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Connecting -- August 29, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Aug 29, 2018 at 9:05 AM

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Connecting

August 29, 2018

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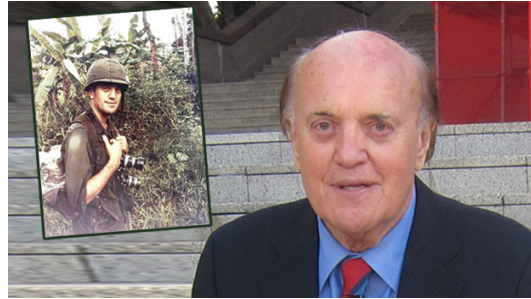
Colleagues,

Many of our Connecting colleagues have taken cruises - but very few have been quoted in an AP story as a result.

That's what happened to **Diana Heidgerd** of the AP's Dallas bureau when she and former AP staffer **Amanda Barnett** were aboard the Pacific Princess cruise ship in the North Sea when it made a sudden change of course to rescue three fishermen whose boat had capsized.

She tells the story in today's Connecting.

Colleague **Peter Arnett** - who won a Pulitzer for his reporting for the AP during the Vietnam War - will be interviewed today on NPR's All Things Considered about his story of September 3, 1968, on the riot of American prisoners at the notorious American prison at Long Binh, Vietnam.



Sarah Kramer, a producer for NPR and the Radio Diaries program, has arranged for the interview. [Click here](#) for background on the story. (Shared by Valerie Komor)

Have a great day!

Paul

AP was there when a cruise ship turns into a rescue ship on the North Sea



Diana Heidgerd by the Pacific Princess cruise ship docked Aug. 21, 2018, in Dublin, Ireland. Photo by Amanda Barnett.

Dallas AP's **Diana Heidgerd** ([Email](#)) had an unexpected journalism adventure Saturday night, Aug. 25, about 5,000 miles from Texas out in the North Sea, while aboard the Pacific Princess cruise ship and wrapping up an 8-day British Isles cruise, bound for Dover (as in the White Cliffs of...).

The ship all of a sudden made a sharp turn and the captain announced, over the PA system, that we were diverting to help rescue some people in a lifeboat (see link below) who had shot off a flare. The U.K. coast guard was summoned, but was going to be about an hour - so our ship managed to pick up the three fishermen, whose boat capsized. Two other crewmembers were missing.



Diana Heidgerd's photo of rescued fishermen

I managed to borrow an international calling-enabled cellphone and contacted AP in NY, then got forwarded to AP in London and spoke to a desk person & photographer there to provide details & email some images (after I was able to borrow some Wi-Fi time from another passenger who had paid to online service for the duration of our cruise).

So AP moved the story out of London. Weird to be quoted in a story, I guess that's how the other side feels. [Click here](#) to view the story.

We watched Saturday night as a coast guard helicopter, with a bright searchlight, flew overhead trying to locate two other missing crewmembers, who were actually reported to be in the water. Their bodies were recovered the following day. Very sad, since seas were 6 feet and it was chilly, temperatures in the 50s on the ship. I went to bed that night wondering how anyone could survive in the cold sea. I later learned that the bodies of the two men were recovered the following day (Sunday), by that time the cruise ended and I was on my nearly 10-hour flight back to Dallas.

NOTE: I was on this gal pals-only trip with former AP staffer Amanda Barnett, most recently with CNN.com & now with [weather.com](#) - a lot of people know & remember Amanda, she worked for the AP radio network and the BNC in Washington. Also along was my best friend from growing up in South Dakota, Linda Salter Ochsner (a non-journalist who understands AP stuff after so many years of hanging out with you know who....)

Former Boston AP staffer Sylvia Wingfield originally planned to be part of this adventure, but then was unable to make the trip and had to back out a few months before our departure. Sylvia kept up with us on Facebook...a true AP supporter!

Finally, I guess there's nothing like getting teased about my offbeat role in this story, as a Texas AP co-worker today followed up with a message calling out to me: "Hello, Princess Cruise Line correspondent."

I've been called worse.

Connecting mailbox

A sweep of the play - thanks in part to well-placed photo booth

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - On Dec. 18, 1983, the New Orleans Saints hosted the Los Angeles Rams at the Superdome in the teams' final game of the NFL season.

Police came to the press box before the kickoff and told us a bomb threat had been called in, that they wouldn't delay the game but they'd clear the place out the moment it ended.

With a win the Saints would finish with their first winning season and their first playoff berth, and with about two minutes to play they led by a point - and the story I was dictating to New York Sports was mostly about the festive atmosphere and so on.

But following a Saints punt into the end zone the Rams drove from their 20-yard line to the New Orleans 25 and Mike Lansford kicked a game-winning 42-yard field goal with six seconds remaining. So I started dictating a new lead - and a few sentences into it a cop chased me out of the press box.

Fortunately, the AP photo booth was right behind it. I gained entrance, called NY Sports again and dictated my story - probably filled with a bunch of errors considering my scribbled notes were virtually unreadable in the darkness.

I swept the play. Now I knew the story wasn't that good - but it turned out it was on the wire maybe 15-20 minutes before UPI's because their guy, without the benefit of a well-located photo booth, had to hunt down a phone among 70,148 fans leaving the stadium, more than a few of them probably trying to call a cab.

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'The Most Important Thing I Ever Did'

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - I interviewed Richard Pyle last year for AARP Magazine about 'The Battlefield Buddy I'll Never Forget.' While the magazine did not use the story, I thought my Connecting colleagues would be interested. The interview took place four or five months before Richard died in September 2017.



CRASH SITE IN LAOS. Former AP Saigon photo chief Horst Faas (left) and former Saigon bureau chief Richard Pyle at the crash scene in Laos in 1989 where a U.S. MIA search team excavated human remains from the crash that killed four top photojournalists. Photograph by Roger King-AP

RICHARD PYLE, ASSOCIATED PRESS, VIETNAM, 1971

Larry Burrows, a photographer for Life Magazine, came back to South Vietnam in February 1971. The Englishman had established himself as one of the best photojournalists covering the war. He returned because he'd learned that an

invasion of Laos was imminent. Richard Pyle was the Saigon bureau chief for the Associated Press.

"Larry was the senior photographer for everybody in the photo trade. Everybody looked up to him for his expertise, kindness and sensitivity for other people. He was willing to be a mentor, very generous. He was one of the most generous people I've ever met. He had the ability to see the picture he was going to take ahead of time. Anyway, I ran into Larry on the street. 'I heard a big operation is going to unfold,' he told me. There were no real secrets in Vietnam. I knew America was going to invade Laos along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Larry and I went back to the bureau together. He got his briefing from all the AP guys. Then he headed north with the whole press corps. Michael Putzel (an AP reporter) was up there. The phone rang. Michael said, 'I gotta talk to Pyle.' He told me there had been a shoot-down of a helicopter and that four photojournalists were MIA (Missing in Action). I was shocked. I knew them all. I'll never forget that day. It was devastating-but you knew it could happen. It was part of the deal. As bureau chief I had to write the story. When you're covering a war, you cover the fucking story."

Pyle stayed two more years in South Vietnam, then returned to an illustrious career with the wire service in the U.S. and overseas. Two decades after leaving the war zone, he and Horst Faas, the AP's senior photographer in Saigon, began researching a book on the four missing photojournalists. Twenty-seven years after the Huey helicopter was shot out of the sky, Pyle and Faas returned to Laos. They found the helicopter and personal effects from their comrades. They chronicled the episode in a 2003 book, 'Lost Over Laos: A True Story of Tragedy, Mystery and Friendship.' In 2017 Pyle said, 'It's the most important thing I ever did.'

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Got time for a photo? Why Not!



Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - The Why Not Travel Store is located just outside of Why - mentioned by other colleagues - in the extreme southwest corner of Arizona. Located at the intersection of state routes 85 and 86, the station is popular with travelers heading south across the U.S.-Mexico border or going to or returning from Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Mary and I and our oldest son Matt stopped after a visit to the monument on New Year's Eve in 2014. Mary and Matt reluctantly agreed to pose for a quick photo. Why not?

The Associated Press signs on with journalism blockchain startup Civil

By Lucia Moses, Digiday

Civil Media Company is a startup that aims to support a network of high-quality news outlets through the sale of cryptocurrency. Now, it's trying to apply the blockchain that underpins digital currency to protect that journalism.

Today the company is announcing a two-part deal with The Associated Press. The AP will license its content to the newsrooms in the Civil network (there are 14, and they include startups like ZigZag and Block Club Chicago), as it does with other news outlets. The other part involves the AP and Civil working together on a blockchain based-technology that will let Civil newsrooms track the flow of their content and enforce licensing rights.

The arrangement gives Civil access to the AP's experience in licensing, business practices and product design. The AP gets access to potential new customers through Civil's network and a chance to learn and adopt the emerging blockchain technology. (Civil is committed to building the tech; the AP hasn't formally committed to being involved in the building.) The AP also will get Civil tokens, which Civil will issue (the token sale is set to start Sept. 18). The tokens are part of the way Civil is trying to form a self-governing system to promote ethical, high-quality journalism.

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

And...

The AP has another plan to track its content across the Internet, and this time it involves blockchain, naturally

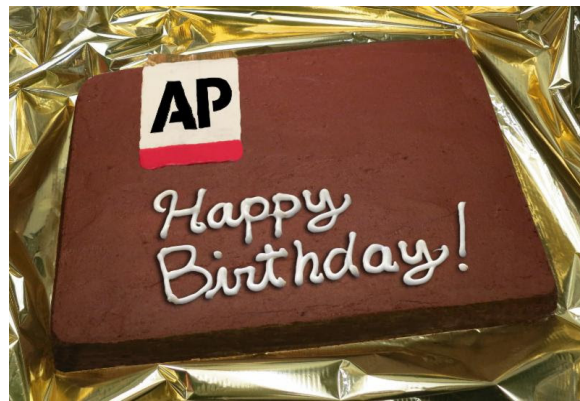
By SHAN WANG, Nieman Lab

It is the year of our lord 2018, and the words "The Associated Press" and "journalism blockchain startup" have now appeared in the same sentence. Part of their new intersection, reported by Digiday, is pretty boring - the AP is licensing its stories to the 14 publications currently attached to the aforementioned startup Civil, just as it does with plenty of other outlets. The other part is a little more interesting: The two companies will coordinate on a blockchain-based effort to let Civil newsrooms track the flow of their content and enforce licensing rights. The AP is also getting some CVL tokens, the currency of the Civil ecosystem that also gives their holders a voice in governing the editorial activities within that ecosystem, though that public sale has now been pushed back to September 18. (Hope you've been studying for the quiz.)

As Digiday describes it, the arrangement is primarily a way for the AP to find new customers. And Civil gets an alliance with a big established player

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Barry Bedlan - bbedlan@ap.org

Jeff Rowe - jfrowe@rocketmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Fred Coleman - fredwcoleman@gmail.com

Stories of interest

2 men convicted in killing of Nicaraguan journalist

By **LUIS MANUEL GALEANO**

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) - A judge in Nicaragua has convicted two young men in the killing of a journalist during the early days of the unrest that has shaken the country, but the reporter's widow said Tuesday that the accused had nothing to do with her husband's murder.

Angel Gahona was broadcasting from an April 21 protest in front of city hall in the Caribbean coast city of Bluefields via Facebook when he was shot in the head.

Gahona's widow, Migueliuth Sandoval, said the two men convicted in a closed proceeding are innocent.

"This decision is humiliating, it doesn't give us justice, because we know that these guys didn't kill my husband, that those who really did it are riot police, because there are videos indicating it, (showing) that my husband was surrounded by police," Sandoval said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas

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JOURNALISTS AND TRUE CRIME - The Best Narrative Non-Fiction Crime Books by Reporters (CrimeReads)



BY HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN

A non-fiction novel? How can that be? It was apparently Truman Capote who gave the genre that oxymoronic name, and in writing my new psychological suspense I thought about him (and his methods) every day for almost 18 months. How could I as a writer-and long-time journalist-take true events and make them cinematic? Not just report the straight-line story, but use the tools and techniques of writing fiction to intensify and dramatize real-life events.

But. I admit, I was worried, Was it...cheating? To create a novelized version of a true story meant I didn't have to make anything up-I couldn't make anything up!-so did that mean it would be easier? And not as cool-because it wasn't based on my own imagination?

In fact, when writing *In Cold Blood*, Capote once complained he'd been criticized for his use of the Clutter murders by people who thought swiping the killers' story was a "solution for failed novelists suffering from a failure of imagination."

His retort-to George Plimpton!-was "of course a properly done piece of narrative reporting requires imagination."

Well, whew.

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

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The Lazy Trope of the Unethical Female Journalist (Atlantic)



Camille Preaker (Amy Adams) conducts an "interview" in the HBO series Sharp Objects. HBO

By SOPHIE GILBERT

One of the most compelling characters in the recent Showtime documentary miniseries *The Fourth Estate* is the New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman. Haberman joined the newspaper in 2015 to help cover Donald Trump's presidential campaign, and since then, she explains, her workload has been all-encompassing.

Haberman is rarely seen on camera without a phone in her hand or attached to her ear. "The biggest mistake I made was promising my children that they would get their mother back at the end of the campaign," she says. In one memorable scene, she takes a break in the middle of recording a podcast to reassure her son that he can't die in a nightmare.

The Fourth Estate makes for fascinating television despite the fact that the majority of the series simply captures people in meetings or people making calls or people commuting back and forth to work. As Stephen Marche wrote in 2014 for Esquire, the reality of journalists is that they're "one of the less glamorous species of humanity," and the most reliable trait of the truly gifted ones is that they're perpetually on the phone-which is presumably why the entertainment industry has long preferred an alternate depiction of journalists, particularly when it comes to women. On television and in film, the fictional lady reporter tends to look less like Haberman and more like Camille Preaker, portrayed in the HBO miniseries Sharp Objects by Amy Adams.

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

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Publisher, editor announce departures from Statesman



Debbie Hiott announces that she will step down as editor of the American-Statesman as managing editor John Bridges and other staffers hear the news. NELL CARROLL / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

By (Austin) American-Statesman staff

Publisher Susie Biehle and Editor Debbie Hiott announced Monday that they are leaving the American-Statesman.

Biehle has been the newspaper's publisher since November 2012, and Hiott has been editor since November 2011. The announcement of their departures comes five months after GateHouse Media finalized its purchase of the Statesman from Cox Enterprises, which had owned the paper for 41 years.

The newspaper had recently announced that it was extending voluntary buyout offers to all of its employees, and Biehle and Hiott told employees Monday that they had chosen to take the separation offer. The newspaper did not disclose how many other employees also had decided to take buyouts.

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

Today in History - August 29, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 29, the 241st day of 2018. There are 124 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

On this date:

In 1862, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began operations at the United States Treasury.

In 1864, the Democratic National Convention, which nominated Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan for president, opened in Chicago.

In 1877, the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Brigham Young, died in Salt Lake City, Utah, at age 76.

In 1910, Korean Emperor Sunjong abdicated as the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty went into effect.

In 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division marched down the Champs Elysees (shahms ay-lee-ZAY') in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

In 1957, the Senate gave final congressional approval to a Civil Rights Act after South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond (then a Democrat) ended a filibuster that had lasted 24 hours.

In 1958, pop superstar Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana.

In 1962, Malvin R. Goode began covering the United Nations for ABC-TV, becoming network television's first black reporter.

In 1964, Roy Orbison's single "Oh, Pretty Woman" was released on the Monument label.

In 1965, Gemini 5, carrying astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles "Pete" Conrad, splashed down in the Atlantic after 8 days in space.

In 1972, swimmer Mark Spitz of the United States won the third of his seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics, finishing first in the 200-meter freestyle.

In 1996, the Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominated Al Gore for a second term as vice president. Earlier in the day, President Bill Clinton's chief political strategist, Dick Morris, resigned amid a scandal over his relationship with a prostitute.

Ten years ago: Republican presidential nominee John McCain picked Sarah Palin, a maverick conservative who had been governor of Alaska for less than two years, to be his running mate.

Five years ago: In a sweeping new policy statement, the Justice Department said it would not stand in the way of states that wanted to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana as long as there were effective controls to keep marijuana away from kids, the black market and federal property. The NFL agreed to pay \$765 million to settle lawsuits from thousands of former players who developed dementia or other concussion-related health problems they say were caused by the on-field clashes.

One year ago: North Korea flew a ballistic missile designed to carry a nuclear payload over Japan, likely the country's longest-ever launch; President Donald Trump said "all options are on the table" for a U.S. response. Federal and local agencies said they had lifted more than 13,000 people out of the floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area and surrounding cities and counties. President Donald Trump made his first of two visits to Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and spent much of the visit applauding the government's response efforts; he planned to return later in the week to survey the damage and meet with survivors. Comedian Kathy Griffin retracted her apology for posing with what appeared to be the severed head of President Donald Trump, saying the anger against her was overblown.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty Lynn (TV: "The Andy Griffith Show") is 92. Movie director William Friedkin is 83. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is 82. Actor Elliott Gould is 80. Movie director Joel Schumacher is 79. TV personality Robin Leach is 77. Actress Deborah Van Valkenburgh is 66. Former Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew is 63. Dancer-choreographer Mark Morris is 62. Country musician Dan Truman (Diamond Rio) is 62. Actress Rebecca DeMornay is 59. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch is 51. Singer Me'Shell NdegeOcello (n-DAY'-gay-OH'-chehl-oh) is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Carl Martin (Shai) is 48. Actress Carla Gugino is 47. Rock musician Kyle Cook (Matchbox Twenty) is 43. Actor John Hensley is 41. Actress Kate Simses is 39. Rock musician David Desrosiers (Simple Plan) is 38. Rapper A+ is 36. Actress Jennifer Landon is 35. Actor Jeffrey Licon is 33. Actress-singer Lea Michele is 32. Actress Charlotte Ritchie is 29. Actress Nicole Gale Anderson is 28. Rock singer Liam Payne (One Direction) is 25.

Thought for Today: "People are very open-minded about new things - as long as they're exactly like the old ones." - Charles F. Kettering, American inventor (1876-1958).

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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