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Connecting - November 26, 2018

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

I hope you had a great Thanksgiving weekend - and that the weather didn't do to you what it did to Ye Olde Connecting Editor and family: 62 degrees and sunny on Saturday, blizzard conditions and five-plus inches of snow on Sunday. Loyal dog Ollie is loving the snow!

Our Connecting profile for this Monday focuses on one of AP's brightest stars - **Sue Cross** -

who made her mark on our company in news and sales and anything that was assigned to her.

Today, Sue is executive director and CEO for the **Institute for Nonprofit News**, based in Los Angeles, and she tells of the important work that she and her colleagues are doing.

Asked in the profile if she would do it all over again if given the chance, she gave this reply contained in her interview below but worth repeating here:

We all talk from time to time with people who are looking for careers with more meaning, or worrying they just did a job for the money or the habit or to meet expectations. I've never felt that. I don't think it's possible to work for a day at the AP without knowing your work has meaning. And now at INN, I work with innovative, passionate journalists who - economics be damned - are creating new publications, finding new ways to support great reporting, bringing new sources of trusted reporting to thousands of communities. It's more important than ever right now to be doing this work, to be talking with people about the importance of a free press to be fighting for it. And I feel so lucky to have always worked in something I believe matters, something that has never been just a job.

How about doing some judging?

Stay connected with some of the best journalism produced by AP members by volunteering to judge 2018 state APME contests. Contest coordinators are looking for volunteers to judge newswriting, broadcast, internet, photo and video contest categories beginning in just a few weeks. Connecting readers, in addition to helping out staff-strapped newsrooms, have found judging rewarding, and contestants have appreciated their comments. Plus, volunteer judges get a free, one-year subscription to the online AP Stylebook. If you're interested, please contact the main APME contest coordinator **Barb Stauffer**: bstaufer_news@ap.org with your name, email address and current/former news position.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile:
Sue Cross



Sue on Santa Barbara beach

What are you doing these days?

I'm working with hundreds of journalists who are behind a phenomenal renaissance in journalism: the rise of independent, nonprofit newsrooms across the country. I'm director and CEO of the [Institute for Nonprofit News](#), a national backbone organization supporting news entrepreneurs and helping communities find new ways to launch and build news organizations. It's a rare bright spot in new media right now. More than 200 nonprofit newsrooms are serving thousands of communities, and we're aiming for a tenfold increase in their reporting power over the next ten years.



Our members are amazing journalists -- half the finalists in the Online News Association national awards for digital journalism this year came from nonprofit newsrooms -- and the level of public support is striking. For the last two years, INN has been part of a coalition of foundations and other nonprofits building the largest grassroots funding campaign for journalism, [NewsMatch](#). This Tuesday will mark the second "Giving NEWSday," marking the start of the season when

thousands of people give millions to public service newsrooms they support. It's pretty inspiring. The leaders of these news organizations are incredibly passionate, innovative, entrepreneurial, so I love what I do. And it's a robust network of mission-

driven news organizations, many of them sharing coverage with each other and other media. So in spirit it has many similarities to the AP.

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

Jake Booher, the bureau chief in Columbus, Ohio, hired me right out of school. I started as a summer relief staffer in Cincinnati the Monday after I graduated from Ohio State University. I'd been editor-in-chief of The Lantern, then a 50,000 daily circulation student paper, and the AP called the journalism school recruiting Lantern editors. I was thrilled to be offered the summer job in Cincinnati, though after growing up in Ohio, I'd secretly been hoping to get a job anywhere but Ohio. I still have a copy of my first pay stub. It meant a lot to me because I'd worked my way through school on my own, with a few scholarships but no loans or family support, usually working a couple of jobs. Getting paid for working a 40-hour-a-week job doing what I wanted to do in journalism seemed miraculous.

I was fortunate to work with a great gang in Cincinnati, led by Correspondent Terry Kinney. He was a terrific professional mentor and I enjoyed the work. The only thing that threw me utterly were box scores. I'd never been to a baseball game. It showed. The stringers would call in scores then by phone, on deadline, and I was slow at taking them in and had a lot of questions. The stringers were terribly patient and kind but it had to have been a trial!

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

OK, here goes:

Vacation relief staffer, Cincinnati

Newswoman, Columbus

Correspondent, Toledo -- This was a great assignment for a young reporter, covering auto plant labor riots, nuclear power, the rise of an agricultural labor movement and many environmental issues in one corner of the country.

Correspondent, Juneau -- I covered the Alaska statehouse for half of the year and was a roving writer for the rest, which took me into profound wilderness areas and covering environmental stories that have stuck with me ever since.

News Editor, Texas -- This was my first editing role, and I discovered it was far more creative than I expected and that I loved working with teams of reporters. I started to get interested in the business side of news as well, and John Lumpkin was a great mentor.

News Editor, Chicago -- AP was wonderful about letting me make a lateral to Chicago when a family issue made it important for Mike and I to get back to the Midwest. It was a tough, scrappy bureau and an intense news town, and I loved it.

Assistant Chief of Bureau, Chicago -- I followed Jim Reindl as ACOB. What stands out in retrospect about my time in Chicago was the intensity of political coverage there and learning to call elections from Jim Wilson, who wasn't involved in the news coverage much but could do election projections faster than anyone I've ever worked with.

Chief of Bureau, Phoenix -- Ran the AZ operation for just over a year.

Chief of Bureau, Los Angeles. I directed news and business operations in a newly combined CA and NV operation, then AP's largest state/regional news operation, with 10 bureaus and more than 100 staffers. I followed the wonderful Andy Lippman as bureau chief. This was an extraordinary time. Digital news was taking off, raising all kinds of interesting business and product prospects, and we created one of the first multimedia news desks. The whole place was filled with people who were great journalists, driven in all the right ways, and yet shared a kind of generosity of spirit. It made for a creative place.



The first regional vice presidents in early 2004 - from left, John Lumpkin, Sue Cross, Senior VP Tom Brettingen (their boss), Paul Stevens and Linda Stowell.

Regional VP, Western U.S. (based in LA). I joined the trio of John Lumpkin, Paul Stevens and Linda Stowell in a new regional leadership organization for AP's U.S. operations. I managed 13 Western states. I also had a rewarding side assignment managing AP's ethnic media services in the U.S. We were able to triple AP's Spanish language business in the U.S. in a couple of years and I worked closely with the Mexico City bureau to coordinate coverage across the Americas. That's something that seems ordinary now but wasn't common then, as domestic and international ran on separate tracks.

Vice President/Online, U.S. Newspaper Markets. We were the small team charged with improving and expanding digital news products for more than a thousand newspaper sites. AP played a big role in driving the growth in video news on digital sites. I was proud to be part of the team awarded the 2006 Chairman's Prize for innovation for launching the AP Online Video Network.

SVP, Global New Media & American Media Markets. New York. This and my final position were largely the same role under different titles as AP shifted to more cross-platform divisions and away from the old print vs. broadcast dynamic. In both I managed digital business with the global online platforms, and in my last role before leaving AP, managed the cooperative's business throughout the Americas, responsible for about two-thirds of global revenue.

Senior Vice President, Business Development & Partner Relations. See above.

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

I'm finding this so hard to answer. So many people made my life richer during my time at AP. A few that stand out:

Jake Booher taught me a lot about leadership that I didn't fully appreciate until years after I worked for him. He was a strong newsman. I broke stories about a corporation that tried to discredit me and chill AP's reporting. I learned long after that he had gone to bat for me and for other AP reporters and made sure our news reporting was not compromised. It's also notable that I joined the AP not long after it settled a lawsuit accusing it of failing to promote women. I don't know what Jake thought of it all, but he always had my back, and his support was active. He once advised me to never tell my boss I made enough money and always ask for a raise. He took me on business visits and coached me, constantly. And when I got engaged to a newspaper guy, Jake bought him a drink, congratulated him -- and then told him in no uncertain terms to make sure he never got in the way of my career. My husband and I still laugh about it, but it was a pretty extraordinary thing to do at the time.

Elaine Hooker, Kelly Smith Tunney and Terry Taylor were great role models in that same period -- women who were so visibly strong and talented and in leadership roles. Early in my career they inspired me to aim high. They really opened up a world for me. Writing coach Barbara King Lord later inspired me to take new turns in my career. I learned so much about sales from Daisy Veerasingham and Ebony Reed. And this list could run to hundreds. One of the continued joys of having worked at the AP is that I continually hear from former colleagues or run into people who have been great colleagues.

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



Yes, I'd definitely do it all over again. The AP asks a lot but it gives a lot. I've had the chance to live many lives, do so many things, work with some of the most fearless and talented people in journalism.

We all talk from time to time with people who are looking for careers with more meaning, or worrying they just did a job for the money or the habit or to meet expectations. I've never felt that. I don't think it's possible to work for a day at the AP without knowing your work has meaning. And now at INN, I work with innovative, passionate journalists who - economics be damned - are creating new publications, finding new ways to support great reporting, bringing new sources of trusted reporting

Sue in 2010

to thousands of communities. It's more important than ever right now to be doing this work, to be talking with people about the importance of a free press to be fighting for it. And I feel so lucky to have always worked in something I believe matters, something that has never been just a job.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Hiking, gardening, chasing a crazy border collie around the Hollywood hills or along the beach. And after years of moving, I just love living in LA, a city I love and that is home.



Sue and Mike in 2016

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

A trip Mike and I made to Malaysia in the early 2000s. Penang, Kuala Lumpur, and hiking through the jungle in Taman Negara national park.

Names of your family members and what they do?

My husband, Michael Steere, is a writer. He was a newspaper guy and then a magazine writer, and now mixes ghostwriting with producing movie and TV projects. Our daughter, Ellie, is a sophomore in high school. She excels at math and music, and now is turning into a fine writer. She probably won't follow us into journalism -- she's more likely to end up as a music director for films or running a symphony -- but she's at that wonderful age when anything is possible.

From Jonestown, Peter Arnett's story of obtaining documents from Jim Jones' safe



AP special correspondent Peter Arnett amidst the wreckage of Peoples Temple cult leader Jim Jones's office in Jonestown, Guyana, November 23, 1978, the rural agricultural commune where more than 900 Americans had died in a murder-suicide massacre a few days before.

Peter Arnett ([Email](#)) - Paul, your message mentioned you'd heard I'd been in the AP team that covered the Jonestown massacre of 1978 and wondered if I had any stories to tell about it. Well, it's not easy to follow up David Kennerly's gripping photographic and written account of his own memorable assignment there for Time Magazine that appeared here last week. His work on that story was incomparable.

But while the AP is not always first with a story, it is always in the race and so it was in Georgetown, Guyana, 40 years ago when word trickled out to the world that murderous things were happening in the jungle redoubt of the notorious cult leader Jim Jones. The AP stringer in the capital held the fort as best he could while staffers scrambled to Guyana from the nearest bureaus and included, if memory serves, the peerless George Esper. As the high death counts came in and the news competition grew fierce, executive editor Lou Boccardi instructed me to join them. I flew from New York to San Juan, Puerto Rico, the closest I could get to the scene.

Luck has played a big part in my reporting career and it sure worked its magic over the following five days. Waiting at the San Juan airport for his Learjet to refuel was ABC correspondent Bernard Shaw whom I recognized and introduced myself to. He had flown from Guyana to file his report for his evening news program. Shaw said

the networks were spending heavily to cover the story. And sure, he said, I could return with him. No charge, buddy. So I flew into the location of what became at that time the worst civilian tragedy in modern American history in a plush private jet nibbling on avocado and shrimp canapés and balancing a shot or two of Jim Beam on my seat tray.

I had visited Georgetown, Guyana, the previous year on a General Desk assignment to write about growing socialism being adopted by governments of former British possessions in the Caribbean including Guyana, I had interviewed the nationalist President Forbes Burnham, On my return to Georgetown I immediately asked for another interview but learned that similar requests were being made by most of the journalists now flooding into the country. The AP crew working out of a local hotel room had heard rumors that David Kennerly and a handful of other photographers and reporters had been to the jungle commune where the mass suicide had occurred.

I was an AP special correspondent at that time which gave me a degree of autonomy, so while while the rest of the team covered the capital and the escalating story as the death count grew to nearly 1,000 including whole families, I worked on a top priority - getting to the suicide scene. The Guyana authorities had nixed any further media flights to the area, but a United States Air Force task force was already assembling to fly the bodies home. I saw two of the big C-141 Starlifter cargo aircraft at the west end of Timefri airport when I arrived in Guyana, with a cluster of large tents nearby.

There were no US military briefings available for an information-starved International press corps, but Guyana government sources revealed that the big Sikorsky HH-34 "Jolly Green Giant" helicopters we could see arriving and leaving the airport were ferrying bodies to be loaded into the waiting transport planes. Two days later on November 23 the U.S. Embassy let it be known there would be a press flight to Jonestown that afternoon, and buses would be provided for transportation to the airport.

Needless to say that a restless press corps of several score reporters, photographers and cameramen awaited their ride, bunched up in a group alongside a secondary airport airstrip as a US Army officer approached. He said we would all have the opportunity to visit Jonestown that afternoon, and that he expected us to follow his instructions. He pointed to a sole helicopter, a Huey HU-11, sitting at the end of the runway 200-300 yards away. I calculated quickly. That model Huey carried at most six passengers. The destination was at least a two-hour flight away. It was mid-afternoon. I figured there would only be one flight today. As the group began to move, I broke free and made a dash to the chopper. I'm not an athletic person but surprise was on my side. By the time I was about to pull myself inside the aircraft's cabin several colleagues were running level with me but there was room for us all. By the time the military office and the news group arrived, the chopper was about to take off, and its rotor blades stirred up a wall of dust as it lifted into the air.

We saw no bodies left remaining at the Jonestown killing ground, but the rancid stench of death was almost overpowering. An American Army officer showed us around. "You should have been here yesterday when we were throwing the rotting corpses of children into body bags," he said, screwing up his face. Indentations in the muddy grass outlined where people had fallen in the main courtyard of the commune, as the deadly poison they had drunk killed them. There were reminders of the routine of life, cooking utensils and blankets and childrens' dolls and other play-things. I saw where the charismatic, paranoid Jim Jones had taken his own life with a bullet to the brain after the last of his flock had died. We stayed an hour then joined our waiting chopper for the journey back.

My story was no scoop, but it did give a needed dimension to our coverage. Anyway, interest in the story was shifting to the United States where grieving families were assembling to find their loved ones in the military morgues, and Congressional hearings were planned to investigate the murder of Congressman Leo Ryan and four others as they were departing after an inspection of the commune. Late that evening, though, I told myself there had to be more to the story.

Next morning the US Embassy provided a bus to the airport to meet with American servicemen who had been involved in cleaning up the Jonestown commune. I stopped the bus at the airport entrance pleading a bathroom call and said I would walk to the building where the briefing would be held. Instead I moved in the opposite direction, to a row of a dozen Huey helicopters lined up near some military tents. The crewmen were relaxed at their machines, chatting and playing cards, awaiting orders to return to their base in Panama where they were attached to the US 193rd Infantry Brigade. Their mission in Guyana had been to fly investigation teams to the Jonestown commune while the bodies were removed. They spent a lot of time on the ground there.

I went from chopper to chopper, introducing myself as a reporter anxious to tell the Jonestown story. I larded the conversation with tales of my chopper adventures in Vietnam. They were a friendly lot, mission accomplished, and they were anxious to get back to their Panama base for Thanksgiving. I asked around, "Did you guys see anything interesting, find anything interesting? If so I'd love to see it." The first three helicopter crews had nothing, but at the fourth a crewman said, "Try the next bird. I think they did some exploration."

Indeed they had. The beefy crew chief told me he had assisted an investigation team in searching through the commune residence and office of cult leader Jim Jones. They had located a small locked safe which he tinkered with while the investigators moved on to other locations. He managed to open it and found a stack of documents in colored labeled folders. "I removed them for safe keeping," he told me, "and intend handing them in to my superiors when I return to Panama." He reached into a cubby hole and pulled out a bundle loosely wrapped in oily cloth. He didn't let me open it.

Well, I said, "If indeed these are documents from the safe of Jim Jones they deserve to be revealed to the American people as soon as possible, and I'm the person to do it." He laughed. "I'm not gonna give this stuff up to you. It's secret stuff, its valuable."

I said, "How much valuable. 200 bucks?" He laughed again, "No way." I remembered Hugh Mulligan telling me years earlier that he "loved spending the AP's lolly." I thought maybe the boys here are selling me a bag of old oil rags. But I upped the ante, anyway. "How about 300 bucks?" The crew chief conferred with his two buddies. "Where's the money", and I handed over 15 \$20 bills. They could have a party with that back home. He handed over the bag.

I walked back to the airport gate and hitched a ride back to town with a Guyanese military jeep. I went to my hotel room and checked out the bag. I called Lou Boccardi in New York and after a brief conversation, he said, "Come back to New York immediately with that bag, and don't let anyone know what you are carrying."

In Lou's executive office late the next day we went over the material. No pig in a poke this, but a dozen neatly labeled folders containing Jim Jones' letters, instructions to his overseas operatives, memos of past and future plans that included negotiating with Soviet Union officials to move his commune to Russia, and shipping instructions for arms shipments. Four days later the AP released the first of three-part series on "The Jonestown Papers", the first used by The New York Times on Page 2 with a three-column headline, and many other newspapers.

But then the problem. What to do with the documents? Handing them over to the FBI might risk revealing the chain of evidence which might lead right back to the easygoing chopper crewmen in Panama. AP lawyers were consulted. No decision was made to my knowledge.

And where are they today, the purloined papers of Jonestown? Maybe only Lou Boccardi knows.

An exclusive gained from bringing 'care package' to Jonestown survivor

Bill McCloskey ([Email](#)) - Ron Javers, a San Francisco Chronicle reporter wounded 40 years ago in the shooting on the airstrip at Jonestown, Guyana, recounted so well in Friday's Connecting, was a fellow writer at The Villanovan at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Ron went on to be editor of the school paper, I concentrated on the radio station WWVU.

More than a decade later of paths crossed again at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C.

After he was wounded and evacuated by the U.S. Air Force, Ron's wife called me to ask if I could bring some supplies to Ron. She explained that everything he had, from underwear to toothbrush, and been left on the tarmac.

I put together a Care package and headed to Andrews. As assistant managing editor of APRadio I had press credentials, so I went to the media pen where the evacuees paused briefly before heading to the base hospital. Serendipitously, I was wearing that day dark slacks, black shoes and had donned a dark blue ski jacket. I looked like every airman on the base.

Javers came over for the goodie bag and said, "Come with me." I ducked under the rope (wearing my accidental camouflage) and headed with him to the emergency room where nurses tried to whisk him away and all he wanted to do was find a phone and dictate. He prevailed. I asked him if I could tape record his dictation and he agreed.

As I was recording, other reporters, including Washington AP's Evans Witt gathered outside the treatment rooms pounding on the door and pointing to me, asking why if I was in and they couldn't be. I tried to shoo them away so my cover wouldn't be blown.

Dictation done, Ron and I said our goodbyes and he headed off to be patched up. I headed for the base media filing center. On my way out of the emergency room a reporter from arch-nemesis UPI Audio, whose name I shall withhold, came down an unguarded hallway and asked how I had gotten inside. I pointed out a nearby Air Policeman and told him to ask him. That got UPI escorted out.

I filed the tape with APR, shared the quotes with my AP "wireside" colleagues and headed home. Ron recovered and went on to a nice journalism career including being executive editor of Newsweek International.

On the day after JFK died, the game played on



Photo/Soonersports.com

Mike Moran ([Email](#)) - November 23, 1963.

On what should have been the last full day of the college football season, most college presidents, following President John F. Kennedy's assassination the day before in Dallas, postponed or canceled scheduled games. Some, however, were late in arriving at a decision. As a crowd of 38,485 watched, four Air Force jets flew over Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, as the American flag was at half-staff. There was no pregame entertainment. There was a long, somber moment of silence.

And, so there I was in Lincoln with KMTV Omaha colleagues Tom Brokaw and Bill Greene, sent to cover this game on this tragic weekend. I shot film in the end zone, while Brokaw and Greene interviewed fans in the stadium about their feelings on the assassination of the President and whether or not the game should be played that day.

In the fourth quarter, with the game on ice for the Huskers, I was pelted with oranges in the end zone thrown by Nebraska football fans, celebrating a 29-20 victory that would take them to the Orange Bowl with the Big 8 title and the beginning of the madness in the state with the success of Bob Devaney as head coach. I have never gotten over that somber afternoon, and riding back to Omaha to re-enter a nation in grief.

Friday night, university officers and officials in both states had conferred at length. They were counseled by the NCAA and Big 8 officials. Neither state nor school wanted to play the game because of the national tragedy - but Oklahoma had a game the following week, Orange Bowl officials were on hand and needed to know about a representative, the game was a sell-out, thousands of people had traveled into Lincoln, and TV staffs were on hand.

Nebraska governor Frank Morrison, representatives from the Big Eight, and the presidents of the conference's eight schools had met for several hour. At the end of their meeting, the Nebraska Board of Regents said playing the game was the will of the people: "The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, deeply sorrowful of the death of President Kennedy, believe the people of Nebraska would have the Nebraska-Oklahoma game played as scheduled. This will be done."

And, there we were.

(Mike Moran is the Senior Media Consultant for the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation and was the chief spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Committee from 1979-2003. He was inducted into the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame in 2005. He worked at KMTV Omaha (NBC) in 1963-65.

Connecting mailbox

Providing a tie to the past



Neal Ulevich (Email) - Years ago, when terminals were new, an AP correspondent I met insisted the new technology robbed him of his creative impulse. (It may have had more to do with his drinking).

No doubt this device (seen on CNN) would please him: A typewriter keyboard which connects to the computer by USB as any keyboard might. The CRLF lever at left does the deed electronically, and the keys go clack clack as they should. It's called the Qwerkywriter S. Good name for it.

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Flight with actress Lee Meriwether produced a joint byline

Rachel Ambrose (Email) - One lookback often leads to another. Ben Brown's limo driver story (in Friday's Connecting) prompted me to recall another celebrity incident involving the APTRA broadcast. We had actress Lee Meriwether lined up to preside over the awards ceremony in San Francisco. Her CBS contract specified she would fly first class. So she and I headed north from Los Angeles. We quickly became intrigued with a certain group of passengers. This was United's graduation trip for a Fear of Flying class. Lee and I spent the flight interviewing the teacher and the graduates for a joint byline feature. We only spent takeoff and landing in our first-class seats.

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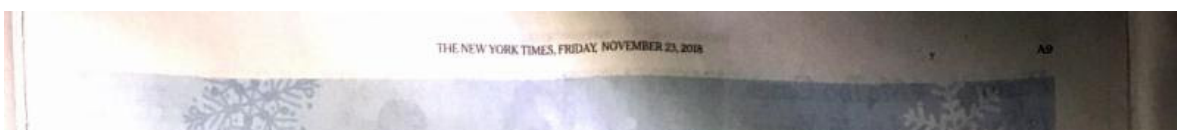
From the frozen Minnesota tundra



Claude Erbsen ([Email](#)) - Sunset in the frozen tundra, aka Minneapolis.

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Chris Connell (Email) - Great public service ad in the NYT today paid for by a New York Public Library trustee.

Best of the Week

Tim Reiterman, survivor of airstrip attack, tells story of the Jonestown mass murders



Former Peoples Temple member Jim Jones Jr., the adopted son of Rev. Jim Jones, carries a bucket of bleached rocks to place around the Jonestown victims memorial in the Evergreen Cemetery in Oakland, Calif., Oct. 25, 2018. Jim Jr. was one of the dozens of Peoples Temple members in Guyana who survived the mass suicides and killings of more than 900 because they had slipped out of Jonestown or happened to be away on Nov. 18, 1978. He lost 15 immediate relatives in Jonestown, including his pregnant wife. In the aftermath, he built a new life, remarrying three decades ago, and raising three sons with his wife. AP Photo / Eric Risberg

When Tim Reiterman set out to tell the story of the 40th anniversary of the Jonestown mass murders and suicides, he didn't want to retread territory he'd covered with previous anniversary stories, or rely solely on his own harrowing experiences in the South American jungle.

Instead, Reiterman, global environment team editor based in San Francisco, mainly focused on those he hadn't interviewed before, including the adopted black son of the Rev. Jim Jones. He also focused on those who grew up in the Peoples Temple, or joined as teenagers. These survivors, due to happenstance or their own efforts,

were all away from the Jonestown community in Guyana when Jones ordered his followers - starting with the young children - to drink flavored poison.

The order that ended 900 lives came after a California congressman, temple defectors and journalists including Reiterman were ambushed on a nearby airstrip. The Nov. 18, 1978 attack killed Rep. Leo Ryan, D-San Mateo, as well as Reiterman's photojournalist colleague at the San Francisco Examiner, and three others. Reiterman was wounded in the attack, but went on to shoot photos of the bloody aftermath and write a detailed account two days later.

Reiterman's approach to the 40th anniversary provided an unparalleled look into the massacre through the eyes of survivors who had to go on grieving close family members and forge new lives back in the United States. It also allowed Reiterman the opportunity to explain the tragedy and put the Peoples Temple in context for readers and viewers who might only know its broad outlines, if that. The all-formats package Reiterman wrote and helped coordinate - with assistance from staffers in all formats throughout the AP - wins this week's Best of the Week.

The package included profiles of six survivors along with photos and a video interview conducted by Terry Chea and produced by Marshall Ritzel with John Cobb, who was born into temple life and lost 11 relatives. Eric Risberg anchored the photo package, with portraits by him, Jeff Chiu and Brynn Anderson in Miami. Editor at Large Jerry Schwartz edited the text piece and an abridged version. Katie Oyan, the West Region's enterprise editor, helped coordinate all elements and get the stories and visuals to the wire and handsomely displayed on APNews. She worked with Reiterman to format and secure usage of his 1978 account for the San Francisco Examiner, written while he was recovering from his wounds at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.

Digital News Producer Trenton Daniel interviewed Reiterman via Skype, using archival visuals to weave past and present together. West Desk staffer Annika Wolters edited a social promotion video that has been viewed more than 32,000 times.

The text story landed on nine front pages, including one newspaper that ran it and Reiterman's 1978 account on the front page of its Sunday edition.

The package, as one judge noted, put the mass murder in clear, heartbreaking terms not only for audiences who remember it well, but also for readers and viewers who are not old enough to remember the tragedy. For telling a familiar story in a compelling, all-formats package, Reiterman wins this week's Best of the Week award.

Best of the States

Requiem for Paradise: Remembering the sweet life of a town wiped out by wildfire



A sign hangs, Nov. 14, 2018, over the remains of the Gold Nugget Museum in Paradise, Calif., which was virtually leveled by the Camp Fire. The former gold town is remembered as a friendly community where the pace was relaxed, where families put down roots and visitors opted to stay. AP Photo / Martha Mendoza

It's not often you have to write an obituary for a town. Yet that's what Martha Mendoza and Jocelyn Gecker were tasked to do, with Gillian Flaccus producing a compelling video component. Their tribute to Paradise, California - leveled by a devastating wildfire that killed so many residents - painted a picture of all that was lost. Paradise was a gold prospector's town, then a lumber town, and until two weeks ago was the home of 27,000 people "who lived and loved here; they built homes and businesses, schools and houses of worship, parks and museums that proudly honored Paradise's place in American history."

The pace was relaxed. It was a lovely place to retire, where people had yards and dogs. Mendoza worked from the field, in the ashes of the town, with Gecker in San Francisco tracking down leads, helping to write the finished piece and finding photographs to illustrate "the town's history and spirit, its seasonal colors and its many festivals."

Gecker found the town's de-facto photographer who allowed AP to use his images for powerful before-and-after visuals and create a photo transition of the town's Gold Nugget Museum, using an earlier image on a blue-skied, flower-filled day that matched up perfectly with a picture Mendoza shot in ruins.

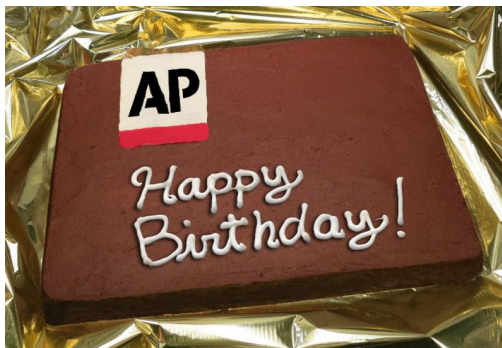
Mendoza and Gecker's careful, nuanced reporting, along with that of many colleagues, drew forth tales of town holidays - the Golden Nugget Days and Johnny Appleseed days - and residents ruminating whether those staples of small-town America would continue. The preparations for an outdoor ice skating rink and rehearsal for the local "Nutcracker" ballet have now turned into crews pulling human remains from homes and a toxic, smoky air that covers the wreckage. They worked with newsfeatures editor Jerry Schwartz in New York, who told them, "This is not a story about the fire. I would like to know what it was like living in this town. And what the world has lost when it loses a town like this."

A senior editor called the text piece "pure poetry." The accompanying video by Gillian Flaccus of a long-time resident describing what used to stand where buildings now lie in rubble, was emotional and unique. The video, recorded during a ride-along with the resident, complemented the text piece by showing street after street of utter devastation over the man's narration.

The text story had 26,388 pageviews, and an average engaged time on AP News of nearly a minute. It also was used widely by California customers, and the video was used widely by international customers.

Paradise is gone, and until it rebuilds in some fashion, Mendoza, Gecker and Flaccus have given the world the definitive piece on what it represented. For their deft depiction of the town behind the headlines, the trio wins AP's Best of the States.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

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Stories of interest

***The greatest threat to American journalism:
the loss of neutral reporting*** (The Hill)

By JOHN SOLOMON, Opinion Contributor

Over the past several months, I've watched, read and heard much about the potential Armageddon facing the profession of journalism.

I've watched colleagues proclaim that "fake news" attacks by President Trump, crowd chants of "enemies" and the expulsion of CNN's Jim Acosta from the White House press room pose the greatest threats to news reporting in history.

I respectfully disagree.

To be fair, there are many dangers I recognize and many fears I see as justified.

Forty-five members of the news media have died in the line of duty this year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The death of Jamal Khashoggi at

the hands of a Saudi government seeking to silence his voice is as horrific as it is unconscionable. The mail bombs sent to media outlets also are reprehensible and chilling.

But journalism, sadly, has laid to rest many a brave reporter, here and on foreign soil, and it managed to keep a neutral light of disclosure burning bright in far more difficult times than today.

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

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Trying to Fight, Not Spread, Fear and Lies (New York Times)

By **NICHOLAS KRISTOF**

Something continues to nag at me about the midterm elections.

It's the way we in the news media too often allowed ourselves to be manipulated by President Trump to heighten fears about the immigrant caravan from Central America so as to benefit Republican candidates. Obviously there were many journalists who pushed back on the president's narrative, but on the whole I'm afraid news organizations became a channel for carefully calculated fear-mongering about refugees.

We in the media have, quite rightly, aggressively covered the failings of Facebook and other social media in circulating lies that manipulated voters. That's justified: We should hold executives' feet to the fire when they pursue profits in ways that undermine the integrity of our electoral system.

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

The Final Word

When Novelists Turned to TV: Everyone Was Suddenly Using 'Reveal' as a Noun (New York Times)

By Henry Alford

The borders between television and prose fiction grow ever porous. At the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop - a bastion of literary purity for aspiring novelists and poets, which, not coincidentally, has been featured on the TV show "Girls" - evidence of this porousness is sometimes subtle: "It happened a few years ago," said the workshop's director, Lan Samantha Chang. "Everyone was suddenly using the word 'reveal' as a noun."

But such understated evidence of permeability between idioms has had a chance to swell in size on the university's campus this fall, when veteran TV writers Mitchell Burgess and Robin Green ("Northern Exposure," "The Sopranos," "Blue Bloods") launched a class called Writing for Television. "Many of the applicants for the class that Mitch and Robin were most interested in are students coming out of fiction," said Alan MacVey, chairman of the university's theater arts department. "They thought that these students' particular skill set and artistic temperament was appropriate for the kind of writing being done on TV today."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - November 26, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 26, the 330th day of 2018. There are 35 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 26, 1941, U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull delivered a note to Japan's ambassador to the United States, Kichisaburo Nomura (kee-chee-sah-boor-oh noh-moo-rah), setting forth U.S. demands for "lasting and extensive peace throughout the Pacific area." The same day, a Japanese naval task force consisting of six aircraft carriers left the Kuril Islands, headed toward Hawaii.

On this date:

In 1789, Americans observed a day of thanksgiving set aside by President George Washington to mark the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

In 1825, the first college social fraternity, the Kappa Alpha Society, was formed at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.

In 1883, former slave and abolitionist Sojourner Truth died in Battle Creek, Mich.

In 1917, the National Hockey League was founded in Montreal, succeeding the National Hockey Association.

In 1942, the Warner Bros. motion picture "Casablanca," starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, had its world premiere at the Hollywood Theater in New York.

In 1943, during World War II, the HMT Rohna, a British transport ship carrying American soldiers, was hit by a German missile off Algeria; 1,138 men were killed.

In 1950, China entered the Korean War, launching a counteroffensive against soldiers from the United Nations, the U.S. and South Korea.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's personal secretary, Rose Mary Woods, told a federal court that she'd accidentally caused part of the 18-1/2-minute gap in a key Watergate tape.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed a commission headed by former Senator John Tower to investigate his National Security Council staff in the wake of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1991, the Stars and Stripes were lowered for the last time at Clark Air Base in the Philippines as the United States abandoned one of its oldest and largest overseas installations, which was damaged by a volcano.

In 1992, the British government announced that Queen Elizabeth II had volunteered to start paying taxes on her personal income, and would take her children off the public payroll.

In 2000, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore in the state's presidential balloting by a 537-vote margin.

Ten years ago: Teams of heavily armed gunmen, allegedly from Pakistan, stormed luxury hotels, a popular tourist attraction and a crowded train station in Mumbai, India, leaving at least 166 people dead in a rampage lasting some 60 hours. A Missouri mother on trial in a landmark cyberbullying case was convicted by a federal jury in Los Angeles of three minor offenses for her role in a mean-spirited Internet hoax that apparently drove a 13-year-old girl, Megan Meier, to suicide. (However, Lori Drew's convictions were later thrown out.)

Five years ago: The U.S. flew two B-52 bombers over the East China Sea, defying Beijing's move to assert greater military control over the area's disputed islands. Pope Francis denounced the global financial system that excluded the poor as he issued the mission statement for his papacy. Actress-singer Jane Kean, 90, best known for playing Trixie in a musicalized revival of "The Honeymooners" on "The Jackie Gleason Show," died in Burbank, California.

One year ago: Congressman John Conyers of Michigan gave up his leadership position as the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, while denying allegations that he had sexually harassed female staff members. Amid allegations that he had groped women in the past, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken said he felt "embarrassed and ashamed," but that he looked forward to gradually regaining the trust of voters. (Franken announced less than two weeks later that he was resigning from Congress.) Pixar's "Coco" achieved the fourth-best Thanksgiving weekend ever at the box office, with an estimated \$71.2 million over the five days.

Today's Birthdays: Impressionist Rich Little is 80. Singer Tina Turner is 79. Singer Jean Terrell is 74. Pop musician John McVie is 73. Actress Marianne Muellerleile is 70. Actor Scott Jacoby is 62. Actress Jamie Rose is 59. Country singer Linda Davis is 56. Actor Scott Adsit is 53. Blues singer-musician Bernard Allison is 53. Country singer-musician Steve Grisaffe is 53. Actress Kristin Bauer is 52. Actor Peter

Facinelli is 45. Actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge is 44. DJ/record label executive DJ Khaled (KAL'-ehd) is 43. Actress Maia (MY'-ah) Campbell is 42. Country singer Joe Nichols is 42. Contemporary Christian musicians Anthony and Randy Armstrong (Red) are 40. Actress Jessica Bowman is 38. Pop singer Natasha Bedingfield is 37. Country singer-musician Mike Gossin (Gloriana Rock) is 34. Rock musician Ben Wysocki (The Fray) is 34. Singer Lil Fizz is 33. Singer Aubrey Collins is 31. Actress-singer-TV personality Rita Ora is 28.

Thought for Today: "Don't for heaven's sake, be afraid of talking nonsense! But you must pay attention to your nonsense." - Ludwig Wittgenstein, Austrian-born philosopher (1889-1951).

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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