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Connecting -- July 19, 2018

1 message

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Connecting

July 19, 2018

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Colleagues,

Connecting received word this morning that **Jim Tomlinson**, a 41-year veteran of The Associated Press, died Tuesday night. He was vice president, assistant to the president and corporate secretary when he retired in 1992. He was 92.

His AP career began in Helena, Montana, in 1951 and he later served as Atlantic City correspondent, New York Bureau newsman, Newark correspondent and bureau chief, and Business Editor in New York.



We will bring you further information in Friday's edition. If you have a memory of Jim to share, please send it along today.

What was your job (or jobs) before journalism?

Taylor Blatchford of Poynter posed that question [in this article](#) and got some interesting responses that included high school teacher, bartender and store clerk.

No good idea can or should go uncopied - so Connecting asks you to send us your response to the same question, with a bit of explanation if you like.

I look forward to your responses - and colleague **John Hartzell**, who suggested the idea, leads off in today's issue.

Celebrating the life of Sue Manning

Frank Baker, AP's California news editor, shares the following:

We'll be **celebrating the life** of our beloved Sue on **Monday, July 30**, in a way she would have appreciated - with a doubleheader. Game One will be a gathering where current and former AP staffers and Sue's friends can mingle and reminisce about the nicest person any of us will ever meet. And Game Two is - what else? - a trip to Chavez Ravine to see her beloved Dodgers.

The gathering will be from 4-6p in the function room of our complex. It's on the ground floor of Building 241 (the one with the blue stripe). It's where we held Steve Loeper's retirement party. The game is at 7:10 p.m. and the opponent is the Brewers. RSVP for tickets to Alex Veiga at aveiga@ap.org They are \$34.50 apiece and we need a final head count by Friday. Thanks to Sandy Cohen for getting the ball rolling on this and Alex for his promotional efforts. We already have more than 20 folks signed up to go.

I'll close by noting Sue would want nothing more than for us to enjoy each other's company. So let's use the occasion for that. Let's not lament what we're missing without Sue, but to celebrate what we got by having her in our lives.

Paul

New Connecting series:

What jobs did you hold before journalism?

John Hartzell ([Email](#)) - My initial reaction to the Poynter story by Taylor Blatchford was one of amusement, but as I read on I soon realized that it provided some food for thought in that journalism can't help but be enhanced by the variety of perspectives brought into it as a result of the life experiences of those who practice it.

When Paul first asked me to write something on the topic, I told him my experience is probably pretty atypical in that almost every cent I ever earned was related to journalism in one way or another, be it as a newspaper carrier for the old Milwaukee Journal; stringer for the Journal, Milwaukee Sentinel and Waukesha Freeman; "copy boy" at the Journal and several stints as a part-timer and intern in the Journal's sports department before joining The Associated Press a little more a month after graduating from college. That's not to mention a number of journalism-related gigs for which I was paid nothing.

The only other income that comes to mind is picking up a few bucks for serving as official scorer at a handful of high school track meets, and - way back when - a small allowance from my parents for doing household chores such as washing or drying the dishes.

I commuted to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from my parents' home in suburban Brookfield, so the little I earned still stretched pretty far considering gasoline was about quarter a gallon and my college tuition for a full load of classes kicked off in 1965 at what - if memory serves me correctly - was \$265.50 a semester.

I've often felt blessed by all the opportunities I've had in the occupation I loved, even if in my case that meant little opportunity to engage in other jobs along the way. But other perspectives can be provided through such things as hobbies or a strong

interest in something. In my case, my interest in sports in high school led me to numerous contacts in sports journalism and ultimately to my nearly 40 years at the AP. While I did not cover it on a regular basis, that background gave me the knowledge I needed when called upon.

Stories of interest

Recalling Khrushchez 1960 visit to New York City

Bobbie Seril ([Email](#)) - All this talk about trying to subpoena the State Department translator from the Helsinki meeting makes me wonder whether any of the western reporters speak Russian themselves.

I'm reminded of Khrushchev's 1960 visit to New York City, when we had our own in-house, real-time translator: my father, a Russian emigre, here for about 40 years by then.

Because he was neither filtered nor on an international stage, he was free to translate literally for us, and also way ahead of the official translator.

He explained that some of Khrushchev's words -- particularly verbs and adjectives -- were stronger than the translator would have us believe. Though I can't recall any of the specific ones he pointed out to the adults over coffee cake (yes, it was an event), I do remember the simple example he gave to eleven-year old me: "If I tell you I don't like your friend Judy, it's very different from me saying I despise your best friend Judy."

(AP staff in Moscow indeed speak Russian, according to AP standards editor John Daniszewski.)

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More of your memories of Sue Manning

Peggy Walsh (Email) - So many who worked with Sue for years have written eloquently about her kindness, strength and love of all, the AP, friends, animals and life. Our time together was short - one year in LA. That turned into a 33-year friendship. Perhaps Sue's greatest legacy is that she brightened every path she crossed, no matter for how long. The world has lost a truly good and loving human being.

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Mel Opotowsky (Email) - There have been many strong and justified tributes to Sue Manning from former and current AP staffers. But as a client, the managing editor of the Press Enterprise in Riverside, CA, I found her the right one to connect to whether we wanted a story, had a question or, God forbid, a complaint. She was clear, fast, effective and dependable. No second phone calls needed.

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Michael Fleeman (Email) - Sue Manning was as goodhearted a friend and colleague as she was a brilliant reporter and editor. She guided me, supported me, defended me, humored me, and set me straight on more than one occasion through some of the biggest stories in LA history, from the riots to O.J. to earthquakes to brushfires. She cleaned up my copy, plugged my reporting holes, laughed at my dumb jokes, gushed over my kids, and always, always, had my back. I never had an editor who came even close to her. When I left AP, she gave me a sendoff far beyond anything I had earned or deserved, as she did for so many of us. Sue, the maker of scrapbooks, the keeper of memories, and the best friend the Dodgers ever had. Every time I saw her since, including at her own retirement party, it was as if no time at all had gone by. Sue was Sue, and God bless her, a dear friend first and always, to me and to my wife Barbara. All my thoughts to her family and to her many, many friends. We'll all miss her dearly

And finally:

chauvinism?

There, amid the usual bafflegab of phone numbers, bureau codes, timeoffs and messages coming into the Seattle bureau, was this communication:

SE

un-Manning for lunch. Back soonest.

SX

ap-se-1206 2057pst

The computer hadn't miscued. The message was from **Spokane newswoman Sue Manning**, signing off long enough for a sandwich.



Francesca Pitaro found the above images in the AP World of 1978, relating to Sue Manning's first AP assignment in Spokane, Washington. A portent of things to come, was it?

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Recalling the life of accomplished journalist Marcia Chambers

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - So sad to report the death of another dear friend and accomplished woman journalist, Marcia Chambers. [Click here](#) for a link to The New York Times story,)

Many will remember her from her days in Los Angeles when her husband, the late Stanton Wheeler, a Yale law professor, helped direct the 1984 Olympics. It was an idyllic time for them and for us. They gave some of the greatest jazz parties where Stan and his musician friends jammed and the rest of us brought food. It was a grand eclectic group of journalists, legal stars and politicians that enhanced all of our lives. Marcia had been an AP reporter in the 70s and I met her when she had moved on to the New York Times and was assigned to the trial of Patty Hearst's kidnapers in Los Angeles. She knew Theo Wilson from New York and quickly became part of our gang of reporters covering LA courts. With her striking looks (She had a waist length braid down her back) and her ebullient personality, she was unforgettable, a gifted journalist who would find her special niche covering, of all things, golf. I'm sorry she didn't live longer. Too many losses this week. I am feeling bereft.

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A Today in History item that brought back vivid memories of when two ships exploded, killing 320



Memorial at Port Chicago Naval Magazine

Sal Veder (Email) - Tuesday's Highlights in History brought me up short this a.m with a memory that still makes me nervous! The item: *On July 17, 1944, during World War II, 320 men, two-thirds of them African-Americans, were killed when a pair of ammunition ships exploded at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California.*

As a high school senior, I was working summer vacation (July '44) on the light oil docks at Shell Oil Co refinery in Martinez, Ca., rolling 55-gallon drums of 100 octane avgas aboard RR

freight cars for the war effort! The 4-12 shift!

About nine miles east is Port Chicago Naval Ammunition depot on Suisun Bay.

In those days the RR light-oil docks were enclosed on one side by 8x10 inch glass pane walls as well as corrugated sheet metal.

Further, as I recall, it was close to sundown or shortly after (I've not looked up details on Google) we felt a very, very strong wind from the west (hard to stand against), then just as suddenly, it came from the 180-degree direction of Port Chicago, followed by the noise of the explosion. (I cannot recall now whether the wind, concussion or fear put us on the concrete...but we high schoolers hit the deck!)

Looking east out over the SP tracks the sky exploded...a fireworks show unmatched in my lifetime! Every color of the rainbow...mushroom cloud that kept growing skyward...for a moment it was like bright daylight. One could liken it to photos of the atomic bomb blast! Then an unbelievable silence...followed by sirens!

As I recall, they found parts of the two ammunition ships nine miles inland. The town of Port Chicago was leveled! Concord got hit hard as well as Martinez where I lived...mostly broken windows, but buildings in Martinez, Pittsburg and Concord were physically damaged! (I have not researched the totality, nor do I wish to)!

The death toll was high, primarily black Navy crewmen shipboard and on the loading docks!

Years later as a newsman/photog I covered other accidents at that facility...one where a picketing demonstrator was injured when hit by a railroad switch engine!

Ah! Well! Memories...the first of many as a non-college trained newsman/photog/rewrite/copydesk journalist!!

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Does this Today in History item sound familiar?

Charles McFadden (Email) - In last Thursday's Connecting, I noticed a "Today in History" tidbit:

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began, consuming most of the city for about a week. (Some blamed the fire on Emperor Nero, who in turn blamed Christians.)

Does that sound familiar? Maybe even a little bit familiar?

Gillesby, Laub appointed to AP leadership roles

By Bryan Baldwin

AP has appointed an experienced video manager and a longtime foreign correspondent to key leadership roles overseeing all journalists in two critical news regions.

Sara Gillesby, a New York-based video manager who led coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings, the Sandy Hook school shooting and 2016 political conventions, has been named news director for all formats in the U.S. East region.

Karin Laub, who has covered wars, revolutions, the plight of refugees and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for three decades as a foreign correspondent, has been promoted to the Middle East news director.

The appointments were announced Tuesday by Noreen Gillespie, deputy managing editor for U.S. News, and Ian Phillips, deputy managing editor and vice president for international news.

The AP is merging the management of its text, photo, video and interactive journalism at regional desks around the world. Each region will be overseen by a management team in which every format is represented and will include multimedia journalists and an integrated editing desk that emphasizes video, photos and social media.

Gillesby will lead a group of journalists in 10 states stretching from Ohio to Maine. She will be based at AP's headquarters.

"Every time we deploy teams for a major story in the United States, Sara's name always comes up first," Gillespie said. "She is a natural collaborator and leader who has deep relationships with journalists in every format, and she makes the teams she leads better."

Gillesby joined AP in 2005 as an editorial assistant, working her way up to video journalist, senior producer and later, assignment desk manager.



Sara Gillesby

In that role, she routinely led video coverage of some of the biggest stories in the world. She oversaw AP's video teams during Superstorm Sandy and the Boston Marathon bombings. She also coordinated on-site during the mass shooting at an elementary school in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. She helped lead coverage at both 2016 political conventions and worked with video journalists covering Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on election night. She was also part of an award-winning team that covered the Las Vegas shootings last year.

Laub has reported extensively on violence in hotspots such as Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. She covered Israel, the West Bank and Gaza in previous roles as Jerusalem news editor and chief correspondent for the Palestinian territories. That included two Palestinian uprisings, the 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in 2005. After the start of the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011, she traveled extensively in the region, reporting from behind rebel lines in Libya and Syria.

In 2014, Laub was central to AP's coverage of the Gaza war, living for almost two months in a city under bombardment, helping direct coverage, and writing a wide range of hard-hitting stories.



Karin Laub

"An enduring memory for me was Karin reporting on the final Gaza cease-fire well into the night in the middle of a power cut, her face lit up in the pitch black by the

light of a laptop screen," said Phillips. "Her dedication and professionalism are well known by all who have worked with her."

In her most recent post as bureau chief in Jordan, Laub produced insightful stories about the plight of Syrian refugees. Her work included stories about the rise in child marriages and child labor, the deportation of hundreds of refugees from Jordan to Syria, and the suffering of tens of thousands stranded for months and years in the desert on the sealed border between the two countries. She also explored the threat posed to the country and its people, some vulnerable to recruitment, by the Islamic State group.

[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

Stories of interest

Reporters, Facing a Hostile White House, Try a New Tactic: Solidarity (New York Times)



Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House press secretary, at a briefing on Wednesday. When she tried to stop a follow-up question from Hallie Jackson of NBC News by calling

on Jordan Fabian of The Hill, he deferred to Ms. Jackson. Credit: Al Drago for The New York Times

By Michael M. Grynbaum

It was a subtle exchange, about 20 minutes into yet another clamorous White House press briefing, and a casual viewer of Wednesday's proceedings would be forgiven for missing it.

But an unusual show of solidarity between rival journalists seemed to signal a new approach by the White House press corps toward an administration that regularly uses briefings to deride, and divide, the news media.

Hallie Jackson, a correspondent for NBC News, was grilling the press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, about President Trump's credibility, given his attempts at damage control after a Helsinki summit meeting with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia.

Ms. Sanders, eager to move on, invoked a tried-and-true spin doctor tactic: Next question, please.

"I'm going to keep moving," she said, interrupting Ms. Jackson and turning to Jordan Fabian of The Hill. "Jordan, go ahead."

Undeterred, Ms. Jackson said she had a follow-up question. "Sorry, you've asked two," Ms. Sanders said, speaking over her. "I'm going to move on to Jordan."

A brief silence fell over the room, before Mr. Fabian spoke up.

"Hallie," he said, "go ahead if you want."

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

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The Extraordinary Life of Martha Gellhorn, the Woman Ernest Hemingway Tried to Erase (Town & Country)



By PAULA McLAIN

One sultry morning last June, I hired a car to take me from beautifully ruinous Old Havana, through ravaged parts of the city most tourists never see, to the nearby village of San Francisco de Paula, a dusty speck of a place that was once home to Cuba's most famous American expat, Ernest Hemingway.

Having painted him into two historical novels and become an accidental aficionado of his life, I have made it a point to visit all of Hemingway's residences—from Oak Park to Paris, from Key West to Ketchum—but this time I actually came looking for someone else: his third wife, Martha Gellhorn. It was she who found the 19th-century estate Finca Vigía (Watchtower Farm) in the want ads of a local paper in 1939, and she who undertook extensive renovations, at her own expense.

The couple had just come from Spain, where they had lived side by side as international correspondents and clandestine lovers in Madrid's Hotel Florida, a mile's walk from one of the fronts in the Spanish Civil War and the target of frequent shell attacks by Franco's artillery. This, her first war, took every ounce of Gellhorn's courage, and it changed her in innumerable ways. And yet somehow house hunting in Cuba took even more bravery.

Franco had gutted Spain, Hitler was on the loose in Europe, and nations were tumbling ever faster toward world war. Nearer by, her lover was legally bound to another: wife number two, Pauline Pfeiffer, mother of two of his sons. Cuba, for him, was the perfect bolt-hole. But for Gellhorn, seeking happiness under these circumstances was a dangerous, even radical, act.

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

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Lawmakers warn Trump tariffs threaten local newspapers

By Kevin Freking

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - About a dozen members of Congress warned Tuesday that newspapers in their home states are in danger of reducing news coverage, laying off workers or going out of business if the United States maintains recently imposed tariffs on Canadian newsprint.

The Trump administration ordered the tariffs in response to a complaint from a paper producer in Washington state. It argues that Canadian competitors take advantage of government subsidies to sell their product at unfairly low prices.

About a dozen lawmakers testified against making the tariffs permanent during a United States International Trade Commission hearing. The commission is reviewing whether U.S. producers of certain groundwood paper products, including newsprint, have been materially injured because of the imports from Canada. The commission's findings help determine whether the Department of Commerce makes the tariffs permanent.

Newsprint is generally the second-largest expense for local papers. The tariffs have generally increased newsprint prices by 25 to 30 percent.

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

Today in History - July 19, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 19, the 200th day of 2018. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 19, 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

On this date:

In 1553, King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen of England after pretender Lady Jane Grey was deposed.

In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.

In 1848, a pioneering women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, New York.

In 1903, the first Tour de France was won by Maurice Garin.

In 1943, allied air forces raided Rome during World War II.

In 1944, the Democratic national convention convened in Chicago with the nomination of President Franklin D. Roosevelt considered a certainty.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.

In 1989, 111 people were killed when United Air Lines Flight 232, a DC-10 which suffered the uncontained failure of its tail engine and the loss of hydraulic systems, crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush joined former presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon at ceremonies dedicating the Nixon Library and Birthplace (since redesignated the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum) in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1992, anti-Mafia prosecutor Paolo Borsellino was killed along with five members of his security detail in a car bombing in Palermo, Sicily.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue."

Ten years ago: Democrat Barack Obama visited U.S. troops and met with officials in Afghanistan as part of a congressional fact-finding tour. The Indiana Fever defeated the New York Liberty 71-55 in the WNBA's first outdoor game, played at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Five years ago: In a rare and public reflection on race, President Barack Obama called on the nation to do some soul searching over the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of his shooter, George Zimmerman, saying the slain black teenager "could have been me 35 years ago." A Dallas woman plunged 75 feet to her death from a Six Flags Over Texas roller coaster when her safety restraint apparently failed.

One year ago: Sen. John McCain's office said the 80-year-old Arizona Republican and former presidential nominee had been diagnosed with a brain tumor, glioblastoma. President Donald Trump told The New York Times that he would have chosen someone else to be attorney general if he'd known that Jeff Sessions would recuse himself from the FBI probe into possible ties between Trump's campaign and Russia.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Helen Gallagher is 92. Country singer Sue Thompson is 92. Singer Vikki Carr is 78. Blues singer-musician Little Freddie King is 78. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 74. Actor George Dzundza is 73. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 72. International Tennis Hall of Famer Ilie Nastase is 72. Rock musician Brian May is 71. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 71. Actress Beverly Archer is 70. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 67. Actor Peter Barton is 62. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 58. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 58. Actor Campbell Scott is 57. Actor Anthony Edwards is 56. Country singer Kelly Shiver is 55. Actress Clea Lewis is 53. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 53. Country musician Jeremy Patterson is 48. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 47. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 47. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 44. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 42. Actress Erin Cummings is 41. TV chef Marcela Valladolid is 40. Actor Chris Sullivan ("This is Us") is 38. Actor Jared Padalecki is 36. Actor Trai Byers is 35. Actress Kaitlin Doubleday ("Nashville") is 34. Actor/comedian Dustin Ybarra is 32. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 28.

Thought for Today: "The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious ... the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science." - Albert Einstein (1879-1955).

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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