



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - October 16, 2018

1 message

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

Tue, Oct 16, 2018 at 9:08 AM

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



Connecting

October 16, 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](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning!

Today's issue of Connecting brings you delightful stories on dictating stories, cell phones - and...typewriters, about which you will learn **Bob Haiman's** daily prayer:

"Please, Lord, let me last just a day longer than my IBM Electrics do..!!"

Read on, and have a great day!

Paul

The master of the art of dictation - Doug Cornell



In this Oct. 1, 1971, file photo, first lady Pat Nixon motions to Helen Thomas, left, and Douglas B. Cornell to join her on a platform at a White House reception. Thomas, the irrepressible White House correspondent who scooped so many, was herself scooped by the first lady who announced their engagement near the end of the impromptu reception. (AP Photo/File)

Walter Mears ([Email](#)) - While we are on dictation, the master of that art was Doug Cornell of the Washington bureau. He shunned typewriters and delivered masterful pieces by dictating them. One I remember said (best I can recall) was from a pay phone near Arlington Cemetery. Doug wrote- Robert F. Kennedy was laid to rest tonight by the uncertain light of a full moon and the flame flickering eternally over the grave of his brother, Robert F. Kennedy.

I was working the desk as a junior Washington staffer one election night when Doug came in to do the primary elections roundup. He sat at a typewriter and nothing happened as the incoming piled up. I asked if I could help. He said yes, would you go over to the far end of the bureau and let me call you on the phone., I did, he did,

and in the hours that followed he dictated, I typed his running stories, and the product was as close to flawless as you can get.

I was honored to do it. I thought Cornell was the finest AP reporter and writer I ever knew.

Dictation - and the art of doctoring a phone

Carl P. Leubsdorf Sr. ([Email](#)) - Dictating at the 1968 Democratic Convention (excerpted from my new memoir, [Adventures of a Boy on the Bus](#)).

Because of my familiarity with the complaints about the way the 1968 Democratic primaries and caucuses were conducted, I was assigned to cover the Rules Committee where those issues were being considered at the Democratic National Convention. It met on an upstairs floor of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, and I quickly noticed there were only two pay phones, far fewer than there would have been if there had been the normal installation of additional phones for such events (the phone company was on strike).

An AP colleague named Austin Scott, later with The Washington Post, had once shown me how a phone could be doctored. You could unscrew the mouthpiece and render the phone inoperative by either removing or turning over the hardware inside it. I quickly did that to one of the two pay phones to ensure that, whenever I had to file, I'd have a phone.

It made for an interesting evening. Several people tried to use the phone, including the committee chairman, Gov. Samuel Shapiro of Illinois, and they couldn't figure out why it didn't work. "I don't think it's working," I helpfully told the governor. But when I needed it, it did work. This little bit of legerdemain enabled me to stay ahead on the story all evening. At one point, when I phoned in to the AP desk, I was told that The New York Times was questioning my story because they hadn't gotten similar information from their correspondent, Warren Weaver Jr., later a good friend.

"Maybe he's having trouble finding a phone," I helpfully told my desk without elaboration.

Excuse me, sir. Is that a typewriter? Could you show me how it works?

Bob Haiman (Email) - I LOVE typewriters! I even own a few oldies. But my best typewriter story probably is that I'm one of the few who still uses one essentially EVERY DAY! I own two IBM Wheelwriter3, erasing electrics. One is on the very wide back desk at my Poynter Institute office. It sits next to my computer keyboard and monitor. I have a large plastic carpet cover that allows me to effortlessly slide my chair back and forth between computer and typewriter keyboards. I do most work (e-mail, research, writing, editing, etc.) on the computer, of course. But for short notes and envelopes, I much prefer the IBM electric.



An IBM Wheelwriter3

An exact twin sits on the desk in my Florida condo for night and weekend use.

I have two mail contacts from whom I still can buy the ink ribbon and erasing ribbon cartridges. My beloved typewriter maintenance man retired last year. (He was the last of three on whom I've relied for years.) Since he retired, I've had no major mechanical problems. If and when I do, I have the name of someone who may be able to help. Until then, I've taught myself how to do some minor stuff. (I have two other Wheelwriter3's that no longer work but from which parts can be cannibalized, sort of like the way the Cubans keep those 1950's cars running in Havana.)

Almost weekly, someone knocks on my Poynter office door frame when I'm typing. It usually is a college journalism student attending a Poynter seminar, and he or she usually says something such as, "Pardon me, sir, I heard that clicking sound...is that really what they used to call a typewriter? I've seen pictures of them, and in old movies, but never a real one; would you show me how it works? "

(My daily prayer is: "Please, Lord, let me last just a day longer than my IBM Electrics do..!!")

Cell phones were great - until the bill arrived

Joe McKnight (Email) - Cell phones were not yet in our vocabulary in the mid 1980s when Columbus Bureau Chief Jake Booher got a new mobile phone for the office. It was a bulky ordinary hand phone mounted atop a battery almost as large as a car battery and very heavy. Jake was quite proud of it, saying staffers could take it on breaking news stories and not have to hunt a phone to dictate their stories. There was no occasion to use it for several days and Jake took the phone along on a trip to call on several members. He used it to call the Columbus bureau several times. He also called the Cleveland AP bureau and spent that night in Cleveland. He called Columbus next morning and said he would stop by the Cleveland bureau before returning to Columbus. Next day he bragged about the convenience of the phone despite its bulky size and weight.

But he got an unpleasant surprise when the phone bill came. The phone's cost was assigned to the local phone company. His calls were billed as first coming long distance to Columbus, then again as long distance to a couple of members, the Columbus and the Cleveland bureaus. We kept the phone and staffers used it when working stories in the field. I don't recall when it was discontinued.

He sees opinions in much of 'liberal media,' including AP stories from Washington

Joe McGowan (Email) - Kyle Pope of Columbia Journalism Review says, "We got into this business because we want to right wrongs, call out bad guys and help underdogs."

That line of reasoning is just exactly what is wrong with very much of our journalism today.

AP used to say that its news people reported what was going on without a slant. Opinions had to come from authoritative figures. Now, I see opinions, which are obviously those of the writer, in much of the liberal media and including AP stories out of Washington, D.C.

Connecting authors nominated for book award



From left: Dr. George Varghese, his wife Molly, Paul Stevens and Steve Paul. (Photo by Martha McCarty)

Two of our Connecting colleagues were nominated for the Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award in Kansas City, honoring Kansas City book authors.

Dr. George Varghese was nominated for **"To The Land of Opportunity: A Grandfather's Journey,"** and Steve Paul, for **"Hemingway at Eighteen: The**

Pivotal Year That Launched an American Legend."

Named the winner at a recent awards luncheon was Carey Gillam, a former Reuters journalist, for her book, "[Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science.](#)"

Stories of interest

About 1,300 U.S. communities have totally lost news coverage, UNC news desert study finds

(Poynter)

By TOM STITES

It's hardly a secret that news deserts are spreading, but just how bad is it?

A comprehensive new study released today by the University of North Carolina's School of Media and Journalism shows that far more U.S. communities have totally lost news coverage - more than 1,300 - than previously known.

Top findings:

About 20 percent of all metro and community newspapers in the United States - about 1,800 - have gone out of business or merged since 2004, when about 9,000 were being published.

Hundreds more have scaled back coverage so much that they've become what the researchers call "ghost newspapers." Almost all other newspapers still publishing have also scaled back, just less drastically.

Online news sites, as well as some TV newsrooms and cable access channels, are working hard to keep local reporting alive, but these are taking root far more slowly than newspapers are dying. Hence the 1,300 communities that have lost all local coverage.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Tori Smith Ekstrand.

-0-

The strange story behind the departure of the New York Times's Baghdad bureau chief

(Washington Post)

By ERIC WEMPLE

As reported earlier this week by this blog, the New York Times issued an uncharacteristically strong and cryptic announcement regarding the departure of Margaret Coker, its Baghdad bureau chief: "Margaret Coker has left The New York Times. This is an internal personnel matter and at this time we cannot comment further," Times spokeswoman Danielle Rhoades Ha said in an email to the Erik Wemple Blog on Wednesday. The announcement marked the formal end to Coker's 14-month run at the New York Times, where she landed after reporting for the Wall Street Journal.

According to sources, Coker's departure stemmed from a bizarre set of run-ins with her colleague Rukmini Callimachi, a Times reporter who since 2014 has attained larger-than-the-Times stature for her coverage of al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.

The problems started when Callimachi and a video team planned to film an episode of "The Weekly," a documentary series stemming from a partnership between the New York Times and cable channel FX. The group landed in Erbil, Iraq, but Callimachi was denied entry into the country.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Claude Erbsen.

-0-

The First Question for Journalism (Medium)

By HEATHER BRYANT

My mother was an alcoholic, from long before I was born until the day she died.

I'm not going to go into her backstory but suffice it to say, hold your judgement of her. We all know the world can be a complicated and tragic place.

When you grow up in volatile circumstances you learn how to watch people, because watching what people say and what they do, where those things align, where they diverge, is how you survive.

The odds were that someday, somehow, I would manifest in my life some form of the circumstances I grew up in. I avoided the most common outcomes that are likely with my background. But for a long time now, I've been uneasy because I still feel like I'm in the space of someone struggling with an addiction.

It's the job. It's this industry.

As an industry, journalism is forever asking for an extension on borrowed trust, talking about how good things used to be and how how they will be some day if only..., counting on a big break to save us all and coming up with all manner of excuses and justifications when we fall short of our best effort.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Why Being Lazy Is Actually Good for You (Time)



(My Ollie reluctantly agreed to pose for this article.)

By CHRIS BAILEY

I'm a lazy person. This surprises some people, especially considering that I write productivity books for a living. Take a day off, for example. Forget adventures - my preference for that free time is to lie on the couch, watch Netflix documentaries and read. And a week off? I'm the kind of person who prefers to stay home and eat pizza rather than travel the world. Luckily for me, this laziness is precisely what makes me so productive. And that's a fact backed up by science.

Laziness is a lost art. I don't mean laziness in the sense of filling each moment with mindless distraction. I mean proper idleness, when we choose to do nothing. In a world of constant distraction, we rarely put our mental feet up. Instead, we spend our spare time bouncing between novel distractions - going from checking our email, to reading the news, to surfing Facebook, and so on - activities that often make us even more tired.

In any given moment, our attention is either focused or unfocused. Focus gets all the attention - it's what lets us get work done, have meaningful conversations and move our lives forward. But as it turns out, research shows that unfocusing is just as powerful, albeit in different ways. While focusing makes us more productive, unfocusing makes us more creative.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - October 16, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 16, the 289th day of 2018. There are 76 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 16, 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

On this date:

In 1758, American lexicographer Noah Webster was born in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on Harpers Ferry in western Virginia. (Ten of Brown's men were killed and five escaped. Brown and six followers were captured; all were executed.)

In 1916, Planned Parenthood had its beginnings as Margaret Sanger and her sister, Ethel Byrne, opened the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York. (The clinic ended up being raided by police and Sanger was arrested.)

In 1934, Chinese Communists, under siege by the Nationalists, began their "long march" lasting a year from southeastern to northwestern China.

In 1962, the Cuban missile crisis began as President John F. Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.

In 1968, American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos sparked controversy at the Mexico City Olympics by giving "black power" salutes during a victory ceremony after they'd won gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter race.

In 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.

In 1987, a 58-1/2-hour drama in Midland, Texas, ended happily as rescuers freed Jessica McClure, an 18-month-old girl trapped in a narrow, abandoned well.

In 1991, a deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, Texas, as a gunman opened fire at a Luby's Cafeteria, killing 23 people before taking his own life.

In 1995, a vast throng of black men gathered in Washington, D.C. for the "Million Man March" led by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

In 1997, in the first known case in the United States, a Georgia woman gave birth after being implanted with previously frozen eggs.

In 2001, twelve Senate offices were closed as hundreds of staffers underwent anthrax tests.

Ten years ago: A volatile Wall Street pulled off another stunning U-turn, transforming a 380-point loss for the Dow Jones industrial average into a 401-point gain.

Five years ago: Congress passed and sent to President Barack Obama for his signature legislation to avoid a threatened U.S. default and end the partial, 16-day government shutdown. A Lao Airlines turboprop crashed as it approached Pakse Airport in southern Laos; all 49 people on board were killed. The Los Angeles Dodgers beat St. Louis 6-4, trimming the Cardinals' lead to 3-2 in the NL championship series. The Detroit Tigers beat the Boston Red Sox 7-3 to even the AL championship series at 2-all.

One year ago: Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had been captured and held by the Taliban for five years after walking away from his post in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty

to desertion and endangering his comrades. (A military judge later decided not to send him to prison.) A New Jersey man, Ahmad Khan Rahimi, was convicted of planting two pressure-cooker bombs on New York City streets, including one that injured 30 people; prosecutors said Rahimi considered himself "a soldier in a holy war against Americans."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Angela Lansbury is 93. Actor Peter Bowles is 82. Actor-producer Tony Anthony is 81. Actor Barry Corbin is 78. Sportscaster Tim McCarver is 77. Rock musician C.F. Turner (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 75. Actress Suzanne Somers is 72. Rock singer-musician Bob Weir is 71. Producer-director David Zucker is 71. Record company executive Jim Ed Norman is 70. Actor Daniel Gerroll is 67. Actor Morgan Stevens is 67. Actress Martha Smith is 66. Comedian-actor Andy Kindler is 62. Actor-director Tim Robbins is 60. Actor-musician Gary Kemp is 59. Singer-musician Bob Mould is 58. Actor Randy Vasquez is 57. Rock musician Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 56. Movie director Kenneth Lonergan is 56. Actor Christian Stolte is 56. Actor Todd Stashwick is 50. Jazz musician Roy Hargrove is 49. Actress Terri J. Vaughn is 49. Singer Wendy Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 49. Rapper B-Rock (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 47. Rock singer Chad Gray (Mudvayne) is 47. Actor Paul Sparks is 47. Actress Kellie Martin is 43. Singer John Mayer is 41. Actor Jeremy Jackson is 38. Actress Caterina Scorsone is 38. Actress Brea Grant is 37.

Thought for Today: "Life is a solitary cell whose walls are mirrors." - Eugene O'Neill, American playwright (born this date in 1888, died 1953).

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](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today