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## Connecting - February 06, 2018

1 message

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Tue, Feb 6, 2018 at 8:19 AM

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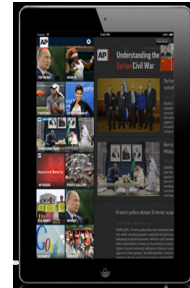
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# Connecting

February 06, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

We mourn the loss of **Letty Bria** - the wife of longtime colleague **George Bria**. She died January 25 at her daughter's home outside of Philadelphia.

Letty was 101 when she died - the same age that George attained before his death in March 2017. George was a distinguished journalist with the AP who spent part of his early career as a war correspondent covering the Italian Campaign of World War II, reporting on the surrender of German forces and witnessing the corpse of recently deceased Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. He later became the chief AP correspondent at the United Nations and retired in 1981.

Our colleague **Valerie Komor** was close to both, and she remembers her friend in the lead story of today's issue.

I am happy to report to you that **Mark Mittelstadt** will take the reins as Connecting editor through the rest of this week while I am away. So please send along your stories to Mark at [markmitt71@yahoo.com](mailto:markmitt71@yahoo.com)

Read today's Final Word for word on a new Connecting series - **your pets**. An unabashed attempt by your editor to build readership!

Finally, my latest Spotlight column in my hometown Fort Dodge Messenger appeared Sunday. It tells the story of Bill Goodman, who overcame tough beginnings to be a success in sports, business and life. [Click here](#) for a link.

Paul

## Letty Bria lived vivaciously, generously, lovingly



**Above: A Woman Seated beside a Vase of Flowers (Madame Paul Valpinçon), by Edgar Degas, 1865. Metropolitan Museum of Art. At right, Letty celebrating her 100th birthday at the River Club in Manhattan, Dec. 3, 2016. Photo by Valerie Komor.**



**Valerie Komor** ([Email](#)) - Arlette "Letty" Philippous Brauer Bria, who died on Jan. 25 at her daughter's home in Philadelphia, lived vivaciously, generously, and lovingly. Letty became a close friend as soon as I met her, when she was a mere 93. Although decades separated us in time, we collided in space. We felt we had found in the other a "secret sharer," a kindred spirit.

Steeped as she was in the French language and culture (the language of her early schooling in Istanbul and her mother's novels), Letty always put me in mind of Degas' 1865 portrait of a lady seated next to an enormous vase of flowers. There flickers in both faces a realism and a knowingness, alongside a love for beauty in all its forms.

Letty loved roses, and raised them in her garden in Pound Ridge, New York, while her husband, George Bria (the former AP newsman whom she married in 2000), tended the vegetables and herbs. She loved literature (as did George), and especially the works of the French writer Colette. Letty was a fine pianist and played all of her life until she could not. She told a story of walking down a street in Greenwich Village with her mother, shortly after they had arrived from Istanbul, and hearing the strains of a piano wafting from an open brownstone window. Letty, still a child, decided to knock at the door, and the lady who answered became her piano teacher. That was Letty---all of her life. Approach closed doors. Trust your instincts. Dream large.

Letty, I will keep dreaming. And I shall miss you.

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Condolences may be sent to Letty's daughter, Ms. Janet Weinberger, [729 Glengarry Rd., Philadelphia PA 19118](#).

[Click here](#) for her obituary in The New York Times.

# Connecting mailbox

## ***Delighted to see Don Carson - and, oh yes, get off the Overnight Desk***

**Carl Leubsdorf** ([Email](#)) - I was very sorry to hear of the death of my former AP colleague, Don Carson. When he arrived in the Washington bureau in January 1965, I was one of the most delighted staff members to see him. Not that I knew him, but he was my ticket off the job as last man on the bureau's Overnight Desk, which I had occupied for 15 months. That's the shift where you worked from 10:30 to 7 am four nights and on Saturday night from 1-9 am. Not great for someone with five small children. Don stayed a year, and decided he would be happier in Tucson than on the Overnight Desk in Washington. He was a great guy and a good colleague and he went on to a wonderful career at the University of Arizona.

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## ***Communication between photo, news staffs is vital***

**Lyle Price** ([Email](#)) - offers his ideas to a study the AP is making in its photo operations, outlined in a memo from executive editor Sally Buzbee published in Connecting last week:

1. Communication between photo and news staffs as to what each is up to ought to be vital. It was always stressed in the three Cal bureaus where I worked, San Fran, LA, and Sacramento. (FX, LA, SC, in my day). But I am less confident that it took place as thoroughly as urged. One big factor: Except at SC, photos had their own office with techs and wirephoto equipment, so it took going out one door and through another to see staffers face to face. As a reporter, city editor and general desk editor, I commonly checked in person with the photo dept across the hall both in FX and LA. That didn't work the other way all that much; nor do I know how often other editors went to check. A survey by HQ as to the frequency of such contacts in the past and/or memo suggesting by whom and when there should be daily contact might be helpful.

2. Here are two examples of the difference that communication between the writer of a story and the photographer assigned to do art on the story can work to the benefit

of both (or at least one):

At the riots that involved calling out the California National Guard in the community next to the University of California at Santa Barbara in the early 1970s, I think it was, I was the night city desk editor and had sent a staffer to the scene. There were no cell phones so I couldn't readily get hold of the staffer when I got wind somewhere of a report that the Guard had rifles with bayonets atop them. I called a NG colonel in charge, who gave me a negative on which didn't seem at all hedged to me. So before I had yet heard from the staffer a couple of hours away by car, the photographer returning from the scene plops some photos on my desk--including uniformed young men holding rifles at port arms with bayonets at the end. When I got the colonel back on the line and said I thought he'd told me no bayonets, he replied that they weren't being "deployed" -- which from my Army days I guessed meant they weren't stabbing anyone with them! The colonel rather glumly affirmed that was the case. Credit the photographer for clueing me in immediately and with inarguable evidence on that matter!

In the Berkeley Free Speech Movement of 1965 which I wrote the am and pm stories for AP on every shift I worked during that long, long protest, I did almost everything by phone working with stringers and phone contacts I had with the UC Cal administration and the FSM people --- but the FX photo bureau staffed it on I think a daily basis and always with my pal Bob Klein (we both mortgaged our souls to live on boats at marinas close to each other). Every day that Klein got back, I trotted over to the photo office to pick his brains and he was always helpful, as was his art. So there is a case when a photo staffer can be the eyes and ears for a reporter.

PS: I unrecall any memo that ever stated how frequently and just how communications between photos and the news side ought to work. I know I made a daily pass by the photo office no matter what desk or story I was assigned to. Maybe it was their storytelling ability and good coffee.

(I was with AP all in Calif from the mid 1960s to mid 1970s, a dozen years, but was sent to help out in Las Vegas, Helena, Mont., and San Diego for two days to a week over the years. I also visited a number of bureaus in the West and New York a number of times, but have no particular knowledge re photo operations at those places.

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***Lunch atop a skyscraper***



**Hank Ackerman (Email)** - My college roommate passed this along, and I was very pleased to see it as the structure, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, is across the street from the former AP building where I and thousands of AP folks worked over the years. I thought it was interesting particularly since the pictures were newspaper pictures...and possibly picked up by AP, but maybe only an archival search might reveal the answer. In any case, given your recent postings about photographers, who much like these construction workers were unsung, I thought you might wish to pass along the YouTube link to your Connecting colleagues.

[Click here](#) to view.

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***Philadelphia Inquirer's press in action with the good Super Bowl news***





**Jay Ajayi wins Super Bowl. Reads Inquirer.**

**Mark Mittelstadt** ([Email](#)) - Maria Panaritis, an AP alum (Trenton and Philadelphia) and now a staff writer at the Philadelphia Inquirer, shared this video on her Facebook page this morning with the note:

So check out this video of what it was like at The Inquirer's colossal printing plant last night. I saw them hanging the flat-screen TV on Friday afternoon....by last night, the guys were watching the game -- and then slipping plates onto the presses with the Super Bowl headlines and stories being pushed to them by our reporting staff. You CANNOT say this isn't cool.

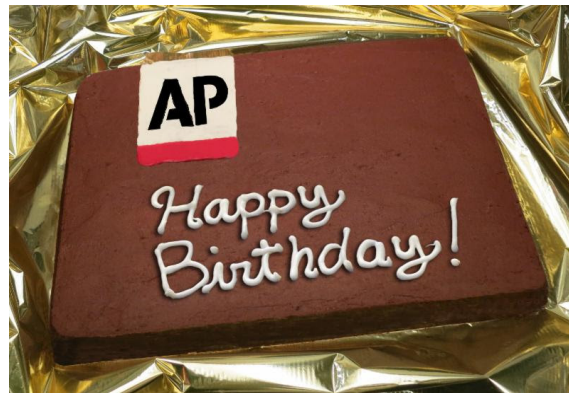
[Click here](#) to view.

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## ***New book, Kidnapped by Columbus, now available***

**Marc Wilson** ([Email](#)) - My book, *Kidnapped by Columbus*, is now available on Amazon.com, and soon through most bookstores. *Kidnapped* is an historical fiction account of Christopher Columbus return to Spain when kidnapped six Native Americans to show Queen Isabella that he reached what he thought were the outer islands of India (hence the name West Indies and Indians). The narrator is a 14-year-old Taino Native American who also meets King Ferdinand, Catherine of Aragon, Grand Inquisitor Tomas Torquemada, and Prince Juan. He also becomes involved in intrigues surrounding the Spanish Inquisition, the expulsion of all Jews from Spain, and the decision by Pope Borgia to give much of the Western Hemisphere to Spain.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

Art Loomis - [artloomis37@gmail.com](mailto:artloomis37@gmail.com)

## **Welcome to Connecting**





**Robert Bellafiore - [bob@stanhope-ny.com](mailto:bob@stanhope-ny.com)**

**James Rowley - [rowleyjim9@gmail.com](mailto:rowleyjim9@gmail.com)**

## Stories of interest

### ***Las Vegas Review-Journal killed story in 1998 about Steve Wynn sex misconduct claims***

(Review-Journal)

**By Arthur Kane and Ramona Giwargis**

Claims that casino developer Steve Wynn sexually harassed employees could have surfaced years ago but the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 1998 stopped publication of a story that would have brought the issue to light. After killing the article, the newspaper ordered the reporter who wrote it to delete it from the newspaper's computer system.

The Review-Journal's decision came after Wynn's attorneys met with the reporter and the newspaper paid for lie-detector tests for two women who alleged a culture of harassment at the Wynn-owned Mirage.

Allegations about Wynn's conduct appeared in a Wall Street Journal story last month. Similar claims were made in a court filing in 1998.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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## ***The Times Asks Court to Unseal Documents on Surveillance of Carter Page*** (New York Times)

By CHARLIE SAVAGE and ADAM GOLDMAN

WASHINGTON - The New York Times is asking the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to unseal secret documents related to the wiretapping of Carter Page, the onetime Trump campaign adviser at the center of a disputed memo written by Republican staffers on the House Intelligence Committee.

The motion is unusual. No such wiretapping application materials apparently have become public since Congress first enacted the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act in 1978. That law regulates electronic spying on domestic soil - the interception of phone calls and emails - undertaken in the name of monitoring suspected spies and terrorists, as opposed to wiretapping for investigating ordinary criminal suspects.

Normally, even the existence of such material is a closely guarded secret. While applications for criminal wiretaps often eventually become public, the government has refused to disclose the contents of applications for intelligence wiretaps - even to defendants who are later prosecuted on the basis of information derived from them.

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

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## ***The Alt-Weekly Crisis Hits Nashville. And Democracy.*** (New York Times)

By MARGARET RENKL

NASHVILLE - No one was shocked last week when SouthComm Inc., a Nashville-based media company, announced it was selling The Nashville Scene, its flagship alternative newsweekly. SouthComm had already sold or was in the process of selling its newspapers in Atlanta, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Tampa and Washington. And alt-weeklies around the country have been declining for years.

Gone are The Baltimore City Paper, The Philadelphia City Paper, The Boston Phoenix. Last year, here in Tennessee, The Knoxville Mercury shut down. Also last year, Atlanta's Creative Loafing laid off all but one person on the entire editorial staff. Even The Village Voice, the alt-weekly that invented alt-weeklies, now survives only online.

Seeing The Scene on the auction block might not be surprising, but it's still heartbreaking. In a shortsighted effort to make the paper more appealing to buyers, SouthComm laid off some passionate, immensely talented journalists and seriously overburdened those who remained. Some of them are people I know because I once wrote for The Scene, and I have spent more than 20 years watching the difference this newspaper has made to my city.

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

## The Final Word

*All about your pets*



Ollie's Shredding LLC started the pet trend in Connecting - and while our dog is not getting rich over his favorite habit, it sparked the idea in his master (dream on, he's in charge!) for a Connecting series on your pets. Those of us who once worked in the newspaper business know nothing sells better to readers than pets!

Former Kansas City and Topeka newsman **Dick Lipsey** leads off the series, in this photo of his wife **Lynne** and their golden-doodle puppy, 17 weeks old, near their home in the Rockies of Colorado.

Love to hear from you with your favorite pet photo.

## Today in History - February 5, 2018



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2018. There are 328 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 6, 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, the United States won official recognition and military support from France with the signing of a Treaty of Alliance in Paris.

### **On this date:**

In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.



In 1922, Cardinal Archille Ratti was elected pope; he took the name Pius XI.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1943, a Los Angeles jury acquitted actor Errol Flynn of three counts of statutory rape.

In 1952, Britain's King George VI, 56, died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his 25-year-old elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1968, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Grenoble, France, by French President Charles de Gaulle.

In 1973, Dixy Lee Ray was appointed by President Richard Nixon to be the first woman to head the Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1987, Wall Street Journal reporter Gerald Seib (syb) was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings.

In 1993, tennis Hall of Famer and human rights advocate Arthur Ashe died in New York at age 49.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40. Carl Wilson, a founding member of The Beach Boys, died in Los Angeles at age 51.

Ten years ago: At least 57 deaths were reported after two days of tornadoes that plowed across Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. The Bush White House defended the use of the interrogation technique known as waterboarding, saying it was legal - not torture as critics argued - and had saved American lives. The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

Five years ago: The U.S. Postal Service proposed eliminating Saturday mail delivery, an announcement that immediately drew protests from some lawmakers. At least nine people were killed by a tsunami that smashed into villages in the Solomon Islands, flattening dozens of homes in the South Pacific island chain. Toy maker Hasbro Inc. announced that Monopoly fans had voted online to add a cat token to the board game, replacing the iron.

One year ago: President Donald Trump accused the media of deliberately minimizing coverage of the threat posed by the Islamic State group; the president did not immediately offer evidence to support his claim, made during the new commander in chief's first visit to the headquarters of U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. Irwin Corey, the wild-haired comedian and actor known for his improvisational riffs and nonsensical style who billed himself as "The World's Foremost Authority," died in New York at age 102.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rip Torn is 87. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 87. Actor Mike Farrell is 79. Former NBC News anchorman Tom Brokaw is 78. Singer Fabian is 75. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 75. Actor Michael Tucker is 74. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 69. Actor Jon Walmsley is 62. Actress Kathy Najimy is 61. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 61. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 61. Actor Barry Miller is 60. Actress Megan Gallagher is 58. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 56. Country singer Richie McDonald is 56. Singer Rick Astley is 52. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 49. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 45. Actor Josh Stewart is 41. Actor Ben Lawson is 38. Actor Brandon Hammond is 34. Actress Crystal Reed (TV: "Teen Wolf") is 33. Actress Alice Greczyn (GREH'-chihn) is 32. Actress Anna Diop is 30. Rhythm and blues singer/actress Tinashe is 25.

***Thought for Today: "The first duty of a leader is to make himself be loved without courting love. To be loved without 'playing up' to anyone - even to himself." - Andre Malraux, French author (1901-1976).***

## 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.

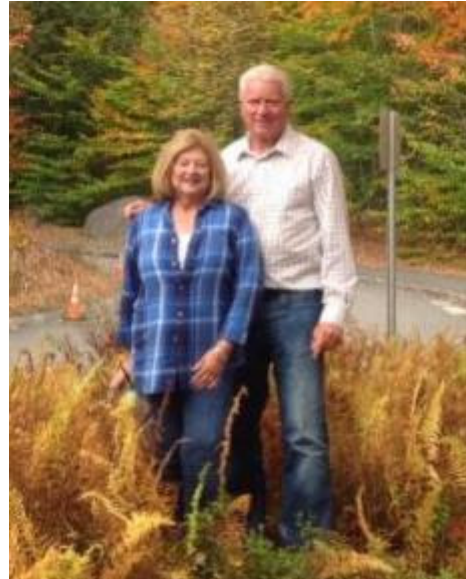
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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