



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting -- July 30, 2018

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 30, 2018 at 9:15 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

July 30, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

Fellow past Wichita correspondents have been on my mind lately.

So it's appropriate that **Joe McKnight**, whose 41-year AP career included an assignment in Wichita, is the subject of our Monday Q-and-A profile.

Other former correspondents on my mind lately were two other Connecting colleagues: **Scott Kraft**, the new managing editor of the Los Angeles Times, and **Traci Carl**, AP director of international operations in New York, whom I saw this past weekend at a retirement reception in Lawrence for our friend **Susanne Shaw** of the Kansas journalism school. (I was Wichita correspondent from 1976-79.)

Even more of your memories of first jobs before journalism continue in today's issue.

I look forward to your contributions.

Paul

Connecting Q-and-A

Joe McKnight



Peggy and Joe McKnight in 2016

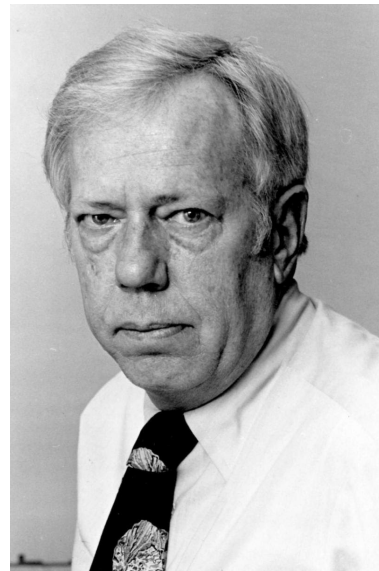
What are you doing these days?

Twenty-seven years into retirement, I have more projects and ideas than I can get to - woodworking, genealogy, organizing 70 years of family pictures, publishing an annual newsletter for my high school class of 1943 in Selma, AL, and staving off my wife's constant urging to clean up my desk. Most of all I would love to conquer health issues that took me off the tennis court in 2017. Tennis is becoming a fading dream. I get most exercise at a fitness center.

I got printer's ink in my blood at the age of 12 when I began delivering a route for The Selma (AL) Times-Journal and it's never left. Early in retirement, I did volunteer writing for such Ohio State agencies as the

Commission on Aging, the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Secretary of State, and the state Republican party.

Soon after retiring Columbus Bureau Chief Jake Booher said President Lou Boccardi needed an editor for the AP retiree newsletter Clear Time. I jumped at the chance and spent 13 years writing and editing for it until Corporate Communications dropped the newsletter for economy reasons.



Joe in Columbus

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

There was no writing test when I joined AP in March 1951. Nor was there a job interview. But Atlanta AP staffers told me that I was an oddity, that the AP usually required two years of experience on a daily newspaper for any new newsman. My only daily experience was in 1938-43 working in the circulation and mechanical departments of my hometown newspaper, The Selma Times-Journal until I entered military service. I asked Atlanta Bureau Chief Lew Hawkins about the two-year rule. His only reply was: "You're here, aren't you?"

Earlier, there was countless visits and phone contacts to Birmingham (AL.) AP Correspondent Leroy Simms, and letters of application mailed to Hawkins.

I was working for a weekly in Birmingham in early 1951 and making frequent contact with both Simms and the ME at The Birmingham News.

Then Simms called to say there would be an opening on the Atlanta staff if I could start work the following Monday. I accepted and gave notice to the weekly's editor immediately.

On Sunday, I drove to Atlanta, and at 8 a.m. Monday, reported to the AP bureau in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution building, [10 Forsythe Street](#), at 8 a.m. It was, March 26, 1951.

Hawkins introduced me to the staff at work that first day, showed me a desk where I could work. It would be two weeks before News Editor Pete Hanes could work me into the schedule. Hanes and State Editor Paul Simmons were my early mentors.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

One job for neophytes such as myself was filing the state wire - selecting and editing copy from several national and regional teletype circuits and locally produced news for state news circuits. The Atlanta State wire editor controlled copy to small daily newspapers in Georgia and Alabama during the day and added South Carolina morning newspapers at 4 p.m.

On the night shift, generally 4 p.m. to midnight, we watched for photo opportunities. One Saturday night after a Georgia Tech home football game, I went to the Atlanta Constitution dark room to get a game picture for APWirePhoto. I was amazed to be met at the door with what seemed to be hundreds of strips of 35-mm film, literally spilling out the door. A photographer told me to pick out the picture I wanted and he would print it for me. He let me squirm at his joke for a minute before telling me he had already chosen a frame and that the print was being developed.

After a few weeks I was assigned to the broadcast desk to condense news stories to under 200 words in a format to be read on radio newscasts. Broadcast Editor Lamar Matthews was of inestimable help in teaching how to do this. Matthews later became assistant chief of bureau and took the lead when Atlanta was chosen to test the first AP computer news circuits.



Joe in 1951

After a year or so, I was sent to the Statehouse for a day. Hanes, the day news editor, said he didn't know of anything happening but to nose around. I arrived just in time to be told that Gov. Herman Talmadge would hold a news conference in his office. I joined five or six reporters who trooped into the governor's office. He shook hands with each of us as we entered. We found seats and Talmadge sat at his desk. He looked at us; we looked at him. No one said a word. After five minutes of silence, Talmadge stood up, said: "Thank you gentlemen," and we all trooped out.

I left in frustration, feeling I should have asked some brilliant question about the legislature, politics or government. Another reporter told me this was typical of Talmadge news conferences.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Pete Hanes, state Editor Paul Simmons, copy editor Alan Abel and Matthews offered good guidance in my early AP days. Hawkins occasionally left me notes critiquing something I had done.

Despite his private office and administrative duties Hawkins couldn't get news writing out of his system. He frequently opened office mail at a newsroom desk and raced others at answering the phones.

In 1959 I transferred to Birmingham. Simms had left AP to become editor of the Huntsville (AL) Times and Tom Dygard succeeded him, transferring from the Detroit staff.

Dygar was a pleasure to work with, always working harder than anyone else, seldom critiquing what others did and often suggesting ways to improve the news report. Dygar asked me to write a mid-week column predicting winners before Friday night high school football games. I likely worked harder at this than any other assignment to that point. It paid off; the column became popular.

A year or so after I left Atlanta, Bill Waugh succeeded Hawkins, who moved to Washington and distinguished himself in covering the U. S. Supreme Court.

Waugh was good at personnel, talking frequently with staffers and was instrumental a year or so later in getting me assigned as Correspondent at Wichita, KS, a one-man office where I had free rein to make myself indispensable to The AP.



It was a cold Saturday, Dec. 16, 1965 in Wichita, KS when an Air Force KC 135 fueling plane loaded with jet fuel, took off from McConnell Air Force Base to train crew members in refueling other military craft. The plane failed to correct from a low-level turn as it tried to get out of the air field traffic pattern. It spun into a residential neighborhood in East Wichita, killing the crew and a number of residents. Shown at the scene, left to right, are Air Force Lt. Stephen Anbuhl, a military policeman and former AP stringer in Minnesota; Lt. Terry Arnold of the McConnell base public relations office; Bob Gallimore, Kansas City assistant chief of bureau who came to help with the story, and AP Wichita Correspondent Joe McKnight.

Frank Gorrie, bureau chief in Kansas City, was a gem of a leader. Bob Gallimore, another great man to work with, was the news editor and later assistant chief of bureau. He came to Wichita in mid-December 1964, to help when an Air Force refueling plane spun into the ground, killing its crew, a number of residents, and making a mess of a quiet residential street.

Gallimore was appointed bureau chief in Richmond and Fred Moen succeeded him. Fred was another great guy to work with. He became bureau chief in Nashville and I don't know who took his Kansas City job.

In late 1967 Gorrie told me the Wichita bureau would be closed. We talked almost daily about my options until he called and said the bureau chief in Columbus needed an assistant chief of bureau. I told him I would take it.

I met Columbus Bureau Chief Al Dopking for the first time around Nov. 1, 1967. He introduced me to staffers in the bureau and we went to a cafe for coffee and to get acquainted. Among other things, Al said he had never promoted anyone he did not hire, something he repeated frequently over the next couple of years.



Herb Mundt, AP chief of communications in Kansas City, kneels to make an adjustment on a new

City, kneels to make an adjustment on a then-new K-300 wirephotos receiver he had installed in Wichita (Kan.) Eagle-Beacon newsroom on Jan. 17, 1966. Standing, left-right are O'Dell Rogers, Wichita AP Technician; Wichita AP Correspondent Joe McKnight and Mrs. Luverne Paine, Eagle-Beacon photo lab technician.

That issue came to a head in 1969 when Al told me I was going to Cleveland to replace a recently departed correspondent. We had a heated discussion and the end result was that I stayed in Columbus and Dopking joined Gallagher's staff of membership sales people. It was a stressful time, but worked out well for my family.

Burl Osborne moved from Kentucky to succeed Dopking and quickly became among the best bureau chiefs I ever knew or worked with. When he moved to Washington he was succeeded by Jim Lagier. When Jim transferred to New England, Bill DiMascio moved from Nashville to COB in Columbus. DiMascio resigned to become executive editor of the Scripps Howard newspaper in Cleveland and was succeeded by Jake Booher, another peach of a guy to work with.

I feel lucky to have worked with so many good bureau leaders.

Would you do it all over again-or what would you change?

Yes, and Damn little.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I have several. Wood working has long been a hobby; lately I seem to have more projects than I can get to. Family history has been an on-and-off interest for 30 years, and research is on-going. And I have more than 60 years of family pictures to be organized.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

Too many to name. When all three sons were still at home, we had great ski trips to Colorado, Utah and western New York. Before retiring, Peggy and I toured London and Paris; and skied in Austria. The first trip in retirement was four weeks touring Alaska. I brag that we have driven in all 50 states.

June 24, 2005, was our 55th wedding anniversary and it coincided with that year's AP 25-year club dinner in New York. We attended the dinner and when Vice President Kelly Smith Tunney learned of the occasion, she had an AP photographer make this picture. Peggy and I celebrated our 68th wedding anniversary this year with a quiet dinner in a good restaurant.

Peggy is great at finding off-the-beaten path places to stay. We lived two weeks in a 15th century castle in Italy. In Spain we lived in a cleaned-up goat barn on a farm owned by a distant cousin of Gilbert Keith (G.K) Chesterton, the 19th century British author. In southern France, Peggy found a rural house amidst a grove of almond trees. We've also explored portions of England, Wales Ireland. We had great river boat trips on the Moscow and Volga rivers, and on the Rhine River. Now, the rigors of coming and going on trips of that magnitude might be too much for this 92-year-old body.

Names of your family members and what they do?

Oldest son Alan is retired from Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, the last eight years as director. Gene Herrick, if he reads this, likely will remember Alan, whom he used as a spotter at Ohio State football games in the early 1970s when Alan was a freshman at OSU. Brian, our second son, holds degrees from Bowling Green (OH) State College and The Ohio State University. He is retiring at the end of July 2018, from the local Franklin County Children's Service Agency. Jonathan, our youngest, develops new business for a group of auto repair shops and runs a silk screen printing business. I'm the luckiest Dad in the world with all three sons living close by; they are friends with each other and frequently come around to let us feed them. Three of our four grandsons also live nearby; oldest grandson Mark is in Florida where he has his dream job of managing equipment for the Pittsburgh Pirates and its farm teams. Mark's brother Douglas, presented us with a great-grandson in June 2017.

SUMMARIZE YOUR CAREER

It took several years for me to realize I stumbled into a career with the best company in the world for a journalist. I made many mistakes, but the late Wick Temple was often quoted as saying it is better to make mistakes, than to do nothing.

It was a great way to spend 41 years.

Joe McKnight's email is - jbmatap@aol.com

Connecting mailbox

A memory of owner of Philly restaurant where Ruth Gersh belly-danced

Larry Margasak ([Email](#)) - Ruth Gersh's memory of belly dancing at the Middle East Restaurant in Philadelphia (in Friday's Connecting) brought back memories of my own.

The restaurant owner, Jim Tayoun, was a fellow Temple University journalism graduate and was a lovable but corrupt rogue who went to prison for bribery-related crimes. He was a reporter, Philadelphia councilman, state representative and local newspaper owner.

Every time the Israelis and Arabs started fighting, including the 1967 Six Days War, the restaurant lost a large amount of business - even though I'm pretty sure Jim was Catholic. But eventually, business would always return because of the good food and great belly dancers. I remember one Temple classmate, Ethel Goldberg, was one of them and was the subject of numerous stories in the Temple News and local newspapers.

Jim also had an FM radio talk show (back when all the good shows were on AM). I was a guest once, and remember lots of weird people calling in.

Jim Tayoun died suddenly on Nov. 1, 2017 at age 87.

The obituary on Philly.com said:

"It was a sudden end for a man who never seemed lacking in energy, who bounded from one political event to another, cracking jokes and herding candidates into groups for the many pictures he took for his newspaper, the Public Record."

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Your memories of work before journalism

Bruce Lowitt (Email) - After withdrawing from Long Island University in January 1962 after two-and-a-half years (during which I earned barely a year's worth of credits but got my first taste of journalism as a columnist with The Greek Herald, the fraternity newspaper), my first job was with the now-defunct American Button & Buckle Co. near Canal Street in New York City. I was given a bin containing buttons of various sizes, colors, patterns and styles and had to find the four (sometimes five) buttons of different sizes but the same everything else and attach them in descending order to a sheet of cardboard matching the style number. That job in midtown Manhattan lasted four-and-a-half days; to maintain my sanity I resigned during lunch on Friday.

A few weeks later I was hired as a proofreader by the Allen Wayne Printing Co. on Vesey Street in lower Manhattan. The first month or so went well, then I was given blueprints to proof. After a couple of days I was awakened by my boss. I had fallen asleep on the design for an office building. I was invited to leave. A few years later portions of Vesey Street, including the building where my former job had been, vanished to make way for the World Trade Center.

Next, in the summer of '62, by which time I had turned 20, I became a researcher and librarian with the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Woolworth Building, a few blocks from Wall Street. It was a good, rewarding job but after a year I read that Moody's Investors Service had an opening for an editor. I got it and for nearly two years I cut or rewrote lengthy stories down to two or three grafs for Moody's semiweekly reports to subscribers.

I would ride the BMT West End Line (now the D train) subway from Bensonhurst to work and could nap for 30 minutes almost as soon as I sat down; the loud, raucous PA announcements at the Pacific Street station in downtown Brooklyn would wake me a couple of stops before mine. But one morning I couldn't nap, no matter how hard I tried, and by the time I got to work I was cranky as hell. I stewed for a few hours thinking about my dream of becoming a newspaperman (or, more accurately, fantasizing about being the next Jimmy Breslin, who, it should be noted, also had dropped out of Long Island University), then told my boss, Andrew Combader, that I was leaving in three weeks to pursue my dream. Three months later I achieved the first step toward it as a reporter for the Port Chester Daily Item, a PMs paper just north of New York City. Twenty months after that I joined The Associated Press in Los Angeles.

AND...

Jeffrey Ulbrich (Email) - Pre-Journalism Jobs? Hmmm. Where to begin.

Perhaps paper boy.

Then pin setter in a bowling alley.

Then construction labor (lied about my age).

Stock room clerk.

Delivery truck driver.

Brick layer.

Bus boy.

Garbage truck driver.

Bartender.

Infantry unit commander.

Spray painter in factory making oil switches.

Bartender.

Advertising leasing agent.

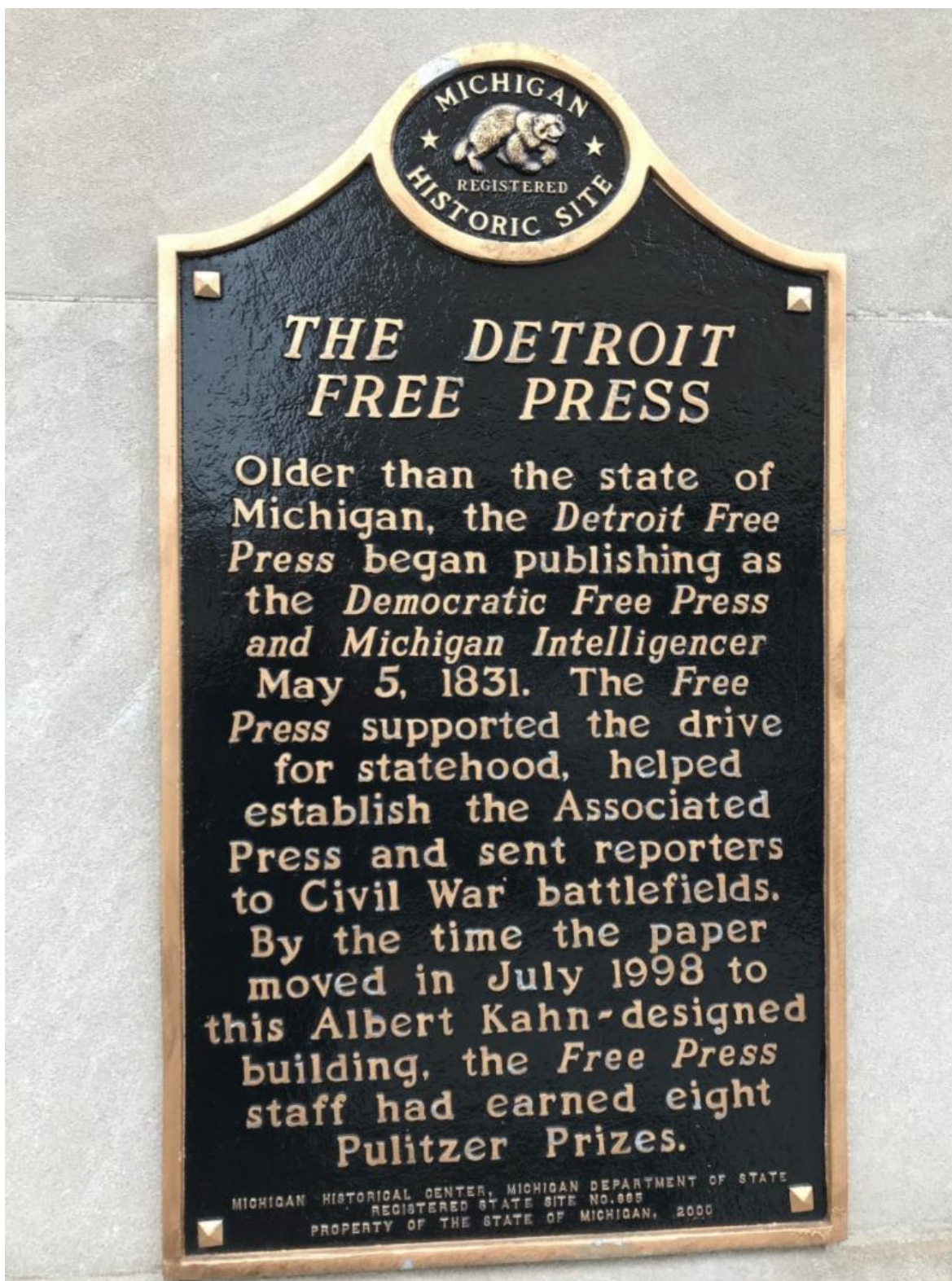
English teacher (France).

Second-class sheet metal worker (Australia).

Finally, reporter (at age 30).

I may have left out a job or two but I think that covers most of it.

AP Sighting - Detroit



Hank Ackerman ([Email](#)) - This is the historical market on the old building of The Detroit Free Press, which is being renovated into condos and retail on Fort St. in Detroit.

AP**BEAT OF THE WEEK**

Reporter's direct questions to Trump, Putin command center stage in Helsinki



Associated Press White House reporter Jonathan Lemire, center, questions U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Putin during their news conference at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland, July 16, 2018. AP Photo / Pablo Martinez Monsivais

"Who do you believe?"

It was the defining moment of the US-Russia summit in Helsinki: President Donald Trump stood side-by-side with Russia's Vladimir Putin and appeared to side with Russian denials when asked whether Moscow meddled in the 2016 presidential election.

The crystal-clear question came from AP White House reporter Jonathan Lemire, who asked Trump to choose between Putin and his own intelligence agencies.

The exchange, and an equally bold couple of questions to Putin, was the capstone of a grueling weeklong reporting effort by Lemire and fellow White House reporter Jill Colvin as they chronicled Trump's tumultuous travels across Europe. The two, working in cooperation with colleagues in Europe and Russia, delivered smart spot reporting and strong enterprise at every stop on the president's jaw-dropping trip.

For their exhaustive and highly impactful work, they win Beat of the Week.

As Lemire took his seat at the closing press conference in Helsinki, Colvin was at her keyboard, ready to file off the leaders' remarks. Lemire explains that he was not sure ahead of time that he would even get to pose a question, though he'd been aggressively lobbying the White House, knowing what a defining moment of the presidency it could be. He'd made the request several times, but he didn't know for sure until press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders called his name.

"Before any presidential press conference, I always prepare a list of questions just in case," he says. "Nothing worse than getting caught flat-footed. I knew immediately what I wanted to ask: though certainly there were other weighty matters being discussed (Syria, etc.) I knew that, with the chance to have Trump and Putin in the room together, the question had to be about election interference."

Lemire had to adjust his question on the fly, when Jeff Mason from Reuters was called on first and touched upon the same idea. Taking notes as Trump answered Mason, Lemire wrote, in all caps: WHO DO YOU BELIEVE? "And that's what I wanted to ask, who do you believe, Mr. President, Russia or your own intelligence agencies? And will you use this moment to issue a public rebuke and warning to Putin? Of course, he did neither."

Lemire followed up with a double-barreled question to Putin, about Crimea, and then about whether the Russian government had compromising material on Trump or his family. "Again, I felt like I had but one choice," he says. "We've been buzzing for two years about whether Russia had compromising material on Trump and this was our chance, since Putin does not take questions from American journalists often. I will admit that it was a little disquieting when Putin called me 'distinguished colleague' and did not break eye contact once during his answer. But I did my best to meet his stare. And note that he did say no."

Earlier, Colvin had put Trump on the spot.

Earlier in the trip, it was a Colvin question that made Trump squirm during a photo op with British Prime Minister Theresa May. When Colvin asked Trump whether he regretted making remarks praising May rival Boris Johnson, the president delivered an exaggerated head-shake while May executed an eye-roll that quickly took off in video circulated on the Internet.

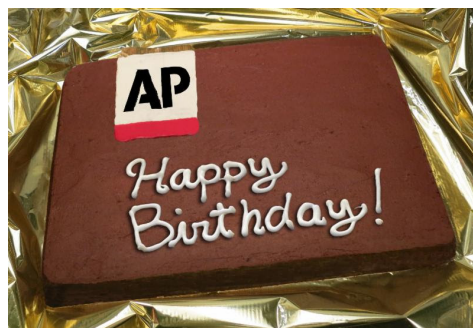
As for that final question to Trump in Helsinki, the response was overwhelming. It dominated summit coverage worldwide, and it brought AP and Lemire plaudits from free-press advocates. Most rewarding, he says, were the hundreds of emails he received from regular people thanking him for asking a fair and tough question.

There is one other reaction to Lemire's question worth noting: that of Trump himself. The Washington Post reported that on the way home from the summit, Trump complained to his staff, asking why Lemire had been called on, when perhaps another reporter might have asked "an easier question."

"Trump further grumbled about the tough question he was asked by Jonathan Lemire ... wondering why that reporter had been called on rather than someone who might have asked an easier question." The Washington Post, July 21, 2018

For bravely asking the tough questions that need to be asked, Lemire and Colvin win this week's Beat of the Week award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

David Briscoe - dcbriscoejr@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Lee Siegel - leesiegel@earthlink.net

Stories of interest

New York Times Publisher and Trump Clash Over President's Threats Against Journalism

(New York Times)

By Mark Landler

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. - President Trump and the publisher of The New York Times, A. G. Sulzberger, engaged in a fierce public clash on Sunday over Mr. Trump's threats against journalism, after Mr. Sulzberger said the president misrepresented a private meeting and Mr. Trump accused The Times and other papers of putting lives at risk with irresponsible reporting.

Mr. Trump said on Twitter that he and Mr. Sulzberger had discussed "the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media & how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, 'Enemy of the People.' Sad!"

In a five-paragraph statement issued two hours after the tweet, Mr. Sulzberger said he had accepted Mr. Trump's invitation for the July 20 meeting mainly to raise his concerns about the president's "deeply troubling anti-press rhetoric."

"I told the president directly that I thought that his language was not just divisive but increasingly dangerous," said Mr. Sulzberger, who became publisher of The Times on Jan. 1.

"I told him that although the phrase 'fake news' is untrue and harmful, I am far more concerned about his labeling journalists 'the enemy of the people,'" Mr. Sulzberger continued. "I warned that this inflammatory language is contributing to a rise in threats against journalists and will lead to violence."

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

AND...

Times publisher asks Trump to reconsider anti-media rhetoric

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) - The publisher of The New York Times said Sunday he "implored" President Donald Trump at a private White House meeting this month to reconsider his broad attacks on journalists, calling the president's anti-press rhetoric "not just divisive but increasingly dangerous."

In a statement, A.G. Sulzberger said he decided to comment publicly after Trump revealed their off-the-record meeting to his more than 53 million Twitter followers on Sunday. Trump's aides had requested that the July 20 meeting not be made public, Sulzberger said.

"Had a very good and interesting meeting at the White House with A.G. Sulzberger, Publisher of the New York Times. Spent much time talking about the vast amounts of Fake News being put out by the media & how that Fake News has morphed into phrase, "Enemy of the People." Sad!" Trump wrote.

Hours after that exchange, Trump resumed his broadside against the media in a series of tweets that included a pledge not to let the country "be sold out by anti-Trump haters in the ... dying newspaper industry."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Editor calls Capital Gazette victims 'friends of the people'



Marty Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, stands on stage during a benefit concert in Annapolis, Md., on Saturday, July 28, 2018, to honor the five Capital Gazette employees killed in a shooting at their newsroom in June. In remarks to the audience, Baron said the victims were "friends of the people," and "not one of them deserved to be seen as an enemy, because of the profession they choose or the place they worked." (AP Photo/Brian Witte)

By BRIAN WHITE

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) - The five Capital Gazette employees killed in an attack in their newsroom last month were "friends of the people," and "not one of them deserved to be seen as an enemy," the executive editor of The Washington Post said Saturday at a benefit concert for the victims' families and colleagues.

While Martin Baron didn't mention President Donald Trump by name while speaking to an audience from the concert stage, he clearly had the president in mind. Trump has repeatedly denounced the press as the "enemy" of the American people.

Baron spoke of all five of the victims by name, and he described them as "friends of the people, the people of Annapolis and beyond."

"Not one of them deserved to be seen as an enemy because of the profession they choose or the place they worked," Baron said to applause from the audience. "Not one of them deserved to be seen as an enemy by the man who killed them, and not one of them deserved to be called an enemy by anyone else, either: Nor does anyone else in our field deserve to be labeled that way."

Baron added: "To demean people like these, to demonize, to dehumanize them, is to debase yourself."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

Why You Forget Names Immediately-And How to Remember Them (Time)

By JAMIE DUCHARME

Of all the social gaffes, none is perhaps more common than meeting a new person, exchanging names and promptly forgetting theirs - forcing you to either swallow your pride and ask again, or languish in uncertainty forever.

Why do we keep making this mistake? There are a few potential explanations, says Charan Ranganath, the director of the Memory and Plasticity Program at the University of California, Davis.

Why you forget

The simplest explanation: you're just not that interested, Ranganath says. "People are better at remembering things that they're motivated to learn. Sometimes you are motivated to learn people's names, and other times it's more of a passing thing, and you don't at the time think it's important."

But this isn't always the case. Often you really do want to remember, and find yourself forgetting anyway, Ranganath says. This may be because you underestimate the work necessary to remember something as seemingly simple as a name.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 30, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 30, the 211th day of 2018. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1945, the Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis, having just delivered components of the atomic bomb to Tinian in the Mariana Islands, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 317 out of nearly 1,200 men survived.

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown in the Virginia Colony.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Virginia, by exploding a gunpowder-laden mine shaft beneath Confederate defense lines; the attack failed.

In 1916, German saboteurs blew up a munitions plant on Black Tom, an island near Jersey City, New Jersey, killing about a dozen people.

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" - WAVES for short.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a measure making "In God We Trust" the national motto, replacing "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one).

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a measure creating Medicare, which began operating the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit; although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1980, Israel's Knesset passed a law reaffirming all of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state.

In 2001, Robert Mueller (MUHL'-ur), President George W. Bush's choice to head the FBI, promised the Senate Judiciary Committee that if confirmed, he would move forcefully to fix problems at the agency. (Mueller became FBI director on Sept. 4, 2001, a week before the 9/11 attacks.)

In 2002, WNBA player Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks became the first woman to dunk in a professional game, jamming on a breakaway in the first half of the Sparks' 82-73 loss to the Miami Sol.

In 2003, President George W. Bush took personal responsibility for the first time for using discredited intelligence in his State of the Union address, but predicted he would be vindicated for going to war against Iraq.

Ten years ago: Ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic (RA'-doh-van KA'-ra-jich) was extradited to The Hague to face genocide charges after nearly 13 years on the run. President George W. Bush quietly signed a housing bill he'd once threatened to veto; it was intended to rescue some cash-strapped homeowners in fear of foreclosure. Amid corruption allegations and his own plummeting popularity, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert (EH'-hood OHL'-murt) announced he would resign.

Five years ago: U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was acquitted of aiding the enemy - the most serious charge he faced - but was convicted of espionage, theft and other charges at Fort Meade, Maryland, more than three years after he'd spilled secrets to WikiLeaks. (The former intelligence analyst, now known as Chelsea Manning, was later sentenced to up to 35 years in prison. The sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama in his final days in office.) Former Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., 98, died in Winchester, Virginia.

One year ago: Three days after the U.S. Congress approved sanctions against Russia in response to its meddling in the 2016 U.S. election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the United States would have to cut the number of embassy and consulate staff in Russia by 755.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Edd (correct) "Kookie" Byrnes is 85. Former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig is 84. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 82. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 79. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 79. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder is 78. Singer Paul Anka is 77. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 73. Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 71. Actor William Atherton is 71. Actor Jean Reno (zhahn rih-NOH') is 70. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 70. Actor Frank Stallone is 68. Actor Ken Olin is 64. Actress Delta Burke is 62. Law professor Anita Hill is 62. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 60. Country singer Neal McCoy is 60. Actor Richard Burgi is 60. Movie director Richard Linklater is 58. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 57. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 55. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 55. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 55. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 54. Actor Terry Crews is 50. Actor Simon Baker is 49. Actor Donnie Keshawarz is 49. Movie director Christopher Nolan is 48. Actor Tom Green is 47. Rock musician Brad Hargreaves (Third Eye Blind) is 47. Actress Christine Taylor is 47. Actor-comedian Dean Edwards is 45. Actress Hilary Swank is 44. Olympic gold medal beach volleyball player Misty May-Treanor is 41. Actress Jaime Pressly is 41. Alt-country singer-musician Seth Avett (AY'-veht) is 38. Actress April Bowlby is 38. Soccer player Hope Solo is 37. Actress Yvonne Strahovski is 36. Actor Martin Starr is 36. Actress Gina Rodriguez is 34. Actor Nico Tortorella is 30. Actress Joey King is 19.

Thought for Today: "Individualism is rather like innocence; there must be something unconscious about it." - Louis Kronenberger, American drama critic (1904-1980).

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.



Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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