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# Connecting - January 10, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Jan 10, 2018 at 9:09 AM

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# Connecting

January 10, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Memorial services will be held this Saturday, January 13, for **Susan Linnee** in New York - and 7,361 miles away, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Linnee, who rose from a radio stringer in Latin America to become a groundbreaking Associated Press bureau chief in Spain and Kenya, died in early November at age 75.

**Laura Heaton (Email)** - shared that in light of the many years Susan Linnee lived in Kenya and her vast circle of friends here, a few of us are putting together plans for a gathering in Nairobi on Saturday, January 13th, the same day many of you will be together in New York.



We'll gather at 5 pm in Lavington. Michelle and Thom Wallace have kindly offered to host at their home: 66 Korosho Road, near Valley Arcade in Kunde Estate/Thompson Estate. We'll play the slideshow of photos Susan's brother Paul created and share stories and a toast to Susan.

Food and drink contributions welcome, but we'll have plenty on hand as well. Please let us know if you're planning to attend (ideally by Thursday) so that we know how many people to expect.

In New York, a Celebration of Life honoring Susan will be held from 6-8 p.m. EST at the loft/residence of dear friend Hanne Tierney, [133 Wooster Street \(Corner of Prince & Wooster in Manhattan\)](#), New York City, 10012. Hanne's phone number if you need directions: [347-534-6776](#).

There will be no formal presentation, but there will be a slide show/tribute running. Impromptu comments/tributes/toasts are welcome.

Thanks to Jeff Baenen for sharing.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Connecting mailbox

## ***No qualms being identified as a photojournalist***

**Cliff Schiappa** ([Email](#)) - The word 'photojournalism' is not a recent (past couple decades) phenomenon. The word was coined by Cliff Edom back in the '40s when he started the photo program at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He gave it a very simple definition: "Words and pictures working together." I don't know if he was the one who swapped the 'm' for a 't' to describe a professional, but I have no qualms being identified that way. I made a point of getting accurate and plentiful information to write captions that were "clear, concise, and cogent" (to quote my 8th grade social studies teacher) which is one way to ensure that words and pictures were working together in the AP photo report.

Also, it's a simple way of describing what type of photographer I am/was. With everyone thinking they are photographers with their cell phones, it's nice to have a bit of delineation to rise above the fray.

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## ***On Gannett editor fired over his tweets***

**Bill Kaczor** ([Email](#)) - The Gannett story in Tuesday's Connecting about a Gannett editor being fired over his tweets about a state proposal to add a third gender option for driver licenses is another example of Gannett's opaqueness when it comes to reporting on itself. The story gives no indication of what was wrong with his tweets, only that they "failed to adhere to the company's code of conduct and ethics policy."

I've noticed this trend particularly in corrections published in Gannett newspapers. They typically admit they made a mistake, but do not disclose what it was.

Here's an example from USA Today's website:

A prior version of this story misstated the status of Mike Flynn's legal case. He pleaded guilty to charges of lying to the FBI.

So, what was the misstatement?

This less-than-forthcoming approach does nothing to help a news organization's credibility. I much prefer AP's policy of stating what the mistake was as part of the

correction, or "corrective" in AP-speak.

There is some hope, however, because Gannett's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel apparently isn't going along with the company policy. If it had, the correction featured in the CJR "Lower Case" article in the Jan. 5 Connecting about confusing Ringo Starr and Jim Ringo would have gone something like this:

A story in Friday's Journal Sentinel on Jerry Kramer being nominated to the Pro Football Hall of Fame incorrectly identified a Packers center. He was Jim Ringo.

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## ***Recalling Horace Court***

**Joe McKnight** ([Email](#)) - in a note to Connecting colleague Eldon Court: Your Dad was a great man with the camera. He was still using a Speed Graphic when I joined AP at AX in 1951, but it was soon after that when AP began switching to the versatile 35mm. He was a good man to work with. I recall one Sunday morning in mid '50s when someone blew the side off a synagogue and CoB Lew Hawkins told me to call Horace. He grumbled a bit at being called at 4:30 a.m. on a Sunday, but AP had only pictures for a full news cycle. Even the Monday a.m. Constitution used his pictures. I suppose there are still a few ham TT operators playing with antique equipment but I don't think anyone in civilized countries use teletypes any more.

I think almost all of the Atlanta staff of the 1950s have passed on. I think Kathryn Johnson and myself are only editorial staff left. I hear frequently from Arlon Southhall. He settled in North Georgia, close enough to make easy trips to Atlanta.

Where are you living in retirement? I ended up at Columbus, OH; a good family town; have three sons, four grandsons and one great-grandson. Life is good.

And **Eldon Court** ([Email](#)) response: Right: TT & TTS operators are going away fast.

My Dad, Horace Cort, photographer Atlanta, required, by the promise of getting me a car at age 16, that if I would take typing in high school that he would buy me a automobile. I did; He did; and my first transfer out of Atlanta, from being a copy boy; was to move to Montgomery as a TT operator, and pretty quickly a TTS operator.

Didn't last long though, as I was interested in mechanical things; and quickly moved to NY AP, Times Square shop, to move over to technician

My career began about 1953 and still going as retiree. What's that 65 years and counting?

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## ***Good to hear Sulome Anderson following in dad's career path***

**Dave Tomlin** ([Email](#)) - Wonderful to see Sulome Anderson following her dad's path, even though it has narrowed, steepened and darkened.

Feel the need to point out that although the 80s may now look like good old days by comparison, the overseas staff in those years sometimes complained bitterly that headquarters managed them with sub-optimal resources and insight, and that U.S. editors underplayed their work. Plus ca change...

## **Connecting profile - Peter Honey**



**Peter Honey** ([Email](#)) - Started journalism as a general reporter on The Friend newspaper, Bloemfontein, in 1973 after goofing around with BA/Journo courses at Rhodes University, Grahamstown. Worked the next eight years as staff and bureau reporter for various newspapers around South Africa. Gained dubious fame for arrest and three weeks detention under security law in the Transkei homeland for refusing to name sources of a story (my newspaper won court order for my release; sources remain secure). Posted to Namibia as bureau chief for Argus Africa News Service (SA's only dedicated continental reporting network), which also brought freelance work for various news organizations, incl. Time, Voice of America, occasional AP, and journals/publications (Africa Contemporary Record). In 1985 I joined The Star, Johannesburg, switching to Business Day, with reporting strings also for CBS News, Baltimore Sun, and LA Times (opinion

only) on the spreading township and political unrest. In 1986 The Baltimore Sun hired me as its bureau chief in Johannesburg, from which vantage I reported on an arc of history, including the release of Mandela, independence of Namibia and early stages of transition from apartheid rule. The Sun posted me to its Washington Bureau in 1990, where I had spells covering the White House, Capitol Hill and the Pentagon (Op. Desert Storm). The lure of a democratizing SA drew me back to Johannesburg where I freelanced a bit for The Sun and other media before joining the weekly Financial Mail fulltime as senior editor in 1993. Through the next 15 years I helped reposition the magazine for the Internet age and exercised a variety of editorial and reporting functions. One of these was the security beat, which led a forum of big-business leaders to ask me in 2007 to help run their national program of anticrime assistance to the government. I accepted on a one-year secondment from the Financial Mail. When that ended, my wife and I both wanted a change of scene. She had the job offer and we decided to return to Washington. I am now a contractual writer/editor for The World Bank in Washington and expect to complete my first novel (a whodunit set in Africa) soon.

## More on Wirespeak and those old codes

**Scott Charton** ([Email](#)) - Thanks so much to Kent Prince for the book recommendation on "Wirespeak" - and I hope he is getting a commission. When I immediately clicked through to the bookseller's site and reserved a "good used" copy, by the time I registered it was taken. Fortunately they had several copies on hand at that moment, or did. Looks like a fascinating read!

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**Mike Feinsilber** ([Email](#)) - Speaking of "Wirespeak," (in Tuesday's issue), here's an AP story about it that I wrote 20 years ago. AP moved it without a blink even if it was about the opsn.

## New Book Spells Out '30' in Newspeak

Language: Wire services once employed truncated language mixing cablese, Morse Code shorthand and 'wirespeak.' UP veteran decided to resurrect phrases so they would not be lost for good.

**September 28, 1997|MIKE FEINSILBER | ASSOCIATED PRESS**

WASHINGTON - It is the 1950s, and in Tokyo and New York two guys in white shirts, ties undone, are communicating electronically with the latest technology.

"SOS ETWIFE HEADS TOKYOWARD SMORNING SANSTOP," New York tells Tokyo. "MUCHLY APC EYEBALL ARRIVAL. URGENTEST NEED THUMBSUCKER CUM ART."

These were marching orders for the fellow in Tokyo. Put into English, the message said, "The secretary of state and his wife will fly nonstop to Tokyo this morning. We need you to be on hand for their arrival, but first we urgently need a news analysis and pictures to go with it."

Tokyo sighs and replies with a word: "ONWORKING."

Years ago, this imaginary exchange might have been plausible among journalists (a fancy word that they'd probably shun). It is written in vanishing languages--partly "cablese," partly the Phillips Code, itself a shorthand version of the Morse Code, and partly in "wirespeak," the jargon that Associated Press and its erstwhile strongest competitor, United Press, devised for internal communication--and to save money.

Now, quickly, before they vanish from memory the way they've pretty well vanished from use, Richard Harnett has compiled the catchwords that the wire services once used and put them into a self-published book, "Wirespeak: Codes and Jargons of the News Business." He printed 500 copies and figures he'll be lucky to sell half of them.

Harnett, 71, is retired from 36 years at United Press and its successor, United Press International. He started as a wire filer--someone who decided which stories reached Western papers--and wound up San Francisco bureau chief, and until recently was the energy behind Ninety-Five, a newsletter for UPI veterans that is crowded with nostalgia and obituaries.

In an interview, Harnett, son of a traveling dry-goods salesman in North Dakota, said these codes were used as much for esprit as for saving words.

"If you could use them, it meant you were in the know," he said.

One chapter is on the Morse Code, devised by Samuel Finley Breese Morse, who invented a way of interrupting an electric current in a controlled manner to send short or long pulses. Morse came up with 46 combinations of dots and dashes--one

combination for each letter, one for each number, and 10 for punctuation marks and the like.

Trained telegraphers were at either end of the wire, one to translate words into dots and dashes and transmit them; the other, equipped with earphones and a typewriter, at the other end to reformulate the dots and dashes into words.

Cablese, subject of another chapter, was a money-saving code employed when it cost as much as 50 cents a word to send a message abroad by undersea cable. Cable companies permitted the combining of words--as long as they didn't go beyond 15 letters--to save money. Thus "Tokyoward." Thus 'antiauthorities" for "against the authorities."

Giving away secrets no longer kept, Harnett reprints samples of the codes both AP and UP employed for confidential messages. The codes were printed in codebooks, kept locked and available only to top brass.

In AP's code, "levit," "liban" or "liber" stood for the competition, UP. And UP's names for AP were "castor," "henagar" and "wingate," all terms the origins of which are lost.

The rank and file had their own nicknames for the competition. AP used "opsn," standing for "opposition"; UP used "Rox," said to be a play on the last name of Melville E. Stone, who for over two decades was AP's general manager.

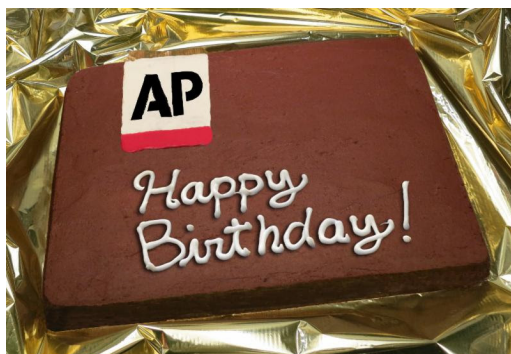
Harnett's longest discussion, four pages, concerns "30," the symbol some writers still put at the end of their stories to mean "the end."

Its origins have long been the subject of after-hours discussion among news people, but Harnett leans to the most accepted theory--that "30" was borrowed from a telegraphers' code adopted by Western Union in 1859. In that code, many numbers were assigned a term: "73" meant best regards; "95" preceded an urgent message; and "1" meant very important.

Now, of course, computers and satellites allow the virtually instantaneous transmission of stories and pictures. Harnett had to hurry to capture a chunk of journalistic lore, probably just before it reached "30."

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





To

Robert Burns - [roburns22@gmail.com](mailto:roburns22@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Mallory Saleson - [malsale55@gmail.com](mailto:malsale55@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***Is Facebook preparing to open up on fake news?*** (Poilitico)

By JASON SCHWARTZ

After months of criticism over their refusal to share data on whether efforts to halt the spread of false news are working, Facebook officials told POLITICO they may be ready to slowly open up.

Tessa Lyons, a product manager at Facebook, said the company has invited representatives from the fact-checking groups with whom it has partnered to its Menlo Park, California, headquarters in early February to discuss, in part, what information could finally be shared. Going ahead and doing so would represent a major shift for the social media giant.

While Facebook is unlikely to fully throw open the vault, the meeting could help thaw what has been, at times, a tense relationship with the fact-checking groups - FactCheck.org, PolitiFact, Snopes, The Weekly Standard, and The Associated Press in the United States - it began enlisting shortly after the 2016 election to sweep the platform for misinformation.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## ***Bannon to exit Breitbart News Network after break with Trump***

**By ZEKE MILLER and JONATHAN LEMIRE**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon is stepping down as chairman of Breitbart News Network after a public break with President Donald Trump.

Breitbart announced Tuesday that Bannon would step down as executive chairman of the conservative news site, less than a week after Bannon's explosive criticisms of Trump and his family were published in a new book.

A report on the Breitbart website quotes Bannon saying, "I'm proud of what the Breitbart team has accomplished in so short a period of time in building out a world-class news platform."

Trump lashed out at Bannon for comments made in Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House," which questions the president's fitness for office. As Trump aides called him disloyal and disgraceful, the president branded his former chief strategist on Twitter as "Sloppy Steve," an apparent reference to Bannon's often unkempt appearance, and declared that "he lost his mind" when he was pushed out of the White House last August.



Read more [here](#).

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## ***Sports Illustrated is now reduced to a biweekly publication*** (Poynter)

By RICK EDMONDS

Longtime Sports Illustrated subscribers were in for a surprise as they thumbed through the Dec. 25 issue - not so much a Christmas treat; unfortunately, more like a lump of coal. In 2018, an inconspicuous Editors' Letter announced, the magazine will publish only every other week (plus of course the Swimsuit Issue).

Editor Chris Stone's letter tiptoed to the big reveal:

"Sports Illustrated has been a weekly staple for more than 63 years, delivering the best sports journalism with near metronomic regularity. That will continue to be the case, but beginning next month the metronome clicks a little less often."

Don't despair, Stone told readers in his letter and me in a subsequent interview. Those fewer issues will have more of the long-form stories that SI sees as its strength, and more photos better displayed on higher quality paper.

Read more [here](#).

# Today in History - January 10, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2018. There are 355 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

### On this date:

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (veh-SY') went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London. The first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals transmitted by the U.S. Army Signal Corps were bounced off the lunar surface.

In 1948, future country music star Loretta Lynn (nee Webb) married Oliver "Mooney" Lynn; she was 15 at the time, he was 21 (the marriage lasted until Oliver Lynn's death in 1996).

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1978, the Soviet Union launched two cosmonauts aboard the Soyuz 27 capsule for a rendezvous with the Salyut 6 space laboratory.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, attending a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, announced completion of an agreement to remove all long-range nuclear missiles from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

In 2000, America Online announced it was buying Time Warner for \$162 billion (the merger, which proved disastrous, ended in December 2009).

Ten years ago: The United States lodged a formal diplomatic protest with Iran over an incident in which Iranian speedboats harassed U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. President George W. Bush, visiting Israel and the Palestinian-controlled West Bank, said a Mideast peace pact would require "painful political concessions by both sides." John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic presidential nominee, endorsed Barack Obama's White House bid. Maila Nurmi, whose "Vampira" TV persona pioneered the spooky-yet-sexy Goth aesthetic, died in Los Angeles at age 85.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama nominated White House chief of staff Jack Lew to be treasury secretary. Vice President Joe Biden met with representatives from the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun groups as he worked on recommendations to curb gun violence. Major League Baseball announced it would test for human growth hormone throughout the regular season and increase efforts to detect abnormal levels of testosterone.

One year ago: An unrepentant Dylann Roof was sentenced to death in Charleston, South Carolina, for fatally shooting nine black church members during a Bible study session, becoming the first person ordered executed for a federal hate crime. President Barack Obama bid farewell to the nation in an emotional speech in Chicago. Singer Buddy Greco, 90, died in Las Vegas.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 83. Blues artist Eddy Clearwater is 83. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Willie McCovey is 80. Movie director Walter Hill is 78. Actor William Sanderson is 74. Singer Rod Stewart is 73. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 70. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 69. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 67. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 66. Singer Pat Benatar is 65. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 65. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 63. Singer Shawn Colvin is 62. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 59. Actor Evan Handler is 57. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 54. Actress Trini Alvarado is 51. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 40. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 39. Actress Sarah Shahi is 38. Presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner is 37. American roots singer Valerie June is 36.

***Thought for Today: "History must speak for itself. A historian is content if he has been able to shed more light." - William L. Shirer (SHY'-rur), American author and journalist (1904-1993).***

## 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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