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Connecting - September 20, 2018

1 message

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Thu, Sep 20, 2018 at 9:17 AM

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Connecting

September 20, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Tad Bartimus' idea for Connecting to offer an informal "Tips from Veteran Travelers" has found some takers.

She and her husband **Dean Wariner** plan a trip to Amsterdam and asked if any of her Connecting colleagues could provide advice what to see and where to stay and what to do.

One of her responders was AP's New England editor **Bill Kole** ([Email](#)) - who served as AP's Amsterdam chief of bureau from 1997-2000. "This isn't for everyone," he said, "but one of our most sensational vacations was when we returned so I could run the Amsterdam Marathon, and rather than booking a hotel, we stayed on a houseboat. It was crazy great. I did a travel story on the experience, which includes tips, just in case you're as adventurous as we were." [Click here](#) to read the story.

"Even if you don't do that," he added, "you'll want to take one of the canal boat tours that leave from Central Station, the main train station. They're touristy, for sure, but you get a unique perspective of the city from the web of canals. I'm pretty sure you can still bring wine or beer aboard. There's nothing better than plying the canals, drink in hand."

Rick Steves need not worry about Connecting becoming a competitor, but if you'd like to get an idea from colleagues on a place you're planning to visit, send along a note.

Have a good day!

Paul

Gotta love the Connecting connections

Dave Lubeski ([Email](#)) - Gotta love the Connecting connections. In one issue two old friends popped up.

Dave Gwizdowski - When he was based at the Broadcast News Center in Washington we frequently ended up riding home on the Metro together and often discussed what books we were reading at the time. I don't think either of us realized our career paths took us both through Houston and we likely knew some of the same people. Gwiz is a good guy and it's nice to see him go out on top.

Tony Keefe - Glad to see him now connected in Connecting. I first met Tony the tech in 1980 at the Moscow Olympics. At the 1992 Albertville Olympics in France we were together again. During those winter games the AP was based in the summer

resort town of Annecy. We rented out a youth hostel where we set up offices, studios and darkrooms on the main level and lived on the upper level.

Toward the end of the games, fellow radio staffer Jim Bell knocked on the door to my room one morning complaining of chest pains. I called up to the tech center and asked for Tony, knowing he was fluent in French. I grabbed the keys to a car and the three of us headed for the hospital. Doctors there confirmed it was a heart attack and thanks to Tony, we got Jim the care he needed (BTW - More than 26 years later, Jim is alive and well and retired, living in Florida).

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Phony news that startled some and left others laughing

Robert O'Meara ([Email](#)) - The common use of the term "false news" these days brings to mind a real case of phony news that startled a lot of people and left others laughing. It involved a highly respected newspaper.

On April 1, 1933, The Capital Times, one of two dailies in Madison, Wis., ran a front-page story and picture claiming that a series of explosions had wrecked the state capitol building.

According to the story, a Times photographer happened to be walking by the building when the collapse occurred and took a photo that showed the dome and marble columns falling.

The story fooled some people. I was a 10-year old paper boy in nearby Monroe for the Times' competitor, The Wisconsin State Journal, and was aware of all the hubbub. Some subscribers waited on their porches until I came so they could find out if there were new developments.



The fake April Fools Day story was the handiwork of the Times' widely known investigative writer and photographer, Cedric Parker.

He wrote that heated arguments over a bill had filled the Senate and Assembly chambers with an accumulation of hot air that finally exploded that morning. The blasts occurred before many employees got to work so there were no casualties, the story said.

In the next few days the paper carried letters from indignant readers but not many fell for it.

Parker became even better known over the years for his investigative stories, including exposes of the Nazi party in Milwaukee and the Ku Klux Klan.

His capitol collapse story angered a few but brought some humor to the dark days of the Depression.

Your experiences with the military draft

Carl Robinson (Email) - Back in those days, you couldn't leave the US for an extended period without your Draft Board's permission and before heading off for my junior year in Hong Kong in 1963, I was required to justify the Conscientious Objection (CO) choice I'd made when registering for the draft at the age of 18 two years before. I struggled through the long form's multiple essays, mailed it back and headed overseas. I was on a 2-S Student Deferment and then a 2-A Occupational Deferment as a civilian adviser with South Vietnam's US-funded pacification program after mid-1964. (And what a perfect job for a Pacifist, no?!)

But after the Tet Offensive in 1968, I resigned in protest from USAID - and was so angry and disillusioned about the Vietnam War that I never bothered telling my Draft Board back in San Bernardino CA. Hired locally by The AP in Saigon, I was thankfully never asked about my draft status even though every American in the Bureau had done US military service with one colleague, Barry Kramer, even heading back to complete his stint as a reservist. I figured Vietnam was the best place to hide from the dreaded Draft.

But somehow, they caught up with me the following year, perhaps as they were cleaning out

their 1943 files and the draft cut-off age of 26 and wondering what'd happened to me. I was now 1-O, the equivalent of the dreaded 1-A or military draft, and immediately required to serve two years of Alternative Service, most likely a low-paid charitable organisation back in America. I'd just married my Mekong Delta sweetheart and we were expecting a baby. My journalism career was also starting to roll. My life was suddenly in near-total turmoil.



Carl Robinson at Khe Sanh during invasion of Laos in 1971

Up until I headed off for my Alternative Service, the procedure was like any draftee with the same Physical and Mental Exam -- and here I was doing this in Vietnam. A US military hospital with clearly more pressing matters on its hands pronounced me fit and ready for service. And for the Mental, I rode my motorbike out to the vast US base at Long Binh northeast of Saigon and decided - what the hell - I'd play the exam straight. When the US Army sergeant looked over the result, he whistled and exclaimed, "This is great, sir. Have you ever thought of becoming an officer?" Hell, no, I muttered to myself and hot-tailed it back to the AP office wondering what to do next.

In desperation, I threw myself at the mercy of my Draft Board with the most pleading and heart-felt letter of my life. Okay, I'd goofed not telling them about my change of work status and also aware that my years with USAID didn't count as Alternative Service. Still, I argued, I'd done something for the country -- and in a war zone too. After a few more tense weeks, and fortuitously just after the birth of our daughter, I received a new Draft Card but nothing more. I was now 3-A, a Hardship Deferment for men with families.

(Carl moved on to full AP staff covering Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos until the Fall of Saigon in April 1975 and World Desk in NY for two years until assigned to Sydney, Australia, where he settled after leaving AP in '78 working for Newsweek covering the South Pacific and later restaurateur and tour operator back to Vietnam.)

And...

Joe McKnight ([Email](#)) - You might say I was a draft dodger in World War II.

In 1943, healthy males nearing their 18th birthday faced almost certain military service. Coincidentally, the US Army Air Corps established a program for 17 year

olds to enlist in the aviation cadet program and not be called to active duty until their 18th birthday.

My 18th birthday would come on Aug. 25.

In April I went to Craig Army Air Base near my home town of Selma, AL to enlist. The process took about three days for tests before I was sworn into the Air Corps. This exempted me from the military draft.

The head of the local draft board, Kenneth Boykin, was my high school biology teacher known for telling students: "You don't know beans about biology." I was not among his favorite students so I heard that comment frequently.

That summer, I met Boykin several times on city streets. He seemed to enjoy asking if I had registered for the draft and telling me I was breaking the law and that he was going to draft me into the tank corps, the infantry, or the Marine Corps, whatever came to his mind.

In early September, I received a mailed notice to report for active duty at Keesler Air Corps base, Biloxi, MS.

I was in the Army. For me, it was for the duration of World War II plus about six months.

Recalling an iconic AP photo on the day President Nixon waved goodbye



Cliff Schiappa did a day trip to the Nixon Presidential Museum in Yorba Linda, California on Wednesday. One of the major displays is the refurbished Marine One helicopter that transported the President and Mrs. Nixon to California upon his resignation in 1974.

Cliff told the tour guide he knew the photographer who shot the famous photo of Nixon waving goodbye at the doorway and she said "That is such an iconic photo! All our guests take pictures of themselves waving from the top of the steps!"



AP Photo/Bob Daugherty

Cliff went on to say that Bob Daugherty worked for The Associated Press and was assigned to the White House during the Nixon through Reagan administrations, making many well-known photos over the years. Cliff spelled out Bob's name for her and she said, "I'm going home tonight to Google him!"

She said she hopes Bob will come out to visit the library. Based on her reaction and questions, Cliff thinks the entire staff would enjoy meeting and talking with him.

Sharing the story on how AP came up with its spelling for Gadhafi

Connecting colleague **David Beard** ([Email](#)) - who is editor of Poynter's daily Morning Mediawire - shared [a story](#) published in Wednesday's Connecting on how news organizations are trying to get the second reference correct for Christie Blasey Ford, the accuser of Brett Kavanaugh.

He wrote in the Poynter story that "Personal preferences often are a key determinant in settling thorny cases. The AP famously used signed letters from a Libyan leader to determine his preference for this spelling of his name: Moammar Gadhafi."

In an accompanying note to Connecting, Beard said, "The story also gave me an excuse to link to the story on how the AP came up with its spelling for Moammar Gadhafi. It was one of the most frequent questions I got from callers when I was on the AP International Desk in New York, and the mnemonic device I imparted came from a Harold Arlen song made popular by Judy Garland. 'C'mon everyone, Gadhafi.' "

Here is that story, written in 2011 by Lee Keath, then AP's Middle East Regional Enterprise Editor, who has been based in Cairo since 2005 and remains there to this day, as Mideast enterprise editor and correspondent:

Qaddafi. Qazzafi. Qadhdhafi, Qaththafi, Gadhdhafi. Khadafy? Gazafy?

By LEE KEATH, written in 2011

Gadhafi.

Read about the ongoing unrest in Libya and you might wonder: The man has been in power for 41 years, can't anyone spell his name? For a leader so notoriously mercurial, perhaps it's fitting no one can pin down Moammar Gadhafi's last name

using the English alphabet. It's not just media organizations, even official Libyan government documents vary widely in rendering his name in Latin letters.

Here at The Associated Press, we go with Gadhafi. Why? It has to do with pronunciation - along with a series of letters the Libyan leader sent to American schoolchildren more than 25 years ago.

Starting on the pronunciation front, the spelling is complicated by a perfect storm of issues: Arabic letters or sounds that don't exist in English, differences in pronunciation between formal Arabic and dialects, and differences between transliteration systems.



Moammar Gadhafi is seen during an interview with the TV channel TRT. © 2011 AP

Let's look at it Arabic letter by Arabic letter:

His name's first letter is the Qaf, representing a sound that does not exist in English. It's sort of like a K but sounded from the back of the palate. (And no, it's NOT the rough "kh" or German "ch" sound - that's yet a different letter.)

Usually this letter is transliterated with a Q, as in Quran and Qatar and Iraq. An outdated but still seen transliteration is K, as in Koran.

However, the letter is pronounced differently in different Arabic dialects. In Libya, it's often pronounced as a G, so that's the letter the AP and some others use.

The next letter is the Dhal. Its sound exists in English, but not as one letter: In formal Arabic, the Dhal is pronounced like the soft "th" in "then" or "those." It's often transliterated as "dh," to distinguish it from a separate letter that's pronounced like the "th" in "thick" or "thorn" or "throw."

In dialect, the Dhal is often pronounced by Libyans and other Arabs as either a D or a Z - much like in English dialects where you might say "doze guys." Thus some agencies spell Gadhafi's name with a D or Z in the middle.

To complicate matters, the middle dhal in Gadhafi's name is doubled - in other words, you draw it out some in pronunciation. That's why you see Qazzafi, or Qaddafi, or the more bizarre looking Qadhdhafi or Qaththafi.

The third letter is a Fa, which is simply an F. In some spellings of Gadhafi's name, you'll see it doubled 'ff' but there's no reason to do that, and it may just be a snarky way to slip 'daffy' into the eccentric Libyan leader's name.

The last letter is a Yaa, which is simply an "ee" sound, as in "tree." That's why you see either a Y or an I.

How does Gadhafi himself pronounce it? That's easy since he refers to himself in third person quite often. He tends to say "Gath-thafi" with the middle letter pronounced like the soft "th" in "either."

But since writing it like that reads as if that middle letter is pronounced like the "th" in "ether" or "Matthew" we use "dh." And if people read that as a D, that's fine - it's closer to correct than the wrong type of "th," and many Libyans pronounce it as a D.

And doubling the "dh" looks bizarre, without changing the pronunciation much, so we just write it once.

So that's where the AP spelling comes from. But it's only part of the story:

Flash back to 1986, a year that started out with the AP (and many others) spelling the Libyan leader's name Khadafy, based on the long-standing advice of Middle East experts. That changed when he sent letters to American schoolchildren, signed in Arabic script over his typed name: Colonel Moammar El-Gadhafi.

AP decided to drop the "El" - since at the time it was our style to not use the definitive marker used in many Arab names - and went with Gadhafi, which we still use today.

The reason: AP's general policy is to spell names based on a person's preference. The letters to schoolchildren were believed to be the first time since Gadhafi took power in 1969 that he indicated in writing how he wanted his name spelled in Latin letters.

Lee Keath, AP's Middle East Regional Enterprise Editor, has been based in Cairo since 2005.



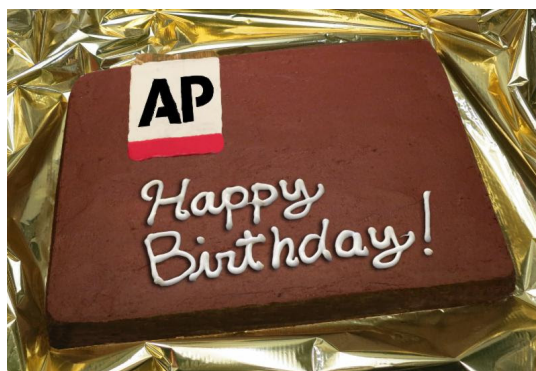
Lee Keath

AP Photo of the Day



President Donald Trump gives out packaged meals in New Bern, N.C., on Wednesday while visiting areas hit hard by Hurricane Florence. | Evan Vucci/AP Photo

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Julie Inskeep - jinskeep@jg.net

Terry Petty - tcraigpetty@outlook.com

Teresa Walker - tessandruss@bellsouth.net

Stories of interest

Opinion: Can the People Who Almost Brought Down the News Business Save It? (New York Times)

By Kara Swisher

Ms. Swisher covers technology and is a contributing opinion writer.

"This is a start-up," Marc Benioff told me loudly over FaceTime, leaning in and out of the frame on a bumpy ride to the airport. "They have been opportunity constrained," he said, "but we are here to unshackle them."

Was the billionaire founder and chief executive of Salesforce, the digital enterprise hotshot of San Francisco, talking about a new bitcoin company he was interested in investing in? Or perhaps a big opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a cool artificial intelligence start-up?

No. Mr. Benioff was enthusiastically touting one of the oldest and most storied publications in the United States, which he and his wife, Lynne, had just forked over \$190 million in cash to buy.

Read more [here](#).

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How to buy into journalism's blockchain future (in only 44 steps) (Nieman)

By **JOHN KEEFE**

I'm pretty sure I purchased Civil tokens yesterday - literally buying into an experiment to strengthen journalism by putting some of it on the blockchain.

After passing two tests, uploading my passport and driver's license to unfamiliar websites, and plunking down a large (for me) sum for a cryptocurrency, I was cleared for token takeoff. When the sale began at 10 a.m., I indicated how many Civil tokens I wanted and sent off that valuable cryptocurrency to pay for them.

And I got nothing.

No tokens appeared in my digital wallet. No comforting "your tokens are being shipped" email. Not even a "Share your purchase with a friend!" button. The "purchased" area in my account was blank.

Read more [here](#).

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When an Owner's New Company Puts the Old One in Trump's Cross Hairs (New York Times)

By **Andrew Ross Sorkin**

If Time magazine runs another cover in a series of illustrations showing President Trump's Oval Office taking on water, employees and shareholders of Salesforce might want to brace for a tweetstorm from the White House - or even calls for regulation of the software company.

Marc Benioff, a co-founder and the chief executive of Salesforce, and his wife, Lynne, are buying Time and coming to the rescue of one of journalism's iconic institutions with the intent of protecting it.

They are also throwing Salesforce, its employees and its investors - not necessarily willingly - into the public square. Just look at Amazon and The Washington Post.

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

Today in History - September 20, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 20, the 263rd day of 2018. There are 102 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 20, 1962, James Meredith, a black student, was blocked from enrolling at the University of Mississippi by Democratic Gov. Ross R. Barnett. (Meredith was later admitted.)

On this date:

In 1519, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew set out from Spain on five ships to find a western passage to the Spice Islands. (Magellan was killed enroute, but one of his ships eventually circled the world.)

In 1911, the British liner RMS Olympic collided with the Royal Navy cruiser HMS Hawke off the Isle of Wight; although seriously damaged, the Olympic was able to return to Southampton under its own power.

In 1958, Martin Luther King Jr. was seriously wounded during a book signing at a New York City department store when he was stabbed in the chest by Izola Curry. (Curry was later found mentally incompetent; she died at a Queens, New York, nursing home in 2015 at age 98.)

In 1963, President Kennedy proposed a joint U-S-Soviet expedition to the moon.

In 1967, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Elizabeth 2 was christened by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in Clydebank, Scotland.

In 1973, in their so-called "battle of the sexes," tennis star Billie Jean King defeated Bobby Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, at the Houston Astrodome. Singer-songwriter Jim Croce, 30, died in a plane crash near Natchitoches, Louisiana.

In 1976, Playboy magazine released an interview in which Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter admitted he'd "looked on a lot of women with lust."

In 1984, a suicide car bomber attacked the U.S. Embassy annex in north Beirut, killing at least 14 people, including two Americans and 12 Lebanese. The family sitcoms "The Cosby Show" and "Who's the Boss?" premiered on NBC and ABC, respectively.

In 1995, in a move that stunned Wall Street, A-T-and-T Corporation announced it was splitting into three companies.

In 1999, Lawrence Russell Brewer became the second white supremacist to be convicted in the dragging death of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas. (Brewer was executed on September 21, 2011.) Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, died at a German hospital after a battle with leukemia; she was 67.

In 2000, Independent Counsel Robert Ray announced the end of the Whitewater investigation, saying there was insufficient evidence to warrant charges against President Bill Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton. Former Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Titov died at age 65.

In 2001, during an address to a joint session of Congress, President George W. Bush announced a new Cabinet-level office to fortify homeland security and named Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge its director.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration asked Congress for the power to buy \$700 billion in toxic assets clogging the financial system and threatening the economy as negotiations began on the largest bailout since the Great Depression. A suicide truck bombing at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, killed 53 people, including the Czech ambassador.

Five years ago: Charting a collision course with the White House, the Republican-controlled House approved, 230-189, legislation to avoid a partial government shutdown while also defunding President Barack Obama's 3-year-old health care law. (The Democratic-led Senate rebuffed the House's attempts to roll back the health care law; the partial government shutdown began October 1 with the start of the fiscal new year).

One year ago: Hurricane Maria, the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico in more than 80 years, struck the island, wiping out as much as 75 percent of the power distribution lines and causing an island-wide blackout. Rescuers worked furiously at a collapsed school in Mexico City where a girl was believed trapped under debris in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake; it was later determined that no children were still trapped in the debris.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sophia Loren is 84. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Taylor is 83. Rock musician Chuck Panozzo is 70. Actor Tony Denison is 69. Hockey Hall of Famer Guy LaFleur is 67. Actress Debbi Morgan is 67. Jazz musician Peter White is 64. Actress Betsy Brantley is 63. Actor Gary Cole is 62. TV news correspondent Deborah Roberts is 58. Country-rock musician Joseph Shreve (Flynnville Train) is 57. Rock musician Randy Bradbury (Pennywise) is 54. Actress Kristen Johnston is 51. Rock singers Gunnar and Matthew Nelson are 51. Rock musician Ben Shepherd is 50. Actress Erika Okuma is 46. Actress-model Moon Bloodgood is 43. Actor Jon Bernthal is 42. Singer The Dream is 41. Actor Charlie Weber is 40. Rock musician Rick Woolstenhulme (WOOL'-sten-hyoolm) (Lifehouse) is 39. Actress Crystle Stewart is 37. Rapper Yung Joc is 36. Actor Aldis Hodge is 32. Actor Malachi (MAL'-ah-ky) Kirby is 29.

Thought for Today: "Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." - George Washington Carver, American botanist (1864-1943).

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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