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Connecting - May 08, 2018

1 message

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Tue, May 8, 2018 at 9:10 AM

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Connecting

May 08, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Arrangements have been made for a memorial to **Steve Komarow**, who covered Congress, presidential elections and wars for the Associated Press and USA Today and later rose to top newsroom leadership at CQ Roll Call. He died April 29 at the age of 61.

The memorial will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 17, at the **Top of the Town** Reception and Conference Facility (top floor of Prospect House with great view of monuments), [1400 N. 14th St., Arlington, Va. 22209](#).

It will be followed by a light lunch. Parking is available; it's also accessible via the Rosslyn Metro Station.



Ye Olde Connecting Editor would be remiss in his duties if the memories of Indy 500's past did not include the most famous and intriguing story of all involving The Associated Press.

It is the story of **Will Overhead**, non-winner of the 1933 Indianapolis 500 race...except for the readers of a small daily newspaper in Walsenberg, Colorado. I wrote the 50th anniversary wire story on Will while Indianapolis chief of bureau. But we will tell the story through a 2011 article our Connecting colleague **Marc Wilson** wrote for News&Tech.

Connecting's Mailbox is full and I hope you enjoy what your colleagues had to share.

Have a great day!

Paul

When technology spurred Overhead to victory



By Marc Wilson, columnist (March 29, 2011)

One of the great stories of Colorado newspaper lore is the report that Will Overhead "won" the 1933 Indianapolis 500 auto race.

The technology and economics in the middle of the Great Depression caused The Associated Press to offer what was called "the Pony Wire." Instead of installing a teletype machine, the AP offered small daily newspapers the option of dialing in to a conference call.

An AP editor would read the "top of the report" - updating the major news and sports events of the day. Pony Wire clients listened in to the call and madly typed notes. Pony Wire customers typically subscribed to a major regional newspaper, and could legally "lift" AP stories, and then freshen up the story with details given during the Pony Wire conference call. These were the "hot lead" days when Linotype machines set type.

The Walsenburg (Colo.) World-Independent was a customer of the AP's Pony Wire. And this is the story of how it became part of newspaper lore.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Sharing a room in Niger with Mort Rosenblum

Arnold Zeitlin ([Email](#)) - Of all the lovely memories over the 50 years that Mort Rosenblum and I have known each other, the best is the night in Niamey, Niger, when we shared a bed. Somehow, (and I don't remember all the circumstances; maybe Mort does) we both showed up in the Nigerien capital in 1968 covering a summit meeting of Francophone African heads of state. Hotel space was scarce; we ended up sharing a hotel room and briefly the one bed in it. Mort wisely left the room and found sleeping quarters (and, possibly, a more amiable companion) for the rest of the night.

We first met aboard PanAm flight 1 when he was on his way to Kinshasa and i was leaving Monrovia to return to my base in Lagos, Nigeria. He was a skinny kid. A couple of years later, he succeeded me as West Africa correspondent in Lagos, inheriting an office in a house on Keffi Street that we had ordered built to our specifications and that had an entire living room wall mural painted by Nigerian artist Twins Seven Seven. He also got the red Minimoke car with garden fencing on top of it and the AP company driver, who was blind in one eye.

We've had many meetings since. Mort turned up unexpectedly at the Columbia journalism school for the ceremony the day I received an alumni award. Our latest meeting was a sweet one for Thanksgiving dinner with his spouse at my daughter's home in the 16th divertissement in Paris. He's always been thoughtful about my kids, putting son Jide in a couple of his books. Good memories.

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I'll find a way to have my journalism students read your comments

Repps Hudson ([Email](#)), in a note to Mort Rosenblum that Repps agreed to share with Connecting, on Monday's Connecting profile of Rosenblum:

Mr. Rosenblum - I read your interview and then noticed your T-shirt. Very good! I have buttons with the same slogan, if that's the right word.

Anyway, I spent nearly 40 years at the Kansas City Star and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and did some overseas reporting. Now I teach journalism at a local community college. I shall find a way to have my journalism students read your comments.

I see a lot of kids playing with their phones and wanting to interview celebrities. Few seem to understand the hard work it takes to become a good reporter. Your interview may help in that regard.

By the way, I learned a lot at the lucky beginning of my career by being an off-the-books intern of sorts in the Saigon bureau in 1969. Several greats were there then: Peter Arnett, Horst Faas, Dick Pyle, Ed White, George Esper (from whom I learned so much) and the bureau chief, George McArthur. Nick Ut was a kid in the dark room trying not to get caught and forced into the Vietnamese army.

That stint is why Paul lets me subscribe to his newsletter. And I'll start reading yours too.

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A backhanded reference to the AP

Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - The New York Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle included a backhanded reference to The Associated Press. The puzzle's title was published as "Mis-unabbreviated" in our local paper. The clue for 55 across: "Goings on in accelerated classes." The answer: "ADVANCEDPLACEMENTNEWS," which, of course, is "mis-unabbreviated" for "APNEWS."

The answers are attached.

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Hawaii volcano eruption recalls covering another in 1983



Barry Sweet (Email) - Above is a 1983 photo I took of one of the 181 homes destroyed by the Kilauea Volcano in January on the Island of Hawaii. Along with the homes, a church and community center were destroyed. The eruption, which at the time was thought to be short-lived, has now been active for 15 years and shows no signs of letting up.

A little background. This is really old AP stuff. It was done with film, not digital and a regular transmitter. It was the day when The AP only sent one person to an event like this and I was totally on my own. I had to get a hotel room to develop the film, in the bathroom, hook up the transmitter to a phone line in my room and get to the erupting site. I was able to rent a helicopter for some nice shots and I traveled to the edge of the sea where the magna was flowing into the ocean. I was a tornado chaser so this was a whole new experience. I knew nothing about volcano stuff. I am guessing I was there for over a week, making photos and trying to get something different.

So far the eruption that's going on now has claimed maybe 20 homes; this was much bigger with over 181 homes lost. One of the days, I decided to go to a small town and watch and photograph the magna going to the sea. There was only one road block and the police let me pass but said be careful. I was pretty much there all by myself. I had parked my car down the road and walked into the center of the town. I watched and photographed one after another home burned to the ground. The main church was also burned to the ground. I lost track of time spend most of

the time on the edge of the lava. I soon realized that the lava flow had cut me off behind me. There was nowhere to escape because I had lava on three sides and the ocean at my back. I discovered that it was slow moving and the only really hot spots were the front edge which was red hot. I jumped over that and found that behind that the lava was only warm and I was able to escape off the edge of the flow and I then worked my way back to my parked car. There was no one else around. No police, residents and or park people. I was really lucky.

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My first of 17 Indy races was the strangest

Jim Reindl (Email) - One of the strangest Indy 500s was my first of 17 Indy races. In 1997, the year I became NA COB, the race took three days to run. I'd never been a big racing fan, but being married to a Brazilian that had to change since F-1 is huge in Brazil and she now saw we could be going to see real, live racing at Indy (we missed one year over the next 18). Rain washed out the scheduled race day, which pushed the race to Monday when more rain ended racing after only 15 laps. On Tuesday, before a sparse crowd, the race finished.

Reading back on it now, I see it was a strange race in many other ways. Arie Luyendyke won from the pole for his second Indy victory but only after a controversial yellow flag on the 199th lap. The pace car didn't come out and the white and green flags inexplicably waved from the starter stand startling drivers and crews while the caution lights remained on for some time. It was also the first year of the new, normally aspirated engines, which considerably dropped speeds. The cars even looked different. The race also featured a field of 35 after two cars were added post-qualifying. It was only the second time since 1933 that the traditional field of 33 cars had been expanded. And, to top it off, a crash during the pace lap immediately took out three cars. No Indy I witnessed after rose to the level of strangeness my first did.

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Photos from Indy 500s past



AP Cleveland photographer Julian Wilson with his race gear outside the AP darkroom at Indianapolis Motor Speedway before the 1967 Indy 500. AP has used the same photo workroom behind the pits at the speedway for more than 50 years. (AP Photo/Charlie Knoblock)



AP Cincinnati staff photographer Al Behrman wears a fire suit for work in the pits at the 1993 Indy 500, May 30, 1993.

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A remarkable, inspirational young man and his amazing journey



Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Amazing journey for a remarkable and inspirational young man, Jude Hiley - who happens to be the son of a former student, Patrick Hiley. So proud of you, Jude!

Patrick was at Auburn University from 1990-1993 where he majored in journalism with a minor in English, and I was on the journalism faculty. He spent eight years in restaurant management in New Orleans before the Hileys moved to Atlanta.

He ran a couple of restaurants in Atlanta before moving into the alcohol distribution business. Currently Patrick is director of trade marketing for Georgia Crown Distributing Co.

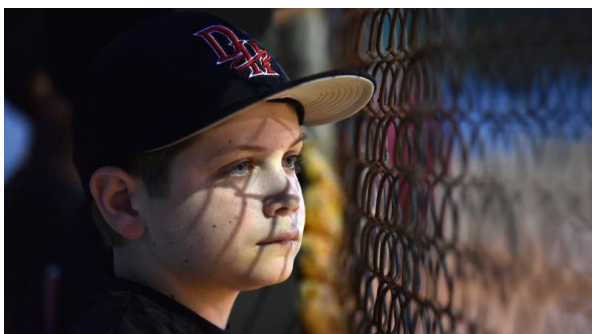
Patrick and his wife, Gretchen, have three children, Joseph, Ella and Jude.

From the Atlanta Journal Constitution:

Triumphant return

On a late February evening cold around the edges, Jude Hiley walked to the loneliest spot on earth. He made the trip quickly, despite the hitch in his gait.

Jude stood under the lights on a slightly elevated spot on the infield of Medlock Park's field No. 6 in Decatur. When you are 12, no place on the planet is more remote than the pitcher's mound.



Jude wound up, threw. The ump didn't hesitate.

"Strike!"

The crowd - and, really, it was a crowd, 100 people or more standing in the dark to watch No. 9 make his triumphant return to the game - roared with delight.

Young Mr. Hiley would go on to throw 46 more pitches that night. Thirty were strikes. He left the mound to raucous applause. He had been to the loneliest place on earth, survived it and returned.

Last year, Jude's life changed, irrevocably. How he handled that change - with wit and grit, with limitless levels of optimism - brought him back to the sport he loves. Heroes sometimes do walk with a limp.

Read more [here](#).

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***How was the concert?, he asks his grandkids.
LOUD!***



Marty Steinberg ([Email](#)) - Ella and Jacob's first orchestra concert, appropriately seeing their Dabba and the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra. They heard Franz von Suppe's Pique Dame Overture, made famous by Bugs Bunny and his pals at Warner Bros. Ella, 2 1/2, said she liked the concert. Jacob, 5, said it was "LOUD."

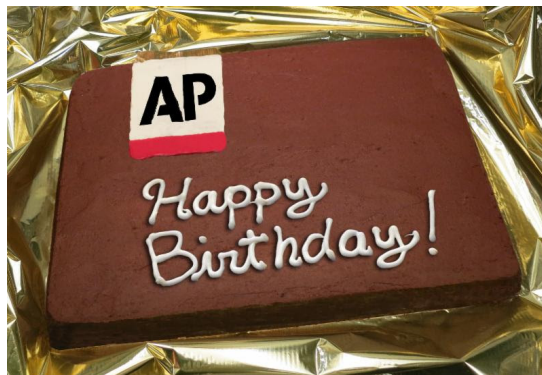
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Greg Nokes speaking on his new book



Greg Nokes ([Email](#)) - speaking in Lake Oswego, Oregon, on his new book, "The Troubled Life of Peter Burnett: Oregon Pioneer and First Governor of California," which is being released this month. More on this and Greg's other books at gregnokes.com

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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Stories of interest

Newsonomics: "Everything I believe about the news business is being violated" at The Denver Post (Nieman)

By KEN DOCTOR

It might only seem that the walls are tumbling in at The Denver Post. Or it might be reality.

In a stunningly quick series of events, the Post has continued to shed staff - not by firing or layoff, but by what might best be described as resigned resignation. At the same time, I've learned, a fresh round of budget cuts in the range of 10 to 15 percent is being planned for the paper, along with other Digital First Media properties.

Meanwhile, controlling owner Alden Global Capital - the Post's much-derided disassembler - is reacting in real time to both the mushrooming community protest and the new financial challenges that protest is generating. Sources tell me that financial pressure includes at least one lender withdrawing from the refinancing of its

\$225 million credit facility, one apparently due to be repaid or refinanced before the end of 2018.

Read more [here](#).

AND...

Censorship, workload drive 2 more senior editors from Denver's imploding newspaper

(Poynter)

By DAVID BEARD

Larry Ryckman and Dana Coffield creatively worked through shrinking budgets and staffs at newspapers before. The Denver Post's two senior editors for news both decided on the same day that they could go no further.

Ryckman was in editor Lee Ann Colacioppo's office to resign when she got the call from the former owner and editorial board chairman, Dean Singleton, on Friday.

"Do you want me to leave?" Ryckman asked as she took the call. She said no.

Singleton asked to have his name removed from the masthead after current owner Alden Global Capital's censorship of the paper's editorial page editor, who quit the day before. Ryckman and Coffield, the paper's two day-to-day editors, in the business more than six decades between them, also quit the Digital First Media paper. Its parent company, Alden, is the hedge-fund known for aggressively downsizing papers to maintain high profit margins.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill Beecham.

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Opinion: When 2 + 2 Might Equal 5 (New York Times)

By **FLOYD ABRAMS**

England is the mother country of the United States, and much American law is deeply rooted in that of its maternal forebear. But in few areas do the two systems diverge more than on freedom of expression. "No purpose," the Supreme Court observed in 1941, "in ratifying the Bill of Rights was clearer than that of securing for the people of the United States much greater freedom of religion, expression, assembly, and petition than the people of Britain had ever enjoyed."

A decision a few weeks ago by the English High Court illustrates the magnitude of the differences. The European Union has adopted what is generally referred to as the "right to be forgotten," based on a 2014 ruling of the European Court of Justice. At the heart of that ruling is the determination that Google and other search engines must remove links to content published years before that was harmful to personal reputation but that is now deemed to be "irrelevant or no longer relevant."

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

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Phnom Penh Post: Firing and resignations after sale of Cambodian daily (BBC)

Several senior journalists have left Cambodia's Phnom Penh Post, saying its new owners fired the editor in chief and demanded a story be removed.

The paper, seen as Cambodia's last independent daily, was sold to a Malaysian businessman at the weekend, raising concerns about its future.

New owner Sivakumar Ganapthy is also director of a PR firm which has done work for the Cambodian government.

The sale comes amid an increasing crackdown on independent media outlets.

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

Today in History - May 8, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 8, the 128th day of 2018. There are 237 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 8, 1978, David R. Berkowitz pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courtroom to murder, attempted murder and assault in connection with the "Son of Sam" shootings that claimed six lives and terrified New Yorkers. (Berkowitz was sentenced to six consecutive life prison terms.)

On this date:

In 1429, the Siege of Orleans during the Hundred Years' War ended as English troops withdrew after being defeated by French forces under Joan of Arc.

In 1541, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River.

In 1660, the British Parliament moved to restore the monarchy by declaring that Charles II had been the country's lawful king since the execution of his father, Charles I, in 1649.

In 1794, Antoine Lavoisier (lah-vwahz-YAY'), the father of modern chemistry, was executed on the guillotine during France's Reign of Terror.

In 1884, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, was born in Lamar, Missouri.

In 1921, Sweden's Parliament voted to abolish the death penalty.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced on radio that Nazi Germany's forces had surrendered, and that "the flags of freedom fly all over Europe."

In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru.

In 1962, the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, militant American Indians who had held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for ten weeks surrendered.

In 1984, the Soviet Union announced it would boycott the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

In 1996, South Africa took another step from apartheid to democracy by adopting a constitution that guaranteed equal rights for blacks and whites.

Ten years ago: During the 2008 race for the White House, Sen. Barack Obama got a front-runner's welcome back at the U.S. Capitol, where he was surrounded on the House floor by well-wishers calling him "Mr. President" and reaching out to pat him on the back or shake his hand. Silvio Berlusconi was sworn in as Italy's premier. Country music star Eddy Arnold died in Nashville at age 89, a week before his 90th birthday.

Five years ago: A jury in Phoenix convicted Jodi Arias of first-degree murder in the 2008 death of her one-time boyfriend, Travis Alexander (Arias was later sentenced to life in prison). George Karl was named the NBA's Coach of the Year for leading the Denver Nuggets to a team-record 57-win regular season. An apparent game-tying homer by Oakland's Adam Rosales was ruled a double by umpires in the ninth inning, and the Cleveland Indians held on to beat the Athletics 4-3. Jeanne Cooper,

the enduring soap opera star who had played grande dame Katherine Chancellor for nearly four decades on "The Young and the Restless," died in Los Angeles at age 84.

One year ago: A suspect was arrested in a string of serial killings that terrified a Phoenix neighborhood, a huge break in a case that involved nine deaths and a dozen separate shootings; Aaron Juan Saucedo, 23, faces 26 felony counts of homicide, aggravated assault and drive-by-shooting.

Today's Birthdays: Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 92. Singer Toni Tennille is 78. Actor James Mitchum is 77. Country singer Jack Blanchard is 76. Jazz musician Keith Jarrett is 73. Actor Mark Blankfield is 70. Singer Philip Bailey (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 67. Rock musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads) is 67. Rockabilly singer Billy Burnette is 65. Rock musician Alex Van Halen is 65. Actor David Keith is 64. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is 57. Actress Melissa Gilbert is 54. Rock musician Dave Rowntree (Blur) is 54. Country musician Del Gray is 50. Rock singer Darren Hayes is 46. Singer Enrique Iglesias is 43. Blues singer-musician Joe Bonamassa is 41. Actor Matt Davis is 40. Singer Ana Maria Lombo (Eden's Crush) is 40. Actor Elyes Gabel is 35. Actor Domhnall Gleeson is 35. Neo-soul drummer Patrick Meese (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 35. Actress Julia Whelan (WAY'-lan) is 34. Actress Nora Anezeder is 29.

Thought for Today: "The biggest big business in America is not steel, automobiles, or television. It is the manufacture, refinement and distribution of anxiety." - Eric Sevareid, American news commentator (1912-1992).

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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