



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - March 01, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 1, 2018 at 8:59 AM

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



Connecting

March 01, 2018

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



[Top AP News](#)
[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)
[Connecting Archive](#)
[The AP Store](#)
[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this, the first day of March 2018,

Do reporters really love mass shootings?

If you ask Dana Loesch, a spokesperson for the National Rifle Association, the answer for some, at least, is Yes. She recently said, "Many in legacy media love mass shootings, you guys love it."

In response, USA TODAY Network reporters and editors recount what it's actually like to cover mass shootings and other tragedies in this story you can access by clicking [here](#).

Connecting would like to hear from you on this issue. Send along your thoughts with an example or two of stories you covered and the impact they had on you.

We lead today's Connecting with a story by **Charles Richards**, a newsman in the Dallas bureau for 25 years (1978-2003), on his interview with David Koresh on a day 25 years ago - on February, 27, 1993.

It was the day before the raid on the Branch Davidians' compound outside Waco, Texas.

A thanks to his former AP Dallas colleague **Sylvia Wingfield** for spotting Charles' post on Facebook and suggesting he send it along to colleagues.

Have a great day!

Paul

David Koresh calling...He wanted his side of the story told



David Koresh

Charles Richards (Email) - Early on a Saturday afternoon, 25 years ago on Feb. 27, 1993, I picked up the phone at my desk in the Dallas office of The Associated Press, and the voice on the other end said: "This is David Koresh. I understand you're trying to reach me."

I had no idea who David Koresh was.

One day earlier, AP/Dallas had transmitted to broadcast and print media across Texas a story from the Waco Tribune Herald about a religious sect -- the Branch Davidians -- and its leader, Vernon Howell.

Our story said we were unable to reach Howell, for comment.

Koresh told me Vernon Howell was his birth name, but he had changed it to David Koresh. He grew up in the suburbs of Dallas, where he attended special schools.

"I was told I'd never make anything of myself," he said. He dropped out of school in the ninth grade.

His mother associated with the Seventh-day Adventists, but he didn't share their belief.

"They treat you nice, take you to church and feed you vegetarian baloney," he said.

My telephone conversation with David Koresh lasted for more than an hour. He wanted his side of the story told.

The day after we talked, the whole world would hear of Koresh and his cult as the result of a failed "surprise" attempt by 76 heavily armed federal agents to arrest Koresh and seize guns, ammunition and explosives at the Branch Davidian compound 10 miles east of Waco.

In our Saturday afternoon conversation, Koresh talked almost non-stop from the Bible, mostly from the book of Revelation. He said he had been sent of God to open the seven seals spoken of in the Bible "and to reveal the mysteries thereof."

In an hour, I was able to interrupt him only three times to ask him a question.

"Is it true that you claim to be Christ?" I asked. He replied: "I claim that God is my father and sits on the throne. Don't you?"

When the Waco Tribune-Herald had asked him the same question, he replied: "If the Bible is true, then I'm Christ. But so what? Look at 2,000 years ago. What's so great about being Christ? A man nailed to the cross. A man of sorrow acquainted with grief. You know, being Christ ain't nothing."

A regional leader of the Seventh-day Adventists, CALLED Koresh "a kook, a genuine religious fanatic that was almost totally irrational."

I asked Koresh if it was true that he had fashioned a harem from the women in the cult and even young girls, with their parents' permission.

Koresh said that was not true, although he did say that his wife, with whom he had two children, was 14 when he married her nine years earlier, when he was 24.

In a front-page story two days ago, The Dallas Morning News reported:

"He took multiple wives, some as young as 12. Midway through 1989, he began dissolving marriages and bedding followers' wives. Some rejected his doctrine that, as the Lamb of God, only he was worthy of procreation."

I also asked Koresh if it was true he and his followers were building up a storehouse of weapons and explosives to use in an "Armageddon" that would occur someday.

"Wouldn't that be silly to think I could do that?" he replied.

He said he bought guns for speculation purposes, to help finance the needs of the Branch Davidians. He bought an automatic weapon used during a mass murder at a McDonald's in California, he said, and it had doubled in value since he bought it.

The next day, shortly before noon on Sunday, the AP desk supervisor in Dallas called my apartment to alert me to what had just happened 100 miles away.

I headed for Waco, and the next morning my byline on the shootout that claimed the lives of four federal agents and several Branch Davidians was on the front page of newspapers around the world.

A standoff began that would go on for 50 days before its tragic, fiery end on April 19, 1993.

Connecting mailbox

'Who's Nat King Cole?'

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Sibby Christensen's recollection (CONNECTING, Feb. 28) of a ride home reminded me of the time I gave a NY Sports colleague a lift from Rockefeller Center to her uptown Manhattan apartment since it was on the way to my house north of the city. It was around 1978, which means I was about 36 and

she was not much younger. I will not reveal her name to spare her any possible embarrassment.

The radio was on and Natalie Cole was singing.

Joking, I said, "She doesn't sound anything like her father."

"Who's her father?" she asked.

"Nat King Cole."



"Who's Nat King Cole?"

When I got home, my wife took one look at my face and asked, "What happened? Who died?"

I told her the story and said, "Suddenly I feel so old."

"You're not old," Arlene said. "She's just uninformed."

-0-

A dream, or was it? The San Francisco quake of 1989

Bill Schiffmann ([Email](#)) - I've only had one AP-related dream, but I have it two or three times a year. It's like watching a movie unfold and is absolutely identical in detail to the real experience.

It was October of 1989. I had left the bureau a bit early so I could get home to watch the third game of the World Series. I had just sat down on the floor, watching Al Michaels introduce the game, when I felt a familiar trembling and knew one of the many earthquakes that plague the San Francisco area was unfolding, and it was a

doozie. I had to reach out to rescue the TV, which began falling forward off its stand. People were in the parking lot of our apartment building, screaming.

I lived in Richmond at the time with my fiancée (now wife of almost 28 years), separated from the city by the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. I set out in my car, only to hear that the bridge was impassable. I turned around, grabbed my helmet, unlocked my motorcycle and headed for the Golden Gate Bridge, recklessly splitting lanes, racing far too fast between lines of cars.



Here's where the dream starts. I'm exiting the bridge and realizing the city is in complete darkness, except for the glow of fires burning. I ride slowly, trying to avoid broken glass, fallen power lines and pedestrians crossing the street in the dark, fleeing homes with the potential for collapse. I hear sirens through my helmet and see police and fire emergency flashers in the distance. I see broken windows, masonry littering sidewalks and stunned faces everywhere.

I realize the city has taken a powerful blow, one that will likely take months, if not years, from which to recover. I hope my fiancée and the bureau staff all are safe and San Francisco staffers had been able to get to the office. My head is full of things to do when I get to the bureau, where to send people, how to communicate with New York and how quickly we can get reinforcements from other bureaus.

I get safely to Fox Plaza and lock up the bike. As I head into the building, the dream ends.

-0-

On sows and pigs - and corrections

Randy Evans ([Email](#)) - That was quite the correction of the "sitting shiva" mistake. (See Wednesday's Connecting)

But I certainly understand how our ears can trick us.

Many years ago, there was a one-for-the-ages correction in the Des Moines Register that could be traced back to tricky hearing on the state desk.

There was a short item in the paper about a barn fire somewhere in Iowa farm country that killed 4,000 pigs.

A day later there was a correction that set the record straight: The fire killed four sows* and pigs.

* For your urban (and urbane) readers, a sow is a female hog.

-0-

Sweet memories of a longtime friend

Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Sweet memories of my dear, longtime friend Joy Bufford.

Joy, retired general manager of The Auburn (Alabama) Plainsman, passed away Tuesday morning. Jack Simms, our journalism department head, used to refer to Joy as "the boss lady." I was the faculty adviser. Joy ran The Plainsman.

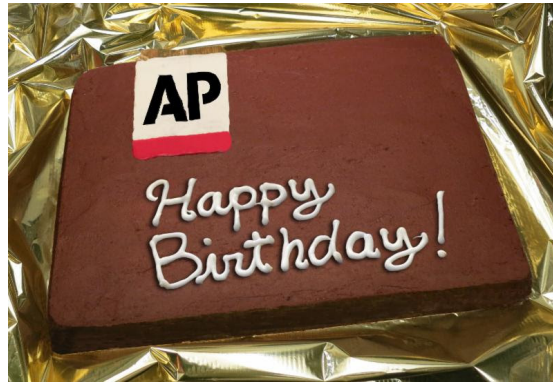
Joy and I spent 10 wonderful years together at the best college newspaper in America. What fun times we had in the basement of Foy Union with all those great students.



RIP my friend Joy. Thanks for the memories. You fostered the Auburn spirit.

[Click here](#) for a link to her obituary.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Melinda Smith - mablardsmith@gmail.com

John Wylie - lakeleader@sbcglobal.net

Stories of interest

How photojournalism can survive the digital revolution (and your short attention span)

(Nieman)



By JEFF ISRAELY

The concept itself sounds so '90s: "attention span." But many of the big questions facing our industry today - from fake news to Facebook's dopamine fix to job cuts at your local paper - are still focused around...focus. Or the lack thereof.

More than a decade after the Ritalin revolution, the full-steam arrival of the internet, then smartphones, made talk of our collective distracted (dis)order sound like received wisdom: an incurable side-effect of modern society for some, a massive business opportunity for others.

In the news industry, we may not talk about "attention span" much anymore, but scattered/fleeting/promiscuous readership continues to be seen as the mother of all challenges of the digital age. The hamster-wheel chase for wandering eyeballs threatens basic standards of journalism on bad days, even as it helps us invent unimaginably original ways to tell stories and keep people informed on our better days.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Local journalists created a Facebook group with tips and support for covering mass shootings (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

The Orlando Sentinel reporter reached out to the San Antonio Express-News reporter on the night of Nov. 15, 2017. Ten days before, a man opened fire in a Sutherland Springs, Texas, church, killing 26 people.

Their Facebook messages started with a tip on something Naseem Miller, who covered the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, had seen. Silvia Foster-Frau, who led the Express-News' coverage of Sutherland Springs, thanked her for it, and for the care package the Sentinel sent to the Express-News that day.

"Sure thing!" Miller replied. "It's the least we could do. It's a bit surreal, isn't it? It's suddenly your community. Best wishes to you all and let us know if we can help in any way."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

-0-

Jack Hamilton, Who Hurlled a Fateful Pitch, Dies at 79 (New York Times)



The Red Sox star Tony Conigliaro writhed at home plate moments after Jack Hamilton of the California Angels hit him in the head with a fastball in August 1967. Credit Bill Chaplis/Associated Press

By RICHARD GOLDSTEIN

Jack Hamilton pitched for all or part of eight seasons in the major leagues, but he was remembered mostly for a single moment. He threw the fastball that struck the head of the slugging Boston Red Sox outfielder Tony Conigliaro in August 1967, a gruesome episode that shortened the career of a potential Hall of Famer.

In the decades that followed, Hamilton was sought out from time to time for interviews about that night in Boston, in a season when the long-shot Red Sox went on to their Impossible Dream pennant victory.

He died on Thursday in Branson, Mo., at 79. His wife, Janyce, said he had had heart problems and other ailments.

A journeyman pitcher, Hamilton had been traded from the Mets to the California Angels in June 1967 and had a record of 8-2 when he started against the Red Sox

at Fenway Park on the night of Aug. 18.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Colford

The Final Word

The Pain of Loving Old Dogs (New York Times)



Clark, the author's beloved dog, at home in Nashville. Credit Andrea Morales for The New York Times

By MARGARET RENKL

NASHVILLE - It's 2 in the morning, and it has just started to rain. It's a gentle rain, with no threat of high winds or lightning. I know this without having to get up to peer into the dark night or put on my glasses to check the weather app on my phone. I know the facts of this meteorological reality without even opening my eyes because there is a large dog with halitosis now standing beside my bed, panting.

I'm grateful it's only a rain shower. If this were a thunderstorm, Clark would be pacing the house, climbing into bathtubs and struggling to get out again, hunching under desks and overturning the chairs pushed up to them, knocking guitars from their stands - seeking shelter. He's afraid of the rain, but he's driven mad by thunderstorms.

On stormy nights, my husband gets up to force a tablet of dog-strength Xanax down Clark's throat, and for an hour we will both lie in the dark, sleepless, while the dog staggers around the house in a state of now-drunken anxiety. Eventually the human tranquilizer will override the canine despair, and we'll all go back to sleep.

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

Today in History - March 1, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 1, the 60th day of 2018. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 1, 1790, President George Washington signed a measure authorizing the first United States Census. (Census Day was Aug. 2, 1790.)

On this date:

In 1565, the city of Rio de Janeiro was founded by Portuguese knight Estacio de Sa.

In 1781, the Continental Congress declared the Articles of Confederation to be in force, following ratification by Maryland.

In 1867, Nebraska became the 37th state as President Andrew Johnson signed a proclamation.

In 1893, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis by transmitting electromagnetic energy without wires.

In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

In 1940, "Native Son" by Richard Wright was first published by Harper & Brothers.

In 1954, four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the spectators' gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five members of Congress. The United States detonated a dry-fuel hydrogen bomb, codenamed Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.

In 1968, Johnny Cash married June Carter at the First Methodist Church in Franklin, Kentucky.

In 1971, a bomb went off inside a men's room at the U.S. Capitol; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility for the pre-dawn blast.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

In 1990, the controversial Seabrook, New Hampshire, nuclear power plant won federal permission to go on line after two decades of protests and legal struggles.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, speaking at his Texas ranch, declined to promise more U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq before leaving, underscoring the need for a strong military presence during Iraqi provincial elections. The USS New York, an amphibious assault ship built with scrap steel from the ruins of the World Trade Center, was christened at Avondale, Louisiana. New York's famed Plaza Hotel reopened after a three-year, \$400 million renovation.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, still deadlocked with Republican congressional leaders, formally enacted \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts a few hours before the midnight deadline required by law. Actress Bonnie Franklin, who played divorced mom Ann Romano on the long-running sitcom "One Day at a Time," died in Los Angeles at age 69.

One year ago: Former Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke was sworn in as secretary of the Interior Department by Vice President Mike Pence, hours after being confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 68-31. The president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, told The Associated Press that the two accountants responsible for the best-picture flub at the Academy Awards (in which "La La Land" was initially named the winner instead of "Moonlight") would never work the Oscars again. Paula Fox, author of "Poor George" and "Desperate Characters," died in New York at age 93.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 92. Singer Harry Belafonte is 91. Actor Robert Conrad is 83. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 74. Former Sen. John Breaux, D-La., is 74. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 74. Actor Dirk Benedict is 73. Actor-director Ron Howard is 64. Country singer Janis Gill (aka Janis Oliver Cummins) (Sweethearts of the Rodeo) is 64. Actress Catherine Bach is 63. Actor Tim Daly is 62. Singer-musician Jon Carroll is 61. Rock musician Bill Leen is 56. Actor Bryan Batt is 55. Actor Maurice Bernard is 55. Actor Russell Wong is 55. Actor Chris Eigeman is 53. Actor John David Cullum is 52. Actor George Eads is 51. Actor Javier Bardem (HAH'-vee-ayr bahr-DEHM') is 49. Actor Jack Davenport is 45. Rock musician Ryan Peake (Nickelback) is 45. Actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar is 44. Singer Tate Stevens is 43. Actor Jensen Ackles is 40. TV host Donovan Patton is 40. Rock musician Sean Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) is 37. Actress Lupita Nyong'o is 35. Pop singer Kesha (formerly Ke\$ha) is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sammie is 31. Pop singer Justin Bieber is 24.

Thought for Today: "Keep the circus going inside you, keep it going, don't take anything too seriously, it'll all work out in the end." - David Niven, British actor (born this date in 1910, died 1983).

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

3/12/2018

Gmail - Connecting - March 01, 2018

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today