins-c@mssu.edu

Stories of interest

***'Fire and Fury' proves an often-forgotten rule:
Don't assume 'we're off the record'*** (Washington Post)

By MARGARET SULLIVAN

Michael Wolff says he didn't exactly trick President Trump while he was researching his scathing overnight bestseller, "Fire and Fury."

"Whether he realized it was an interview or not, I don't know, but it certainly was not off the record," Wolff said Friday on NBC's "Today" show, describing his

conversation with Trump, who claims he gave the infamous author "zero access."

As to whether he misled anyone about what he was doing hanging around the West Wing, Wolff's words may go down in journalism history: "I said whatever was necessary to get the story."

Wolff, of course, has a reputation for "busting embargoes and burning sources by putting off-the-record comments on the record," as one assessment put it.

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

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Gannett fires top Free Press editor following Twitter controversy (Burlington Free Press)

Denis Finley, editor of the Burlington Free Press, left the company Monday evening.



Finley became embroiled in a community controversy last week based on a series of tweets about a Vermont proposal to add a third gender option to driver licenses. Upon review, it was determined that Finley had violated the company's social media guidelines on a number of occasions.

Gannett leaders fired Finley on Monday evening after meeting with him.

Randy Lovely, vice president for community news for the USA TODAY NETWORK, said the company's journalists strive for accurate and unbiased reporting, and Finley's tweets failed to adhere to the company's code of conduct and ethics policy.

"We encourage our journalists to engage in a meaningful dialogue on social media, but it's important that the conversation adhere to our overarching values of fairness, balance and objectivity," Lovely said.

Read more [here](#).

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BBC's China editor resigns in protest over gender pay gap (Guardian)

By Graham Ruddick and Nicola Slawson

One of the most senior journalists at the BBC has resigned from her post because of the gender pay gap at the corporation, accusing it of a "secretive and illegal" pay culture.

In a significant escalation of the pay row at the BBC, Carrie Gracie said she was resigning from her position as China editor while accusing the corporation of breaking equality laws and saying she did not trust management to deal with the problem.

Gracie said there was a "crisis of trust" at the BBC and that it was "not living up to its stated values of trust, honesty and accountability".

Gracie has worked for the BBC for 30 years and is scheduled to be a co-presenter of the Today programme on Radio 4 on Monday morning. She is widely regarded as one of the BBC's most talented journalists. Gracie said she wanted to return to her old post in the BBC newsroom "where I expect to be paid equally".

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - January 9, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2018. There are 356 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew from Philadelphia to Woodbury, New Jersey.

On this date:

In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the Star of the West, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire.

In 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended after eight months with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

In 1931, Bobbi Trout and Edna May Cooper broke an endurance record for female aviators as they returned to Mines Field in Los Angeles after flying a Curtiss Robin monoplane continuously for 122 hours and 50 minutes.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing on the shores of Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines as the Battle of Luzon got underway, resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat of Communist imperialism.

In 1968, the Surveyor 7 space probe made a soft landing on the moon, marking the end of the American series of unmanned explorations of the lunar surface.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported autobiography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

In 1987, the White House released a January 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 1993, the two owners of a fast food restaurant in Palatine, Illinois, and five employees were found shot and stabbed to death. (Two suspects were arrested in May 2002; both were convicted in separate trials and sentenced to life in prison.)

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, on his first visit to Israel while in office, warned Iran of "serious consequences" if it again harassed U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. military reported nine American soldiers were killed in the first two days of a new offensive to root out al-Qaida in Iraq fighters holed up in districts north of Baghdad. Johnny Grant, the honorary mayor of Hollywood, died in Los Angeles at age 84.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden heard personal stories of gun violence from representatives of victims groups and gun-safety organizations at the White House as he undertook to draft the Obama administration's response to the mass shooting at a Connecticut elementary school. The Seastreak Wall Street, a commuter ferry, made a hard landing into a Manhattan pier, injuring 85 people

(investigators later cited operator error). No one was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame; for the second time in four decades, baseball writers failed to give any player the 75 percent required for induction to Cooperstown, sending a firm signal that stars of the Steroids Era would be held to a different standard.

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump appointed his influential son-in-law Jared Kushner as a White House senior adviser. The outgoing Obama administration blacklisted five Russians as the feud over U.S. election hacking escalated. Master Sgt. Debra Clayton, an Orlando, Florida, police officer, was fatally shot in the parking lot of a Wal-mart store while trying to arrest a man suspected of killing his pregnant ex-girlfriend (the suspect has since been arrested). In college football's first national championship rematch, No. 3 Clemson took down top-ranked [Alabama 35-31](#).

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Krantz is 90. Football Hall of Famer Bart Starr is 84. Actress K. Callan is 82. Folk singer Joan Baez is 77. Rockabilly singer Roy Head is 77. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 74. Actor John Doman is 73. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 68. Singer Crystal Gayle is 67. Actor J.K. Simmons is 63. Actress Imelda Staunton is 62. Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberto Menchu is 59. Rock musician Eric Erlandson is 55. Actress Joely Richardson is 53. Rock musician Carl Bell (Fuel) is 51. Actor David Costabile is 51. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 51. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 51. Actress-director Joey Lauren Adams is 50. Actress Angela Bettis is 45. Actor Omari Hardwick is 44. Roots singer-songwriter Hayes Carll is 42. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 40. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, is 36. Pop-rock musician Drew Brown (OneRepublic) is 34. Rock-soul singer Paolo Nutini is 31. Actress Nina Dobrev is 29. Actor Basil Eidenbenz is 25. Actress Kerris Dorsey is 20. Actor Tyree Brown is 14.

Thought for Today: "Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark." - Agnes de Mille, American dancer-choreographer (1905-1993).

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.

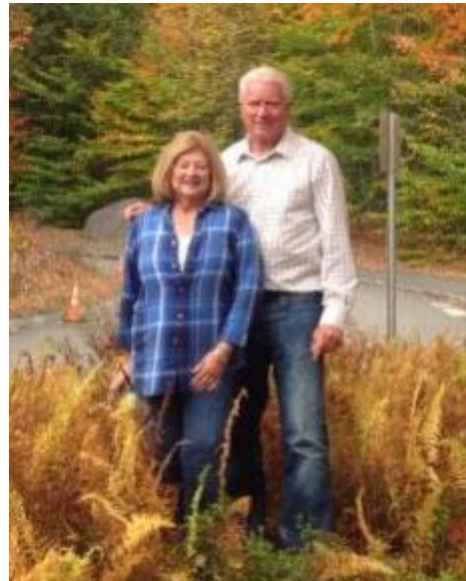
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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