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## Connecting -- July 13, 2018

1 message

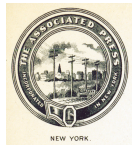
**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 8:16 AM

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# Connecting

July 13, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

In our lead item, **Bob Reid** tells how he got into his first job with The Associated Press - in the Charlotte bureau in 1969. But here's the rest of his career story that took him around the world:

**Charlotte** to military leave (3 years) and back to **Charlotte**, where in 1976 he was Carolinas news editor - and then on to **New York World Desk/Foreign Desk**, **Bonn** as newsmen and then news editor for Germany and Central Europe, **Cairo** as chief of bureau and then as roving Middle East correspondent, **Manila** as chief of bureau, **New York** as chief UN correspondent, **Vienna** as chief of bureau, **Brussels** as European news editor and then correspondent at large there and in **Amman**, Jordan, **Baghdad** as chief of bureau, **Kabul** as news director for Afghanistan and Pakistan, **Cairo** as Middle East regional editor, **Berlin** as chief of bureau for Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and retirement in 2014.



But wait, there's more - he's now in **Washington** as senior managing editor for Stars and Stripes.

Anyone out there who can come close to matching that?

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## A 45-year AP career began with offer of stringer services

**Bob Reid** ([Email](#)) - Back in the day - when George Wallace was a rising political star, when a half million Americans were fighting in Vietnam and when "trump" was a card game term - I was a college senior and, like most students, in need of money. For about a year I had been collecting a few bucks a month as a basketball stringer for UPI, phoning in a few grafs from Davidson College home games at a time when the school was in the AP and UPI national Top Ten. The fee wasn't much but it did cover weekend dates.

As I was wrapping up my academic career, the college revised its course requirements and schedule, moving to a trimester system that was so complicated that most of us in the Class of 1969

couldn't accumulate enough credits under either the old or the new system to graduate on time. So the college cut some corners for our class. In my final trimester I needed only two elective courses - Economic Geography with all the jocks and Latin Literature In Translation. My first class met at 11 a.m., and I was through for the day before 2 p.m.



**Bob Reid in the streets of Baqouba, Iraq, during the Iraqi surge of 2007.**

With a lot of time on my hands, I cast about for opportunities to expand my stringer business. The Charlotte Observer and the Christian Science Monitor bought a few features. Looking for more, I wrote the AP bureau in Charlotte, 20 miles down the road from my campus, and offered my stringer services. A few days later I received a letter from Carl Bell, the bureau chief and a legend in southern wire service journalism. Bell politely explained that with the member news exchange system, AP didn't have much need for stringers. He suggested, however, that I drop by the bureau for a chat.

I showed up one afternoon and the next thing I knew, the news editor, Mike Rouse, handed me a sheet of paper marked "test." I wasn't really looking for a fulltime job, I explained. Mike smiled. "Just fill it out and give it to me when you finish."

After nearly a half century, I can't remember the questions. However, I scribbled a few answers and handed the sheet back to Mike. He was too busy to look at it but shook my hand and thanked me for stopping by. I left slightly befuddled but on the other hand, I hadn't expected much. At least the visit meant I didn't have to spend my time in the library reading Roman poetry in English.

The next day I got a phone call. It was the droll voice of Mike Rouse: "Uh, you remember that test? Did you know there are questions on the back?" OMG. I was so cavalier about the whole exercise I hadn't even bothered to turn over the page!



**Bob Reid (right) and Cairo news editor Steve Hindy interview Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak**

Chagrined, I drove back to Charlotte that very afternoon and finished the test. Carl Bell invited me into his office, glanced at both sides of the page - and offered me a job. I accepted on the spot. Starting the following week, I was working a night rewrite shift from 4 p.m. until 11 p.m. for the princely sum of \$140 a week. By the standards of the time, I felt awash in cash.

I had no clue what I was doing, which wasn't all that different from my experience as a college student.

in 1983.

However, my supervisors - Mike Rouse, Ralph Sprinkle, Rob Wood, Nate Wegodsky and Ambrose Dudley to name

a few - were patient. AP even let me take weekends off, until the veterans started to complain. And they let me take off for my wedding and brief honeymoon, even though I hadn't accumulated any vacation time.

In retrospect I was damned lucky. Today, when paid journalism jobs are harder to find than principled politicians, it's hard to imagine an era when a completely inexperienced kid - who'd never attended journalism school nor ever held a fulltime job in journalism -- could stumble into a staff position with a major global news organization. (Later I learned my timing was fortuitous. One of the bureau's longtime stars, Dick Sarsfield, had just suffered a heart attack and been forced to retire. I was nowhere near his skill level - but I came a lot cheaper.)

Thus began a 45-year career that took me, literally, around the world.

## Connecting mailbox

### *Whittling away to find wires in a telephone while her future in-laws looked on*

**Mallory Saleson** ([Email](#)) - I have to dive in with a brief story after reading Mark Hamrick's spot-on account of broadcast tools of the trade.

Talking about alligator clips. I had my share of frustrations getting voice and sound to VOA back in the 80s reporting from southern Africa. Some of the memories extremely compelling-others just hilarious in hindsight.

Like the time I was in Durban with a breaking story I had to get into the upcoming 6 p.m. newscast to Africa. I knew I had the lead. The only problem was, I was also set to meet my future in-laws - for the first time and without my soon-to-be husband -- the same afternoon as they were vacationing in the coastal city.



I simply went to their hotel room, quickly introduced myself and said I had to use the telephone to call Washington with a breaking story. I then went into whirlwind mode,

grabbed the phone by the bedside, only to discover it was a solid piece of plastic- you couldn't break it anywhere!

What could I do? Following the wires I pushed the bed from the wall, grabbed the Swiss army knife out of my own gear bag of tricks, and whittled away the plastic wire casing until I had enough bare wire to attach those damn alligator clips-all under the wide-eyed gaze of my future in-laws. They were certainly amused -- but probably not too fazed as both had served in WWII.

When all was done, and I'd filed my report and pushed the bed back to the wall, they handed me a glass with J & B on the rocks--they always traveled with a bottle--and said they were pleased to meet me. After all, it was 5 o'clock. And I'd made my deadline.

-0-

## ***Moving your family does suck***

**Jeff Barnard (Email)** - Nice to read Larry Blasko's acknowledgement that moving your family sucks. I did it twice: once from Hyannis, Mass., to Providence, R.I., to join the AP, and second to Grants Pass, Ore. , for a dream job as a one-person correspondent. The second was hardest on my family due to a long separation and cost us about \$10,000 in taxes on moving expenses. Nobody told me about that. So I resisted subsequent efforts to promote me and paid a price, but my family was happy, and so was I.

-0-

## ***Connecting sky shot - Northern Wisconsin***





**Peter Leabo** ([Email](#)) - In a Sky Full of Stars - The Milky Way and a shooting star illuminate a moonless July night on the dock on Long Lake, northern Wisconsin. The deafening silence was punctuated only by the occasional haunting call of a distant loon.

-0-

***Connecting candid - New York Library***



**Paul Colford** ([Email](#)) - I've always found what I was looking for, here in the New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, the so-called "main library," on Fifth Avenue, or in the @NYPL's Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. Better yet, I often found gold that I wasn't looking for - hiding in a reel of microfilm, or painstakingly scissored from a newspaper and tucked into a vertical file long ago.

I visited the main library again Wednesday. The reading room seems even larger, more grand, than the last time. The caption for my photo could be: Researchers at work. How lucky we are to have this great institution: the Public Library.

## Copy e dit This!No. 13 Quiz

The Times's standards editor, Philip B. Corbett, invites readers to correct grammatical errors in recent New York Times articles. You can take other quizzes [here](#).

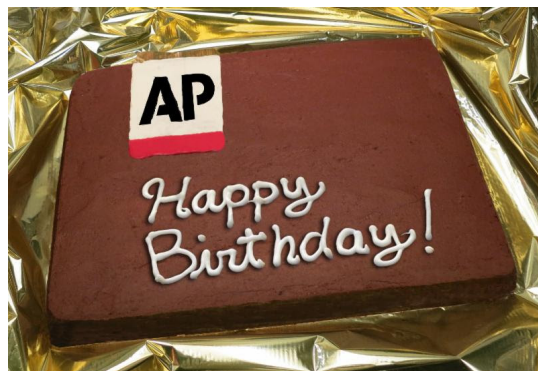
Here's the latest installment of our copy editing quiz. Each of the passages below, from recent Times articles, contains at least one clear error in grammar or word usage. I'm not counting less-than-elegant phrasing that could be improved, or other more subjective editing judgments.

You don't have to explain the error or fix it; just click on the part you think is wrong. If I agree, you'll see my explanation. If you're off base, try again.

And remember, we're on deadline here!

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Doug Anstaett - [danstaett@kspress.com](mailto:danstaett@kspress.com)**



*On Saturday to...*

**Don Waters** - [news4u2@earthlink.net](mailto:news4u2@earthlink.net)

*On Sunday to...*

**Santiago Lyon** - [santiago.lyon@gmail.com](mailto:santiago.lyon@gmail.com)

**Diane Parker** - [dparker@ap.org](mailto:dparker@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### ***Russian Influence Campaign Sought To Exploit Americans' Trust In Local News*** (NPR)

By **TIM MAK**

Russia's information attack against the United States during the 2016 election cycle sought to take advantage of the greater trust that Americans tend to place in local news.

The information operatives who worked out of the Internet Research Agency in St. Petersburg did not stop at posing as American social media users or spreading false information from purported news sources, according to new details.

They also created a number of Twitter accounts that posed as sources for Americans' hometown headlines.

NPR has reviewed information connected with the investigation and found 48 such accounts. They have names such as @EIPasoTopNews, @MilwaukeeVoice, @CamdenCityNews and @Seattle\_Post.

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

-0-

## ***Nearly three years later, a WDBJ anchor shares how her newsroom survived tragedy***

(Poynter)

**BY RACHEL SCHALLOM**

On June 28, a man walked into the Capital Gazette newsroom and killed five employees with a shotgun. It was the first deadly attack on journalists in the United States since two WDBJ journalists were killed while doing a live shot in 2015. (A video journalist was killed earlier this year, but the motive has not been confirmed.)

WDBJ anchor Kimberly McBroom was on air when two of her colleagues and friends, Adam Ward and Alison Parker, were killed on August 26, 2015. Nearly three years later, she shares how her newsroom made it through the tragedy.

This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

***Writing Rough Drafts of History: How The Times Presents the Biggest News Stories*** (New York Times)

**By Emma L. McAleavy**

*In an effort to shed more light on how we work, The Times is running a series of short posts explaining some of our journalistic practices. Read more of this series [here](#).*

*Here, New York Times reporters and editors explain the "lede-all," a story form that weaves together many narrative threads and leads the coverage of an event.*

Simon Romero needed internet service. He was on deadline, reporting from Haiti the day after the 2010 earthquake, and editors were waiting on his article. On a hunch, he hired a driver to take him to a hotel that was miraculously still standing. There, by candlelight, with a generator and a satellite internet connection, Mr. Romero filed a draft of his "lede-all," a story that captured the devastating situation unfolding on the ground, and set the stage for the weeks of reporting that would follow.

The lede-all is one of the most important and challenging story forms employed by reporters at The New York Times. As the name suggests, a lede-all leads the coverage of an event, weaving together many narrative threads, some of which are expanded upon in their own separate articles. It's a form that is reserved for news of significant scale and consequence.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman, who noted, "Sound familiar? AP has done this for decades."

## Today in History - July 13, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 13, the 194th day of 2018. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles, outdrawing rivals including Lyndon B. Johnson, Stuart Symington and Adlai Stevenson.

On this date:

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation adopted the Northwest Ordinance, which established a government in the Northwest Territory, an area corresponding to the eastern half of the present-day Midwest.

In 1793, French revolutionary writer Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who was executed four days later.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1939, Frank Sinatra made his first commercial recording, "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood," with Harry James and his Orchestra for the Brunswick label.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

In 1972, George McGovern received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach.

In 1977, a blackout hit New York City in the mid-evening as lightning strikes on electrical equipment caused power to fail; widespread looting broke out. (The electricity was restored about 25 hours later.)

In 1978, Lee Iacocca was fired as president of Ford Motor Co. by chairman Henry Ford II.



In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz (ahn-HEHL' mah-tyoo-REE'-noh reh-SEHN'-deez), suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas. (Resendiz was executed in 2006.)

Ten years ago: An assault by militants on a remote U.S. base in Afghanistan close to the Pakistan border killed nine American soldiers and wounded 15. Anheuser-Busch agreed to a takeover by giant Belgian brewer InBev SA. Talk show host Les Crane died in Greenbrae, Calif., at age 74.

Five years ago: A jury in Sanford, Florida, cleared neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman of all charges in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black teenager whose killing unleashed furious debate over racial profiling, self-defense and equal justice. Actor Cory Monteith, who'd shot to fame in the hit TV series "Glee" but was beset by addiction struggles, was found dead in a hotel room in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; he was 31. Attorney Leonard Garment, 89, a friend and adviser to President Richard Nixon, died in New York.

One year ago: A federal judge in Hawaii weakened President Donald Trump's travel ban by vastly expanding the list of U.S. family relationships that visitors from six Muslim-majority countries could use to get into the country. President Donald Trump defended his son's meeting with a Russian lawyer during the presidential campaign, characterizing it as standard campaign practice. China's most prominent political prisoner, Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights campaigner Liu Xiaobo (lee-OO' show-BOH') died in prison of liver cancer at the age of 61.

Today's Birthdays: Game show announcer Johnny Gilbert (TV: "Jeopardy!") is 94. Actor Patrick Stewart is 78. Actor Robert Forster is 77. Actor Harrison Ford is 76. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 76. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 72. Actress Daphne Maxwell Reid is 70. Actress Didi Conn is 67. Singer Louise Mandrell is 64. Rock musician Mark "The Animal" Mendoza (Twisted Sister) is 62. Actor-director Cameron Crowe is 61. Tennis player Anders Jarryd is 57. Rock musician Gonzalo Martinez De La Coteria (Marcy Playground) is 56. Comedian Tom Kenny is 56. Country singer-songwriter Victoria Shaw is 56. Bluegrass singer Rhonda Vincent is 56. Actor Kenny Johnson is 55. Roots singer/songwriter Paul Thorn is 54. Country singer Neil Thrasher is 53. Actor Ken Jeong is 49. Bluegrass musician Mike Barber (The Gibson Brothers) is 48. Singer Deborah Cox is 45. Actress Ashley Scott is 41. Rock musician Will Champion (Coldplay) is 40. Actor Fran Kranz is 37. Actress Aya Cash is 36. Actor Colton Haynes is 30. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 30. Soul singer Leon Bridges is 29. Actress Hayley Erin ("General Hospital") is 24. Actor Kyle Harrison Breitkopf (BRYT'-kahpf) is 13.

Thought for Today: "If I were to wish for anything, I should not wish for wealth and power, but for the passionate sense of the potential, for the eye which, ever young and ardent, sees the possible. Pleasure disappoints, possibility never." - Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (1813-1855).

## 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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