



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting -- August 07, 2018

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Tue, Aug 7, 2018 at 10:08 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

August 07, 2018

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)  
[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)  
[Connecting Archive](#)  
[The AP Store](#)  
[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Good morning from steamy Washington.

If memory serves - no sure thing - an enthusiastic reader once approached Walter Winchell and gushed, "Oh, Mr. Winchell, you get to talk with the most interesting people," to which the crusty columnist replied, "Yes, and most of them are other journalists."

Apocryphal or not, the anecdote reminds us how much journalists like to talk with and read about each other. The avid and ever-expanding readership for Connecting also attests to that. So does the daily "Inside the Times: The Story Behind the Story" feature that appears on P.2 of the New York Times in a space large enough to accommodate a column by a Reston, Wicker, Safire, Dowd, Friedman or Baker (Russell or Peter). These are catnip for me, of course, and no doubt for most loyal

subscribers. But I wonder: Did the Times run focus groups that concluded this was a useful way to lure new, perhaps younger readers curious in this cooking show-infatuated age to see how the sauce is made?

Two of the latest examples are "[What Does 'Off the Record' Mean?](#)" and "[How You Got Your Paper Today.](#)" (Of course, the answer to the latter question for many is, "On my smartphone or tablet.")

Today's Connecting also looks at articles that speak to perhaps the most severe challenge facing the news business, especially newspapering - not Fake News but empty desks. The New Jersey legislature's \$5 million attempt to plug local news-gathering gaps is drawing flak.

We remember a great philanthropist and friend of Philadelphia journalism, Gerry Lenfest; Cincinnati Enquirer legend Jim Schottelkette, and more.

But first, let's raise a glass to Paul and Linda Stevens, who celebrated two months after the fact their 50th wedding anniversary this past weekend in beautiful Grand Lake, Colorado. The pictures would lead one to believe either they were younger than Romeo and Juliet when they wed, or they confused which anniversary this was (maybe a 30th or 40th?), but they've got the papers to prove the date was June 15, 1968.





Needless to say, Paul will be back in the Connecting driver's seat tomorrow.

Serving as Paul's locum has been both fun and daunting. It gave me plenty to do while Nancy was off babysitting Ciara, our 7-month-old granddaughter, in Geneva.



## STORIES OF INTEREST

## **The local-news crisis is destroying what a divided America desperately needs: Common ground**

By Margaret Sullivan  
Washington Post Media Columnist

Ken Doctor saw it coming. A few years ago, the media analyst looked at the trend lines and [predicted](#) that by 2017 or so, American newsrooms would reach a shocking point.

"The halving of America's daily newsrooms," he called what he was seeing.

Last week, we found out that it's true. A [Pew Research study](#) showed that between 2008 and last year, employment in newspaper newsrooms declined by an astonishing 45 percent. (And papers were already well down from their newsroom peak in the early 1990s, when their revenue lifeblood - print advertising - was still pumping strong.)

The dire numbers play out in ugly ways: Public officials aren't held accountable, town budgets go unscrutinized, experienced journalists are working at Walmart, or not at all, instead of plying their much-needed trade in their communities.

One problem with losing local coverage is that we never know what we don't know. Corruption can flourish, taxes can rise, public officials can indulge their worst impulses.

Read more [here](#).

### **Wall Street Journal Editorial Board (Aug. 6):**

#### **A Government Press Corps**

The state of New Jersey may be broke, but its political class has found another worthy cause for tapped-out taxpayers to support: a government press corps. Yes, in the name of "community" reporting, the titans of Trenton want to subsidize the press.

Officially the effort is called the Civic Information Consortium, and last month the Democratic legislature passes and Governor Phil Murphy approved \$5 million in funding....

The lack of local reporting is a growing problem .... Some local web startups have tried to fill the gap, but it's not easy to find advertisers or get consumers to pay. Nonprofits might help .... [But] one certainty is that creating a government press corps isn't the answer."

Read the rest [here](#) [if the Journal's paywall doesn't block it. It's sporadic on this one.]

## A Texas Tribune for New York City?

In the wake of the calamitous newsroom cuts at the New York Daily News, Crain's New York suggests what metropolitan newspapers need is a Texas Tribune-style nonprofit model. "This could be the future of New York journalism," writes Crain's Will Bredderman. He quotes Texas Tribune co-founder Evan Smith, ""There's a public interest in covering Mayor de Blasio. There's a public interest in covering Governor Cuomo and Cynthia Nixon. There's a public interest in covering the MTA." Read more of his story, "Daily News bloodbath shows future of local news is nonprofit," [here](#).

## In Memoriam



## Cincinnati loses journalism legend Jim Schottelkotte

By Bill Thompson, Cincinnati Enquirer

Jim Schottelkotte, a former managing editor of The Enquirer and a legendary figure in Cincinnati journalism, died Monday at age 88 .... Schottelkotte started as a copy clerk at the newspaper when he was a high school student at Elder, then worked as a metro reporter, sports reporter, sports editor and finally managing editor.

He spent much of his career competing with his older brother, Al, who was the city's top-rated TV news anchor at WCPO (Channel 9). Viewers and readers in Cincinnati were the winners of that competition as the siblings, who grew up in Cheviot above their grandfather's grocery store on Harrison Avenue, worked tirelessly to beat each other.

Read the full obituary [here](#).

Andy Lippman writes, "I knew Jim from my days as correspondent in Cincinnati. He was not only a great journalist, but a great guy. He was always there to help me- -- nd I wasn't even on his staff. Jim knew how to bring out the best in a staff. He also knew how to inspire friendship and dedication."

### John Lumpkin's memory of Dave Swearingen

What a lovely Maine inflection when we talked infrequently on the phone if there was a mutual concern. More than that, a wry sense of humor. This is from his Indiana days, though I can't remember the issue. In that bygone era, we all were in our cars doing what the estimable Jim Lagier told us by phone was "the Lord's work."

He and I connected by phone - likely a pay phone - after somebody prompted him that I reached out. He apologized, saying he had problems with breakfast - drive-through McDonald's McMuffin and large coffee, which he spilled on his trousers. The humor - "That's my version of the AP power breakfast"! It was so for the rest of us in those days as well.



Connecting extends condolences to **Marie McConnell**, longtime administrative assistant in the Hartford bureau, on the Aug. 1 death of her husband, **Bill McConnell**, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam and was retired from Travelers and City Group. He was 79. They reside in Enfield, Mass., and the couple's joint email -- shared by Marie's Detroit bureau counterpart Dorothy Downton -- is [wmm@coxnet](mailto:wmm@coxnet).

The journalism world, especially in Philadelphia, has lost a great friend and philanthropist, H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, a lawyer who built a cable television empire and gave much of his fortune away. The bushy-browed, unassuming Lenfest, 88, was an attorney who owed his business success to his association with the publisher Walter Annenberg and the Annenberg family's Triangle Publications, including the Racing Form and TV Guide, which he joined as house counsel in 1965. Annenberg later put him in charge of Seventeen magazine and his cable properties, and eventually sold the latter to Lenfest.

Lenfest was among the buyers of the Philadelphia Media Network, parent of the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News and Philly.com. Later he bought out his partners and donated the publications to a newly created nonprofit that now bears his name, the Lenfest Institute for Journalism, a gift valued at \$129 million, according to the Inquirer. "Nothing is more important than preserving the journalism that has been delivered by these stories news organizations," the New York Times [obituary](#) quoted him. Online the Inquirer [obituary](#) links to a wonderful, 12-minute video of his life that the Museum of the American Revolution -- he was a major benefactor -- produced in 2016.

**Mary-Fred Bausman** sent Connecting a gracious note and a small fix on our marking the death of her remarkable mother Evelyn. "This is lovely. The only clarification would be that we all joined the AP train in Germany and missed out on Poland and Hungary, Mom included." Jack's Warsaw and Budapest days for AP were already past when he and Evelyn met. The Moscow bureau, the kids and his long service on the World Desk in New York still lay in the future.

## Today in History - August 7, 2018



### By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2018. There are 146 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On August 7, 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

**On this date:**

In 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President [George H.W. Bush](#) ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jew on a major party's presidential ticket.

In 2007, San Francisco's Barry Bonds hit home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron's storied record with one out in the fifth inning of a game against the Washington Nationals, who won, 8-6.



In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: President [George W. Bush](#), speaking in Bangkok, Thailand, praised the spread of freedom in Asia while sharply criticizing oppression and human rights abuses in China, Myanmar and North Korea; the president then traveled to Beijing to attend the opening of the Olympic games.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama's five-year effort to reboot U.S.-Russian relations crashed as the [White House](#) abruptly canceled his planned face-to-face summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin. The Major League Baseball Players Association formally appealed Alex Rodriguez's drug probe suspension, sending the case to an independent arbitrator. (The suspension was withheld.)

One year ago: Chicago filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's policy of withholding public safety grants from sanctuary cities, which chose to limit cooperation with government enforcement of [immigration](#) laws. (A federal appeals court later ruled that the federal government cannot set new conditions to awarding those grants.) Medical examiners said the remains of a man who'd been killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 had been identified, nearly 16 years after the attacks. An indictment against Damaso Lopez Nunez, a leader of [Mexico's](#) Sinaloa cartel, was unsealed by federal prosecutors in Virginia on the same day his son pleaded not guilty to drug charges in federal court in San Diego. (Lopez, who had been in custody in Mexico, was later extradited to the United States, where he was considered a potential key witness against Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.)

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 90. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 89. Actress Verna Bloom is 80. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 76. Singer B.J. Thomas is 76. Singer Lana Cantrell is 75. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 74. Actor John Glover is 74. Actor David Rasche is 74. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 68. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 68. Actress Caroline Aaron is 66. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 66. Actor Wayne Knight is 63. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 60. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 60. Actor David Duchovny is 58. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is

57. Actress Delane Matthews is 57. Actor Harold Perrineau is 55. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 55. Country singer Raul Malo is 53. Actor David Mann is 52. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 51. Actress Sydney Penny is 47. Actor Greg Serano is 46. Actor Michael Shannon is 44. Actress Charlize Theron (shahr-LEES' THAYR'-ehn) is 43. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 42. Actor Eric Johnson is 39. Actor Randy Wayne is 37. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 36. Actor Liam James is 22.

**Thought for Today: "You must learn day by day, year by year, to broaden your horizon. The more things you love, the more you are interested in, the more you enjoy, the more you are indignant about - the more you have left when anything happens." - Ethel Barrymore, American actress (1879-1959).**

## 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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact**   
Try it free today