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Connecting -- June 12, 2018

1 message

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Friends and colleagues of Cliff Schiappa (gold hat) converged Sunday to say farewell as he leaves Kansas City after 38 years for his new home in Palm Springs, California. Photo/Denise Riedel

Colleagues,

Saying goodbye to a good friend is never easy - even when he or she is moving on to an exciting new chapter in life.

When the weather's clear this week, my friend of 34 years - **Cliff Schiappa** - will hop on his Honda Valkyrie motorcycle and head west 1,500 miles to his new home in Palm Springs, California.

His friends and colleagues from the AP and The Kansas City Star gathered Sunday for a farewell party for Cliff, hosted by former Kansas City assistant chief of bureau **Peg Coughlin** and former Star photographers **Julie Denesha** and **Dan White**.

If there's anyone who has more friends than Cliff, I have yet to meet them - and he already knows a dozen or so people in the Palm Springs area.

Cliff was months new to the Kansas City photographer position, hired by CoB **Fred Moen**, when I arrived in the bureau in 1984 as Fred's successor, and we immediately hit it off. He was an excellent photographer and administrator of the photo operation, became a national trainer when the Leaf Desk was introduced to members, became the first photographer in AP history to be appointed an assistant chief of bureau, and was chosen as one of four regional photo editors when regionalization



Linda and I with Cliff

was introduced in the AP. He helped form the Missouri Photojournalism Hall of Fame and was later inducted into it. He's been the director of development for the Heartland Men's Chorus for the past nine years.

Most importantly to me, he's been a friend over the years through the good and the difficult times - and will remain so from his new surroundings in the California desert.

I know the many of you who count him as a friend join me in wishing him well on his new chapter of life. Cliff's email is - schiappa@aol.com

We lead today's issue with the first responses to Connecting's call for your memories of your first bureau chief - in follow to the Connecting profile on Monday of **Ed Staats**, who was my first bureau chief, in Albany. I look forward to hearing from more of you.

Paul

My first bureau chief

Hired by Tom Brettingen, Miami:

Bill Kaczor (Email) - I was hired pretty much by happenstance in 1980 by then-Miami Bureau Chief Tom Brettingen. I was working for Gannett News Service in Tallahassee at the time. My bureau chief there had been John Hanchette and he was a joy to work with. John, though, lately had been on the road quite a bit working on an investigative story. It was about a group of Polish monks who had diverted donations for a shrine in Pennsylvania for their personal use and apparently to secretly support the Roman Catholic Church in then-Communist controlled Poland. John and others who worked on the story won the 1980 Pulitzer Gold Medal for Public Service. That also earned him a promotion to Gannett's Washington Bureau.

I felt as though I had earned the right to head the GNS Tallahassee Bureau as I had held the fort alone in Tallahassee for much of 1979. Gannett thought otherwise and sent in someone from out of state, so I started looking for other options and a bigger pay check. The Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel (now South Florida Sun Sentinel) some years earlier had closed its Tallahassee bureau, but the paper was considering reopening it. I applied for the job and had a positive interview in Fort Lauderdale. The editors there, however, remained undecided about reopening the bureau. About then Brettingen made a membership visit to the Sun Sentinel.

Apparently he told the Sun Sentinel editors he was looking to fill a vacancy in his Tallahassee staff and they told him about me. David Powell, who had recently moved up to correspondent after the departure of Tom Slaughter, gave me a positive review and the job was mine once I passed the AP test. I moved two floors down to the AP bureau in the Florida Press Center during the first week of February 1980. I think I met Brettingen only once or twice before he departed for greener AP pastures. I, however, have been forever thankful for his visit to Fort Lauderdale in no small part for the big pay raise I got as a result of my new job.

During those years, Gannett held meetings for editors of its three Florida papers in Tallahassee during spring legislative sessions. The governor and/or other prominent politicians were invited to speak at an annual Gannett dinner. Hanchette came back to MC the event as his successor was not yet up to speed. He invited all of his Tallahassee press corps pals to the dinner at a local country club. Aboard the chartered bus that took us out there I sat next to Gannett boss Al Neuharth, whose then-wife was a state senator. I can't tell you how good it felt to tell him that I no longer worked for him and was now with the AP. He was very gracious and recalled how he had gotten his start with AP back in South Dakota. He only lasted a couple years, but I stuck it out for 33. For all his success, call me crazy, but I wouldn't have traded careers.

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Hired by Paul Finch, Los Angeles:

Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - This is in response to the Connecting question, "Who was your first bureau chief - the man or woman who took a chance and hired you into your first AP job?" Mine was the late Paul Finch in LA, 1973, and he actually said that... "I'll take a chance on you." Although grateful, I wasn't quite sure how to take the "faint praise." But I soon learned the straight-talking Finch wasn't much into "we'd love to have you."

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Hired by Ben Brown, Los Angeles:

Doug Pizac ([Email](#)) - AP hiring me was more or less economics -- it was cheaper to do so. Back in 1978 then head Los Angeles photo editor Spencer Jones was hospitalized and the bureau moved Red McLendon up from being a shooter to help with management duties until Spencer could return. Even though freelance pay back then was okay but not great, the amount I began to earn doing regular stringer work plus picking up assignments that Red would normally be doing became a very good revenue stream. One day I was called into COB Ben Brown's office and was offered a staff position. I took it with glee and was very happy. After my first paycheck I did some calculating (I started out as a math major in college). By making me fulltime

AP was able to work me more hours per week doing more photo assignments for less money versus what I was making as a freelancer on a per job basis.

Several years later AP hired Seattle photo stringer Betty Kumpf to be a temp photo lab worker for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. This led to her being hired as a fulltime L.A. photo editor in Spring 1985. What made her hire a bit unusual was that a memo announcing her employment was posted in Photos where I was working a desk shift that day. Betty called the bureau to schedule a picture of hers to move on the wire and I answered whereupon I congratulated her on the good news. She asked, what good news? AP hired her but didn't tell her; I did, including how soon she had to move to SoCal to start work. After she arrived we began dating and wed the following April. We now have over 32 years together with boy/girl twins who are doing great as adults.

AP Photo of the Day



President Donald Trump meets with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un on Sentosa Island in Singapore on June 12. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

Connecting mailbox

A Wide World assignment outside Palace of Westminster



Robert Meyers ([Email](#)) - One Wide World special request sticks out above the others I handled in London. A book publisher wanted an exact match to a photo of the statue of Richard the Lionhearted outside the Palace of Westminster in London (Wikimedia version above) for a book jacket.

I sent one of the London photographers down to have a look with a copy of the original in hand. He came back saying the angle of the photo meant it had to be taken from inside the gates of Westminster. This started a long series of negotiation letters and permit applications to be able to get a photographer inside the gates. A ladder was also required to match the angle but the rules forbade that. After some weeks and a lot more time than should have been necessary, the shot was made by one man standing on another man on all fours on the cobblestones. Another

satisfied WW client. The fee was not adequate for the work required in my mind but there were a lot of easier ones that more than covered the expense.

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'Get Outta Here' author has visited all 50 states



Beth Harpaz ([Email](#)) - author of the newest AP book, "Get Outta Here," featured in Monday's Connecting, in front of this Welcome to Idaho sign - "that was the 50th state I've visited (not a story in the book...)," she said. And this second photo with her husband Elon Harpaz on top of Mount Katahdin in Maine "after a long, hard hike."

[Click here](#) for a link to the book.

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Dallas' Anne Jackson 'was always a breath of fresh air'

John Willis ([Email](#)) - Last week it was an old foto that included John Dingman. This week the foto you used with Ed Staats' piece showed the Dallas staff of almost

60 years ago and there was Anne Jackson, the bureau secretary.

Ed is spot on with his assessment of Annie. She was a gracious lady. During my years as a broadcast rep I had to check in with the Dallas bureau twice a day, and it was generally Anne who answered the phone with that pleasant, southern drawl.

She lived in an apartment on Lover's Lane in Dallas and told me that she had some loquat trees in the yard. Together over the years we conspired to create an annual loquat festival and would joke about same all the time. We would discuss the merits of inviting this or that celebrity to be our festival honoree.

Before her time with The AP, I am told that Anne was a fashion model, and I don't doubt it.

She was always a breath of fresh air. No matter how hot it was where I was calling or how the members were abusing me that day, she always made me smile.

I played in "The Lechers of Golf" tourney with many other AP/Connecting folks back in 2000 or 2001. We were playing Kapalua on Maui. As we sat on one tee looking at the wonderful vista with a rainbow in front of us, I suggested to Doug Kienitz and Tom DeCola that we give Anne a call to say HI! It had been awhile since we talked with her after she retired.

Cellphones being the "new" must have accessory for any good golfer, we rang her up and she was so happy to hear from us you could feel it through the ether. How we had her home number I do not remember. I think that was the last time I talked with that lovely woman. The foto in Monday's edition brought back pleasant memories. No history of The AP in Texas would be complete without a prominent mention of Anne Jackson.

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Ye Old-timers Wonderment

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Funny how that rocking chair elicits wondrous thoughts.

The other day, Old Timer got to wondering about those Christian beliefs that when one dies, and goes to Heaven, that there will be a great reunion with one's family and friends that have passed on.

If that is so, what kind of a reunion will it be when "John" dies and goes to Heaven and reunites with his wife, for whom he had only disdain? Will it be the happy time he thought it would be?

What will "Ralph" do when he dies and goes to Heaven and reunites with four of his previous wives?

What will "Jane" do when she dies and goes to Heaven and is reunited with her former boss, from whom she embezzled many dollars?

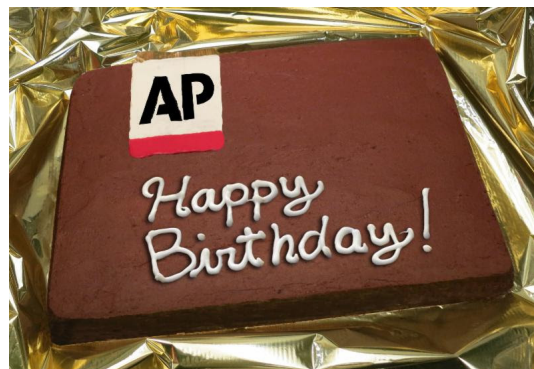
What will "Euphrates" do when he comes face-to-face with the man he killed while on earth?

This is serious stuff.

Reminds Old-Timer of the story about St. Peter taking some new arrivals in Heaven on a tour of the "Mansion." He pointed out room after room of Heavenly residents. When he came to one room they heard loud happy shouting. Asked why, Peter said they were Baptists and thought they were the only ones to be in Heaven.

Till next time.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Scott Charton - chartonconsulting@yahoo.com

Jody Kurash - jodykurash@yahoo.com

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Welcome to Connecting



Scott Braut - braut@adobe.com

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Stories of interest

Poll: Americans want more of what journalists want to report

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - There's substantial agreement on what Americans want from the news media and what journalists want to report, according to a pair of studies that also reveal a troubling caveat: a nagging feeling among both the ideal isn't being met.

Public suspicion about journalism is also fueled by some basic misunderstandings on how the process works, particularly in an era of rapid change, according to the

twin surveys of the American public and journalists released Monday by the Media Insight Project. The effort is a collaboration between The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the American Press Institute.

The close look at attitudes comes in the midst of President Donald Trump's relentless attacks on the news media and the continued downsizing of the economically beleaguered newspaper industry. It has left journalists beaten down: The surveys found about 3 in 4 journalists believe the public's level of trust in the news media has decreased in the past year. Yet only 44 percent of American adults actually say their level of trust has decreased.

The public actually wants what most journalists say they want to give them - news stories that are factual and offer context and analysis, said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute. But the public doesn't feel like they're seeing enough of that work, with 42 percent of Americans saying journalists stray too far into commentary, according to the new research.

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

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Opinion: How Northern Newspapers Covered Lynchings (New York Times)



The Montgomery Advertiser newspaper apologized in April for its role in justifying and promoting lynching. Credit Brynn Anderson/Associated Press

By Charles Seguin

Dr. Seguin is working on a book about lynching in America.

From the late 1800s well into the 20th century, thousands of people, mostly black and poor, were murdered by lynch mobs that sometimes burned their victims alive, castrated them or cut their bodies up into little pieces that were passed around as souvenirs.

Southern newspapers justified these horrors by calling lynching victims "fiends," "brutes" or "ravishers," leaving their guilt unquestioned. Lurid details of supposed rapes of white women by black men, often entirely fabricated, were recounted in Southern papers to justify, or even to incite, lynchings.

In a landmark move, The Montgomery Advertiser recently apologized for its role in justifying and promoting lynching. But many Northern papers were just as complicit.

Consider these headlines about Southern lynchings from The Washington Post and The Chicago Tribune, respectively: "Negro Brute Lynched: Attempted Assault on Young Daughter of a Farmer," "Criminal Calendar: Two Murderous and Thieving Negroes Lynched by a Kentucky Mob."

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

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Cost of government rises when local newspaper closes, study finds (Guardian)

By EDWARD HELMORE

When a local newspaper closes, the cost of government increases. That's the conclusion of new survey from Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business, which draws a direct line between loss of the watchful eyes of local newspapers and a decline in government efficiency.

Paul Gao, a professor of finance at the college, said he got the idea for the study while watching John Oliver's Last Week Tonight about the decline of local newspapers almost two years ago.

The result of that study, Financing Dies in Darkness? The Impact of Newspaper Closures on Public Finance, argues there is a direct correlation between the loss of a local paper and higher costing - or less efficient - government.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage, John Willis.

-0-

Former GOP aide Wallace lighting it up for MSNBC



By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Nicolle Wallace lives for the sort of chaos that makes most cable television hosts shudder.

On the day investigators raided the offices of President Trump's attorney Michael Cohen, the news broke moments before the start of Wallace's MSNBC show at 4 p.m. Eastern. The rundown that she and her team had planned for "Deadline: White House" was quickly discarded.

"When news happens, we respond immediately," Wallace said. "We don't blink. We don't flinch. We don't think about it. We never say, 'let's stick with what we've scripted.' We blow it up. My most Zen moment is when the prompter goes black and (executive producer) Pat Burkey is talking to me and we're trying to get through the moment."

Dealing with the unexpected was a regular part of her work as White House communications director for President George W. Bush and senior adviser for John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. Although news often knocked her on her heels, she loved the adrenaline rush.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



The way we were -back in 1996 when key figures in the AP's Missouri-Kansas operation gathered for this photo. Front row, from left: **Dave Young**, chief of communications (now deceased); **Traci Carl**, Wichita correspondent (now AP director of international operations in New York); **Peg Coughlin**, assistant chief of bureau (now an AP elections coordinator); **Lori Rose**, St. Louis correspondent (now retired). Back row, from left: **Curt Anderson**, Missouri-Kansas Washington regional reporter (now AP Legal Affairs writer, Miami); **Cliff Schiappa**, Kansas City photographer; **Karen Testa**, Springfield correspondent (now East Region editor in Boston); **Paul Stevens**, chief of bureau (retired, now Ye Olde Connecting Editor); **Scott Charton**, Jefferson City correspondent (now owner of consulting business in Columbia), and **Kent Zimmerman**, Kansas City news editor (now retired).

Today in History - June 12, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 12, the 163rd day of 2018. There are 202 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 12, 1963, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and sentenced to life in prison; he died in 2001.)

On this date:

In 1550, the city of Helsinki was established through a decree by King Gustavus I Vasa of Sweden.

In 1665, England installed a municipal government in New York, formerly the Dutch settlement of New Amsterdam, and appointed its first mayor, Thomas Willett.

In 1776, Virginia's colonial legislature adopted a Declaration of Rights.

In 1898, Philippine nationalists declared independence from Spain.

In 1939, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was dedicated in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1942, Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, received a diary for her 13th birthday, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding from the Nazis.

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, unanimously struck down state laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

In 1968, the Roman Polanski horror film "Rosemary's Baby," starring Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1978, David Berkowitz was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for each of the six "Son of Sam" .44-caliber killings that terrified New Yorkers.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, during a visit to the divided German city of Berlin, exhorted Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

In 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were slashed to death outside her Los Angeles home. (O.J. Simpson was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial, but was eventually held liable in a civil action.) Boeing's new 777 jetliner went on its first test flight.

In 2016, an American-born Muslim opened fire at the Pulse nightclub, a gay establishment in Orlando, Florida, leaving 49 people dead and 53 wounded before being shot dead by police.

Ten years ago: In a stinging rebuke to President George W. Bush's anti-terror policies, a deeply divided Supreme Court ruled that foreign detainees held for years at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba had the right to appeal to U.S. civilian courts to challenge their indefinite imprisonment without charges. Three heavily armed robbers stole two Pablo Picasso prints, "The Painter and the Model" and "Minotaur, Drinker and Women," plus two paintings by other artists from a museum in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (The works were later recovered.) Taiwan and China agreed to set up permanent offices in each other's territory for the first time in nearly six decades.

Five years ago: The director of the National Security Agency, Gen. Keith Alexander, vigorously defended once-secret surveillance programs before the Senate Intelligence Committee, saying that collecting Americans' phone records and tapping into their Internet activity had disrupted dozens of terrorist attacks. Ariel Castro, 52, accused of holding three women captive in his Cleveland home for about a decade, pleaded not guilty to hundreds of rape and kidnapping charges. (Castro

was later sentenced to life plus 1,000 years and soon after committed suicide in prison.) NASCAR driver Jason Leffler, 37, died after an accident during a dirt car event at Bridgeport Speedway in New Jersey.

One year ago: Tens of thousands of protesters held anti-corruption rallies across Russia; more than a thousand were arrested, including opposition leader and protest organizer Alexei Navalny. The Golden State Warriors brought home the NBA championship, defeating the Cleveland Cavaliers 129-120 in Game 5.

Today's Birthdays: Former President George H.W. Bush is 94. Songwriter Richard M. Sherman is 90. Jazz musician Chick Corea is 77. Sportscaster Marv Albert is 77. Singer Roy Harper is 77. Pop singer Len Barry is 76. Actor Roger Aaron Brown is 69. Rock musician Bun E. Carlos (Cheap Trick) is 67. Country singer-musician Junior Brown is 66. Singer-songwriter Rocky Burnette is 65. Actor Timothy Busfield is 61. Singer Meredith Brooks is 60. Actress Jenilee Harrison is 60. Rock musician John Linnell (They Might Be Giants) is 59. Actor John Enos is 56. Rapper Grandmaster Dee (Whodini) is 56. Actor Paul Schulze is 56. Actor Eamonn Walker is 56. Actress Paula Marshall is 54. Actress Frances O'Connor is 51. Actor Rick Hoffman is 48. Actor-comedian Finesse Mitchell is 46. Actor Mel Rodriguez is 45. Actor Jason Mewes is 44. Actor Michael Muhney is 43. Blues musician Kenny Wayne Shepherd is 41. Actor Timothy Simons is 40. Actor Wil Horneff is 39. Singer Robyn is 39. Rock singer-musician John Gourley (Portugal. The Man) is 37. Actor Dave Franco is 33. Country singer Chris Young is 33. Actor Luke Youngblood is 32. Rap group MC Jay Are is 29. Actor Ryan Malgarini is 26.

Thought for Today: "A man without ambition is dead. A man with ambition but no love is dead. A man with ambition and love for his blessings here on earth is ever so alive." - Pearl Bailey, American entertainer (1918-1990).

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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