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Connecting - November 30, 2018

1 message

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Fri, Nov 30, 2018 at 9:08 AM

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Connecting

November 30, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

As we wrap up the month of November, Connecting asks:

What are the most unusual or appropriate email addresses (AP or otherwise) you've seen?

I offer these two that were assigned to two of our colleagues during their working years with the AP:

hackerman@ap.org - the email address for NY executive **Hank Ackerman**, who was one of the early champions of the Internet in its infancy with the AP. And - chill@ap.org - the email address for Detroit CoB **Charles Hill**, an appropriate address for a guy I thought was always cool under fire. Both Hank and Charles are Detroit guys and Connecting colleagues, and friends.

Got some favorites of your own? Send them along.

Our Connecting colleague **John Brewer** shared this tweet from Bruce Bartlett:

Best Wall Street Journal correction EVER: "Vladimir Putin is president of Russia. An editing mistake erroneously identified him as Vladimir Trump in an earlier version of [this article](#)."

Have a great weekend! See you next in December.

Paul

Retirement luncheon held in Washington for Carol Robinson, lauding a 35-year AP career





Carol and Eva Parziale



Carol with daughter Michelle in background

Montrese Garner-Sampson (Email) - I thought I'd share these pictures with you from the retirement luncheon held in Washington for Carol Robinson, Local Media Markets (East) Sales Director, on November 16. Carol retired after 35 years with AP.

If you'd like to drop a note to Carol, her email is - vacarolr@msn.com

New-member profile - Lisa Holewa



Lisa Holewa (Email) - I was hired by (CoB) Lee Hughes as a temp in Milwaukee in 1990, was the lead AMs reporter on the Dahmer insanity trial there. Moved to Detroit at the end of the temp job (CoB Charles Hill) and spent a year there before moving to Grand Rapids as correspondent. From there, I moved to Tampa as lead correspondent (CoB Jim Reindl) and stayed there until leaving the AP in 2000.

I currently teach upper elementary (4th, 5th and 6th grades) at Craig Montessori, a Milwaukee Public School on the city's northwest side. Before that, I was at Racine Montessori School for seven years.

I've been involved with the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Lab program for the past three years. I've been holding morning news meetings with my class, where we use our (physical paper) subscription to the New York Times to discuss interesting news stories, for the past five years. (The students *love* holding and looking through the actual newspaper, not the online version, and I often look about my classroom and think we look a bit like a bunch of retirees at the coffee shop.) I've conducted workshops at national and state teacher conferences about using newspapers in the elementary classroom. I also have a blog for teachers interested in holding morning news meetings with their students - <https://classnewsmeeting.com/> - though I haven't updated it in a while (the new job is very demanding).

Worst shifts with the AP? Here are even more...

Paul Albright (Email) - Two incidents come to mind when you talk about worst shifts with the AP. Both occurred in the early 1970s when I was state capital correspondent in Bismarck, North Dakota.

After a long day of covering and writing about the North Dakota State Legislature, I headed to the almost empty State Capitol parking lot about 9 p.m. to find that my car battery was dead. Looking across the open capitol grounds, I could see the roof of our rented duplex less than a quarter mile away. Although it was about 10 below zero, I decided to hoof it home. Instead of following the snowplowed streets, however, I took a shortcut through an open field. I soon began to break through the icy snowpack. Suddenly, I was sinking into snow up to my knees and having to lift each leg high to make slow progress, one laborious step at a time. Alone in a snow-covered field on the frigid night, I figured I better keep moving toward the house

lights ahead of me because turning back to the darkened Capitol building would have been equally as difficult.

Well, I made it to the apartment, exhausted and numb from cold. But it was an "AP experience" I never forgot.

The second incident occurred as I was writing some statehouse story and a colleague came into my office.

"You better go out there and talk to her," he said, referring to our teletype operator.

"Why?"

"She's sitting out there crying."

I found the young woman with tears running down her cheeks as she sat at a teletype machine trying to file our copy on the state wire. Beside her was the bell-ringing AAA wire transmitting articles about the latest fighting in Vietnam, where her soldier husband was serving. We didn't have details on the units involved at that point, but she thought he might be in the fighting. The frequent updates on the wire had overwhelmed her emotionally.

I sent her home so that she would be away from the Bulletins and Urgents. Later, she did hear from her husband, who was safe in the battle zone - at least for that time.

-0-

Carolyn Carlson (Email) - My worst shift was actually a series of (outdoor) overnight shifts that just about did me in. It happened in November 1987, when the 2,500 Marielitos incarcerated at the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta rioted when told they were being deported to Cuba. They seized 100 hostages and control of the facility.

Those of us in the Atlanta bureau took turns camping out across the street from the Pen waiting for news of developments inside -- through Thanksgiving week, 24 hours a day for 11 days. We would sit in chairs on the sidewalk and in our cars, and wander over to the FBI tent next to fence, but there was little news the vast majority of the time. It was cold and sometimes rainy. The Pen is in a miserable part of town,

and we would have to drive several miles the nearest fast food place to get food and use the bathroom.

I was stuck with the overnight shift most nights, when of course nothing at all happened, but I was at least rewarded with the AM byline. My worst problem was that I developed a kidney infection during the ordeal, but I was determined to ignore it. When the seize ended Dec. 4, the doctor put me on antibiotics and complete bedrest for two weeks, much to my news editor's dismay, but at least it saved my kidneys.

-0-

Bob Daugherty (Email) - An interesting morning began upon my arrival at the State Photo Center. Editors were sitting idle, some with feet on their desk. "We're down," someone offered. "Call Cranbury?" I asked. I was informed that the problem was with the AP satellite. It seems a technician (believe it was GE) was making adjustments and lost control of the bird. As I recall, it took quite a while to get control of the bird while images piled up at SPC (State Photo Center), and certainly in NY. No doubt the comms folks in Cranbury were in pucker mode because we weren't the only ones affected. I was told that if the satellite had been lost it would have necessitated re-aiming sat dishes at all member sites.

(Maybe someone in comms has a version of this day.)

-0-

Gene Herrick (Email) - AP photographers, in the one-man bureaus, didn't work "Shifts," but were on call all of the time. Now we'd theoretically work an administrative schedule, but it didn't mean anything.

There are no shifts in a war zone, nor during disasters. You work until the story is wrapped up.

However, in my last post before retirement in 1971, in Columbus, Ohio, the chief of bureau, who never thought I did anything, assigned me to work the 5 or 6 a.m. Sunday morning shift as the only person in the office, and I had to write stories for the state wire, and the five-minute summaries for the radio wire, and answer the telephone to take notes on an incoming story.

At that same period of time, New York was switching over to FM, and completely redid the entire AP wire transmission system.

At many points that morning, I felt like a monkey picking coconuts in Malaysia - jumping from one task to the other. Oh yes, in the middle of it all, there was a mine disaster in West Virginia, and I had to arrange photo coverage.

To top off my misery, I did something wrong on the new FM system and lost about 15 minutes of the AAA wire and had to ask NY for a rerun. Their response was not jovial.

Take me back to those two' and three-day disasters with no sleep at all.

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Paul Stevens (Email) - One would think that being assigned to cover a St. Louis Cardinals game with the Los Angeles Dodgers would hardly qualify for Worst Shift Ever - but bear with me.

The St. Louis correspondency was my second position in the AP - I worked as a newsman there from 1976 to 1979 - and occasionally I would be called on to assist with sports coverage. One evening, sports writer Paul LeBar was sick and unable to cover the game at Busch Stadium so I got the assignment. I love baseball and had helped cover the Cardinals but this was my first solo run.

All went well through the game - got my lead written and filed by the end of the seventh inning, as was the practice then (it would be updated if the score changed) - and the Dodgers won the game on a hit by one of their stars Bill Buckner. After the story was filed, I went down to the Dodgers locker room to find and interview Buckner.

I asked a Dodger player where Buckner's locker was and he pointed - and I went over to interview him. I didn't know Buckner from Adam and introduced myself, and started asking questions about the game and his winning hit. The player answered the questions fully but after a few minutes, I heard some snickering in the background and about that time the UPI writer came up to me and tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Paul, that's not Bill Buckner, you're talking to Willie Crawford." Buckner and Crawford were not look-alikes, to make my matters worse.

Crawford, who is black, burst into laughter and so did several players, including Buckner, who is white. With a face as red as the Cardinal pinstripes, I segued over to Buckner and he willingly and nicely answered my questions, a big smile on his face over the Gotcha Moment - and then I got the heck out of Dodge.

AP names Johnson all-formats news director in Europe, Africa

LONDON (AP) - The Associated Press on Thursday named Anna Johnson as its news director for Europe and Africa, selecting a veteran leader of journalists with experience reporting from around the world to lead its coverage of two continents.

Johnson is currently the cooperative's news director for the western United States. Her appointment was announced by Sally Buzbee, AP's senior vice president and executive editor, and Ian Phillips, the news agency's vice president and deputy managing editor for international news. Johnson will start her new role in December.



"Anna has gained the respect of journalists across formats because of the way she thinks about stories," Buzbee said in a message to AP's global news staff. "She knows that the success of all-formats leadership lies in turning to and trusting our experts. Because of that, the West has excelled on both spot coverage and deeper journalism."

As all-formats news director for Europe and Africa, Johnson will lead the team of field video journalists, photographers and reporters, as well as producers and editors, who cover daily breaking news and strive to deliver distinctive and richly reported enterprise and explanatory journalism to AP's customers in the region and around the world.

AP's Europe and Africa region includes journalists in more than five dozen cities spread across a territory stretching from Moscow to London to Cape Town. Johnson will be based in London, where the region's editing desk and international video news operation is located.

Read more [here](#).

AP Archive, Video Hub boost third-party video content with 2 new contributors

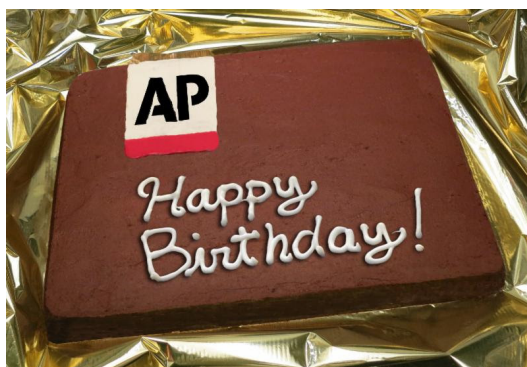
The Associated Press today (Nov. 28) announced that AP Archive and Video Hub customers will be offered content from Storm Chasing Video and Stringr, in a further expansion of third-party video distributed by AP.

Both AP Archive and Video Hub customers will be able to make use of extreme weather-related news footage from Storm Chasing Video. For over 20 years, Storm Chasing Video has led the way in covering extreme weather stories from deadly twisters and hurricanes to flooding and blizzards.

In addition, AP Archive customers will now be able to license video content from Stringr. Stringr offers video from its network of 70,000+ videographers, enabling customers to source, edit and publish content all in one comprehensive platform.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Chris Pederson - chris@caregivershome.com

On Saturday to...

Amanda Barrett - abarrett@ap.org

On Sunday to...

Nancy Shipley - nrosesz@aol.com

Doug Waggoner - dougwag@mchsi.com

Barbara Worth - barbaraworth@comcast.net

Stories of interest

How the food team at the Times-Picayune transformed itself (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

The food team at NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune has its own Instagram account with more than 56,000 followers. It has a Facebook group, too, with more than 42,500 members.

What they don't have? Their own dedicated social media editor.

The team behind Where Nola Eats is made up of three veteran journalists: Ann Maloney, Todd Price and Brett Anderson. They break news, write features, maintain their growing social media communities and cover the complex world of food in New Orleans.

To do all that, they had to drastically change both the way they thought about their work and the way they did it.

Read more [here](#).

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Amid political turmoil, Ivanka Trump attempts a quiet swing through Idaho (Idaho Statesman)

BY CYNTHIA SEWELL

The head of one of the world's leading technology companies, and an adviser to and daughter of the nation's president came to Idaho on Tuesday.

Normally, such a visit would warrant much fanfare. State officials, business leaders, stakeholders and media would all use the opportunity to meet with and report on such a rare official visit to the Gem State.

But this visit almost stayed under the radar.

On Monday morning, the White House informed the Statesman it could send one reporter and one photographer to observe Apple CEO Tim Cook and adviser to the president Ivanka Trump tour a Wilder elementary school the next morning. And there were conditions: The Statesman could not ask questions of or talk to Trump and Cook. It could only observe. The only other media attending the event would be a national crew from ABC.

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

-0-

Flawed Media Coverage of Obama Hurts America Still (National Review)

By DAVID FRENCH

I knew it. I knew the instant I saw Twitter erupt in outrage at the use of tear gas to disperse a crowd of people charging our southern border that someone would find an example of the Obama administration doing the same thing. And sure enough,

there it was, shared far and wide within minutes, a San Diego Union-Tribune story from November 25, 2013:

A group of about 100 people trying to illegally cross the border Sunday near the San Ysidro port of entry threw rocks and bottles at U.S. Border Patrol agents, who responded by using pepper spray and other means to force the crowd back into Mexico, federal officials said.

Twitter existed in 2013. I was on it, and I certainly don't recall an eruption of outrage, followed by days of think-pieces explaining the horrors of pepper spray and the deep betrayal of American values.

In fact, that November incident was hardly unique. As the Washington Times reports, "the same tear-gas agent that the Trump administration is taking heat for deploying against a border mob this weekend is actually used fairly frequently - including more than once a month during the later years of President Barack Obama's administration."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carl Robinson.

Today in History - November 30, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 30, the 334th day of 2018. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 30, 1874, British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace.

On this date:

In 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris for ending the Revolutionary War; the Treaty of Paris was signed in Sept. 1783.

In 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens - better known as Mark Twain - was born in Florida, Missouri.

In 1900, Irish writer Oscar Wilde died in Paris at age 46.

In 1939, the Winter War began as Soviet troops invaded Finland. (The conflict ended the following March with a Soviet victory.)

In 1960, the last DeSoto was built by Chrysler, which had decided to retire the brand after 32 years.

In 1966, the former British colony of Barbados became independent.

In 1981, the United States and the Soviet Union opened negotiations in Geneva aimed at reducing nuclear weapons in Europe.

In 1982, the Michael Jackson album "Thriller" was released by Epic Records. The motion picture "Gandhi," starring Ben Kingsley as the Indian nationalist leader, had its world premiere in New Delhi.

In 1988, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. was declared the winner of the corporate free-for-all to take over RJR Nabisco Inc. with a bid of \$24.53 billion.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which required a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

In 2000, Al Gore's lawyers battled for his political survival in the Florida and U.S. Supreme Courts; meanwhile, GOP lawmakers in Tallahassee moved to award the presidency to George W. Bush in case the courts did not by appointing their own slate of electors.

In 2004, "Jeopardy!" fans saw Ken Jennings end his 74-game winning streak as he lost to real estate agent Nancy Zerg.

Ten years ago: Space shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth after a nearly 16-day mission to repair and upgrade the international space station. The world's most comprehensive legalized heroin program became permanent with overwhelming approval from Swiss voters who simultaneously rejected the decriminalization of marijuana.

Five years ago: Paul Walker, 40, the star of the "Fast & Furious" movie series, died with his friend, Roger W. Rodas, who was at the wheel of a Porsche sports car that crashed and burned north of Los Angeles. Paul Crouch, 79, an American televangelist who'd built what has been called the world's largest Christian broadcasting network, died in Orange, California.

One year ago: House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi called on veteran Democratic congressman John Conyers to resign in the face of multiple accusations of sexual misconduct. (Conyers resigned five days later.) A jury found a Mexican man not guilty in the killing of a woman on a San Francisco pier, a shooting that touched off a fierce national immigration debate. (Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, who had been deported five times, did not deny shooting Kate Steinle but said it was an accident. He was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm.) Rapper DMX pleaded guilty to tax fraud, admitting he concealed millions of dollars in revenue to dodge \$1.7 million in taxes. (The rapper was sentenced in March to a year in prison.) Actor Jim Nabors, best known as TV's "Gomer Pyle," died at the age of 87.

Today's Birthdays: G. Gordon Liddy is 88. Country singer-recording executive Jimmy Bowen is 81. Movie director Ridley Scott is 81. Movie writer-director Terrence Malick is 75. Rock musician Roger Glover (Deep Purple) is 73. Playwright David Mamet (MA'-meht) is 71. Actor Mandy Patinkin is 66. Musician Shuggie Otis is 65. Country singer Jeannie Kendall is 64. Singer Billy Idol is 63. Historian Michael Beschloss is 63. Rock musician John Ashton (The Psychedelic Furs) is 61. Comedian Colin Mochrie is 61. Former football and baseball player Bo Jackson is 56. Rapper Jalil (Whodini) is 55. Actor-director Ben Stiller is 53. Rock musician Mike Stone is 49. Music producer Steve Aoki is 41. Singer Clay Aiken is 40. Actor Billy Lush is 37. Actress Elisha Cuthbert is 36. Actress Kaley Cuoco (KWOH'-koh) is 33.

Model Chrissy Teigen is 33. Actress Christel Khalil is 31. Actress Rebecca Rittenhouse is 30. Actress Adelaide Clemens is 29.

Thought for Today: "The real problem is what to do with the problem solvers after the problems are solved." - Gay Talese, American author and journalist.

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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