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Connecting -- June 05, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

June 05, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

We lead today's issue with first responses to Connecting's call for your memories of the once-AP tradition of writing a letter to the AP general manager at the successful conclusion of your probationary period - telling him about yourself and your goals.

In the Connecting profile of colleague **Carol Deegan** in Monday's issue, AP President **Gary Pruitt** related that when Carol wrote her letter to General Manager **Wes Gallagher**, she told him she was committed to "a long life with the Associated Press." 50 years later, as an editor in Entertainment News in New York, she has been true to her word.

Today's issue also brings you some thoughts on Carol, including one from **Steve Loeper** when he wrote that Hollywood legend Shirley MacLaine was positioned at a coroner table instead of a corner table. Carol came to his rescue.

Have a great day!

Paul

Dear General Manager...

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Your question about the letter to the general manager reminded me of mine, a long, long time ago.

I had worked in NY Sports as a summer relief in 1960 and again in 1962 before being hired to the staff in November 1963. Six months later, I was asked to write my letter to Wes Gallagher and I did so, being very careful with words, sentence structure, punctuation and everything else I could think of to impress the general manager.

Protocol was to submit the letter to your supervisor for approval. Ted Smits looked my letter over and returned it. He objected to a sentence in which I said that, after two summer stints, I was delighted to be on staff permanently. "Take out that word "permanently," he advised me.

That was a bit depressing but I survived the crisis to log 40 years, all in NY Sports, and what I would describe as "permanently."

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Bill Kole ([Email](#)) - I still blush thinking about the letter I sent to (AP President) Lou Boccardi in 1997 when I was a newly minted COB in Amsterdam.

I wrote to thank him for the opportunity and said - a little too brashly - that I fully intended to exceed his expectations.

Lou responded drily: "Well, if you think my expectations are so easily exceeded, I'll just raise them. That's a game in which I hold the inside straight." He then attempted to put me out of my misery, saying he appreciated my spirit and he'd be counting on it. But like I said, my face still reddens when I recall the exchange.

Carol Deegan's 'fan club'

Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - Count me among the many AP staffers saved from wire embarrassment by one Carol Deegan, who will soon be celebrating her 50th anniversary with the AP. Actually, in my case, it would be more accurate to say Carol minimized my wire embarrassment, since as West Coast entertainment editor, my slips usually hit the wire before they hit Carol's radar. But never by much.

This included one of my last Carol Catches shortly before I retired last year. I was on a morning run when I got a call showing Carol's familiar number. I had learned long ago when that happens, you stop whatever you're doing and take the call. This time, it concerned a profile of Shirley MacLaine I had filed before my fitness break. In an effort to set the scene, I had added that the interview was conducted at a quiet corner table in an exclusive Malibu restaurant. At least that's what I thought I had put in there. "Did you mean to say that?" asked Carol in her characteristically unassuming way. To my horror, I had positioned the 84-year-old Hollywood legend at a corner table instead of a corner table and it was now lying on the wire. Whoops, it really was time for retirement, I thought. But a quick fix by Carol put Shirley back among the living... me, too.

So thanks for that, Carol Deegan, and for all your invaluable support through the years. Congrats on your upcoming 50th. And for the sake of my former colleagues throughout the AP Entertainment world, you really must keep it going.

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Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - I'm betting that Carol Deegan's description of her granddaughter in the June 3 Connecting -- " My granddaughter, when she's not playing or going to school, spends her time being adorable."-- would fit each of our granddaughters. It brought a knowing smile here.

How the AP covered the RFK assassination 50 years ago



This June 5, 1968 file photo shows Sen. Robert F. Kennedy speaking his final words to supporters at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, moments before he was shot on June 5, 1968. At his side are his wife, Ethel, left, and his California campaign manager, Jesse Unruh, right. Football player Roosevelt Grier is at right rear. Associated Press Hollywood reporter Bob Thomas was on a one-night political assignment in June 1968 to cover Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary when mayhem unfolded before his eyes. (AP Photo/Dick Strobel, File)

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Associated Press Hollywood reporter Bob Thomas was on a one-night political assignment in June 1968 to cover Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary when mayhem unfolded before his eyes.

He heard pops of gunfire, then screams, and quickly rushed into the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel to see what was happening. People stood in a circle, staring down at the concrete floor in shock. Thomas jumped up on a stack of kitchen trays and saw Kennedy on the floor, blood oozing from his head.

Thomas sprinted into the press room to find an open phone line to call in the story to his editors. The line was dead, so he tried again at a phone booth in the lobby and

reached editor Bob Myers.

"I've got a flash. Kennedy shot," Thomas said.

"Are you serious?" Myers responded.

"I'm serious. Kennedy's been shot," Thomas said.

Within moments, AP bulletins and story updates were transmitted to newspapers and TV and radio stations around the country, informing the world that Kennedy had been shot.

The AP filed numerous takes to the wire that night - the story broke just after midnight Los Angeles time - and did the same the next day when Kennedy succumbed to his wounds and the story became an obituary for the 42-year-old senator just five years after his brother was assassinated.

Read more [here](#).



In this June 5, 1998 file photo, Associated Press reporter Bob Thomas stands on the spot where Sen. Robert F. Kennedy lay on the floor after he was shot in an Ambassador Hotel pantry precisely 30 years earlier in Los Angeles. Thomas was on a one-night political

assignment covering Kennedy's victory celebration in the California presidential primary when mayhem unfolded before his eyes. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File)

Connecting mailbox

A photo that revived memories of John Dingman



Five AP Broadcast Editors attended a recent APBA Committee meeting in New York. Left to right, John Dingman, Boston; Grant Lamos, Kansas City; Carol Deegan, New Orleans, since transferred to New York; Tom Harrigan, Minneapolis; and Dennis Sorensen, Chicago.

John Willis ([Email](#)) - Holy smokes. Looking at that photo in Monday's edition, of the broadcast editors meeting, I see John Dingman on the left. My only dealings with John were when I was a broadcast executive and he was in the Treasurer's Office in NYC. I had no idea that he once had worked on the editorial side.

One of his jobs, I think, was letting our broadcast members know when they were behind on their membership fees, and I often worked with him to resolve some of the issues. He had infinite patience and was probably one of the nicest bill collectors, ever. I thought he might have the least liked job at The AP, but he handled it all with great dignity.

Before my time with The AP I got a chance to experience the life of a collector while working part time for a finance company in southern California. I don't think John Dingman's personality would have fit that post. I didn't enjoy repossessing the cars of dock workers who were on strike, but somebody had to do it if the payments weren't being made.

Thank goodness I only had to put up with that position for about five months before a tiny radio station in Fairfield offered me their news director's chair, and even agreed to pay my family's moving expenses back to Iowa. Having been shaken by the Sylmar earthquake about six months earlier, my wife Connie, was glad to be back in the state of her birth, where earthquakes were not common.

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Fake News in the 1880s, or How Deadwood Didn't Burn



The first issue of Leadville's *Daily Chronicle* (January 29, 1879) with the three co-founders shown.

Paul Albright (Email) - Ever since the 2016 election, the media has been swirling with accounts of fake news, turbulent Tweets, and the resulting fact checks. But the imperfections certainly are not new.

While engaged in some historical research recently, I came across the memoirs of Colorado publisher Carlisle Channing Davis, *Olden Times in Colorado*. Davis and his business partners established *The Daily Chronicle* in 1879 in the silver and gold

mining town of Leadville, Colorado, which Davis described then as being the "wildest and most tempestuous municipality on the face of the earth."

The Daily Chronicle confronted two competing morning dailies in Leadville but employed one advantage, namely a paid stringer located in Denver some 100 mountainous miles to the east. Davis maintained that one reason his competitors eventually failed was because they "made no attempt to furnish their readers with telegraphic news."

A single Western Union line reached Leadville in the early 1880s, "and commercial business almost completely monopolized it." Since Western Union could not transmit the Associated Press report daily, the stringer skimmed the Denver newspapers and telegraphed a few hundred words to the *Chronicle*.

"The few hundred words thus wired were extended to the limit, and made to fill a page of our little paper." One time, Davis recalled, "we received two hundred words, descriptive of a fire in Deadwood. Leadville was full of people from the Black Hills (South Dakota), all of whom it was presumed would be intensely interested in the incident."

With the assistance of a circulation office employee recently arrived from Deadwood, the editor "built up a vivid story of the calamity, a full column in length, giving the losses and insurance in extenso, and set it off with a 'scare' heading so luminous as to warrant the reader in believing but little of Deadwood remained. A diagram of the burned district also was given. No city in history was ever so quickly and neatly removed from the map as was Deadwood on that occasion."

Sales of the *Chronicle* skyrocketed that day. But a fortnight later the printed exchanges arrived in the mail and "with difficulty an account of the fire could be located, the Deadwood papers having dismissed the incident with a single short paragraph!"

AP to automate video, audio transcription with Trint

The Associated Press and Trint announced May 30 that they will work together to automate AP's video and audio transcription process, streamlining the news agency's workflow.

AP video journalists across the globe will use Trint to transcribe recorded interviews and events for use in the video and text news report. The transcriptions are reviewed by journalists for accuracy before the content is published.

Launched in 2016, Trint uses artificial intelligence to quickly generate searchable transcriptions of audio and video that can promptly be verified and timed.

"Rolling out Trint across our video teams allows our journalists to work smarter and helps us deliver content faster. Our producers check the work rather than spend hours creating it, which frees up time to focus on the most urgent stories that need our attention," said Derl McCrudden, AP deputy managing editor for digital and visual journalism. "We're also able to assess the news value of some content much faster, and that means we're getting the most important sound bites out to customers more quickly."

Read more [here](#).

Independent music journalist Zachary Stoner killed in Chicago



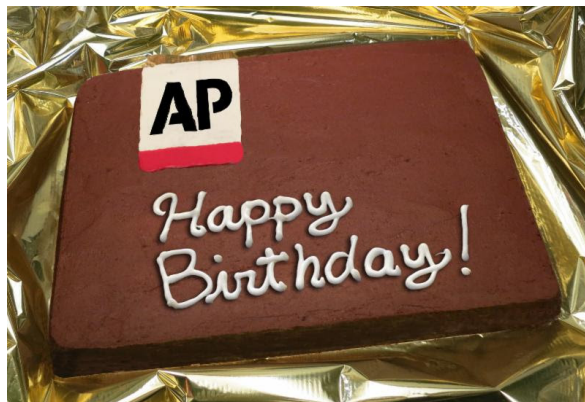
Chicago, June 4, 2018--The Committee to Protect Journalists Monday condemned the killing of independent music journalist Zachary Stoner, who was shot to death in the early hours of May 30 in Chicago, Illinois. Stoner published videos to his YouTube channel zacktv1, which focused on community life and hip hop artists in his hometown of Chicago.

Stoner was driving his Jeep down Clark Street in the South Loop neighborhood in Chicago when unknown assailants in a second vehicle pulled alongside him and opened fire around 1:30 a.m. on May 30, news reports stated. He was last seen alive a half hour earlier, when news stories, citing friends, reported he was leaving a rap concert at Refuge nightclub, three blocks away.

"Authorities should thoroughly investigate the murder of Zachary Stoner, including whether his journalistic work was the motive for his death," said Alexandra Ellerbeck, CPJ's program coordinator for North America.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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Stories of interest

NEFAC, R.I. First Amendment Advocates Call on Gov. Raimondo to Veto 'Revenge Pornography' Bills

The New England First Amendment Coalition recently called on Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo to veto "revenge pornography" legislation that could criminalize constitutionally protected speech, saying the proposed law would chill news reporting.

Revenge pornography is commonly considered the sharing of images depicting adult nudity without the consent of the person pictured. Such images are often

shared to humiliate or embarrass the people depicted in them.

While Rhode Island bills H-7452A and S-2581A intend to criminalize revenge pornography, they also allow media organizations to be prosecuted for publishing newsworthy images depicting nudity.

These bills "will force news media to think twice about publicizing newsworthy images - whether of torture at Abu Ghraib or the Vietnam 'napalm girl' - that could run afoul of the act depending on a jury's view of 'newsworthiness' and be subject to a year in prison," wrote NEFAC, the ACLU of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Press Association and The Media Coalition in a May 31 letter to Gov. Raimondo.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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France's fake news law leaves media experts uneasy (AFP)

Paris (AFP) - France is the latest country attempting to fight the scourge of fake news with legislation -- but opponents say the law won't work and could even be used to silence critics.

The draft law, designed to stop what the government calls "manipulation of information" in the run-up to elections, will be debated in parliament Thursday with a view to it being put into action during next year's European parliamentary polls.

The idea for the bill came straight from President Emmanuel Macron, who was himself targeted during his 2017 campaign by online rumours that he was gay and had a secret bank account in the Bahamas.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

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More secure jobs, bigger paychecks (CJR)

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE

It was 1933, and the Great Depression was pummeling the newspaper industry. The New York World, once owned by Joseph Pulitzer and the city's largest paper, had closed two years earlier, throwing 3,000 people out of work. In many cities, newspapers had cut reporters' pay by a third, far more than that of union-protected typesetters and printers. Seeing many journalist friends get pounded financially, Heywood Broun, a member of the Algonquin Round Table and at the time one of the nation's best-known and best-paid columnists, took it upon himself to spearhead an effort to unionize his fellow "hacks." In August of that year, Broun, who wrote for the New York World-Telegram, turned one of his nationally syndicated columns into a rallying cry: "The fact that newspaper editors and owners are genial folk should hardly stand in the way of the organization of a newspaper writers' union. There should be one."

Broun's column was like rain on parched soil. Within two months, chapters of the American Newspaper Guild sprouted in New York, Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Duluth, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia. In April 1934, the Guild signed its first contract—it was with The Philadelphia Record and included provisions on maximum hours, overtime, a minimum pay scale, and paid vacations. By June, 10 months after Broun's first column, the Guild had 7,000 members, with 125 delegates from 70 papers attending the union's first convention that month.

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

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How three very different wealthy newspaper owners got three very different results (Poynter)

By DAN KENNEDY

The rough outline for "The Return of the Moguls" came together during a four-day period in August 2013.

Late on a Friday afternoon reports began circulating that John Henry, a billionaire financier who was the principal owner of the Boston Red Sox, would buy The Boston Globe and its affiliated properties from The New York Times Co. for the shockingly low price of \$70 million. The following Monday came even more startling news: Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon, would purchase The Washington Post from the legendary Graham family for just \$250 million.

Every journalist knows you need three for a trend story. At the same time that the Henry and Bezos stories landed, a young entrepreneur named Aaron Kushner had been garnering praise and curiosity for building up The Orange County Register and placing a renewed emphasis on its print edition.

And so I set about following the progress of Bezos, Henry, and Kushner with the idea of writing a book about how they were reinventing their newspapers and what lessons that might hold for the rest of the beleaguered news business.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - From the Curious Journalist Dept; Does anyone ever wait around to get that free one? - Marana, Arizona, Safeway.

Today in History - June 5, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 5, the 156th day of 2018. There are 209 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 5, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded after claiming victory in California's Democratic presidential primary at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

On this date:

In 1527, a month after Rome was conquered by troops of the Holy Roman Empire, Pope Clement VII surrendered.

In 1794, Congress passed the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from taking part in any military action against a country that was at peace with the United States.

In 1884, Civil War hero Gen. William T. Sherman refused the Republican presidential nomination, saying, "I will not accept if nominated and will not serve if elected."

In 1917, about 10 million American men between the ages of 21 and 31 began registering for the draft in World War I.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall gave a speech at Harvard University in which he outlined an aid program for Europe that came to be known as The Marshall Plan.

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Henderson v. United States*, struck down racially segregated railroad dining cars.

In 1967, war erupted in the Middle East as Israel, anticipating a possible attack by its Arab neighbors, launched a series of pre-emptive airfield strikes that destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian air force; Syria, Jordan and Iraq immediately entered the conflict.

In 1976, 14 people were killed when the Teton Dam in Idaho burst.

In 1986, a federal jury in Baltimore convicted Ronald W. Pelton of selling secrets to the Soviet Union. (Pelton was sentenced to three life prison terms plus ten years.)

In 1993, country star Conway Twitty died in Springfield, Missouri, at age 59.

In 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died in Los Angeles at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates ousted Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Moseley and Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne, holding them to account in a historic Pentagon shake-up after embarrassing nuclear mix-ups. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton met privately at the Washington home of Sen. Dianne Feinstein (FYN'-styn), the first such get-together since Obama clinched the Democratic presidential nomination.

Five years ago: The British newspaper The Guardian reported the National Security Agency was collecting the telephone records of millions of American customers of Verizon under a top secret court order. President Barack Obama named Susan Rice his national security adviser, and nominated Samantha Power to replace Rice as United Nations ambassador. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them sleeping women and children, pleaded guilty to murder at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to avoid the death penalty. Carrie Underwood won top honor video of the year at the CMT Music Awards for "Blown Away"; Miranda Lambert and Florida Georgia Line were the night's top winners with two awards apiece.

One year ago: The White House said President Donald Trump would not assert executive privilege to block fired FBI Director James Comey from testifying on Capitol Hill. Bill Cosby went on trial in Norristown, Pennsylvania, on charges he drugged and sexually assaulted Andrea Constand, a former employee of Temple University's basketball program, at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. (The jury deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial, but Cosby was convicted in a second trial.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Bill Hayes is 93. Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers is 84. Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 79. Author Dame Margaret Drabble is 79. Country singer Don Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 73. Rock musician Freddie Stone (AKA Freddie Stewart) (Sly and the Family Stone) is 71. Rock singer Laurie Anderson is 71. Country singer Gail Davies is 70. Author Ken Follett is 69. Financial guru Suze Orman is 67. Rock musician Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) is 66. Jazz musician Peter Erskine is 64. Jazz musician Kenny G is 62. Rock singer Richard Butler (Psychedelic Furs) is 62. Actress Beth Hall is 60. Actor Jeff Garlin is 56. Actress Karen Sillas is 55. Actor Ron Livingston is 51. Singer Brian McKnight is 49. Rock musician Claus Norreen (Aqua) is 48. Actor Mark Wahlberg is 47. Actor Chad Allen is 44. Rock musician P-Nut (311) is 44. Actress Navi Rawat (RO'-waht) is 41. Actress Liza Weil is 41. Rock musician Pete Wentz (Fall Out Boy) is 39. Rock musician Seb Lefebvre (Simple Plan) is 37. Actress Chelsey Crisp is 35. Actress Amanda Crew is 32. Electronic musician Harrison Mills (Odesza) is 29. Actress Sophie Lowe is 28.

Thought for Today: "I know in my heart that man is good. That what is right will always eventually triumph. And there's purpose and worth to each and every life." - President Ronald Reagan (1911-2004).

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.

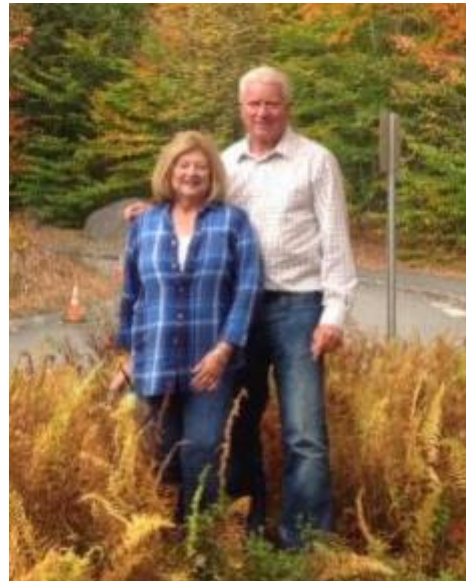
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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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