



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 31, 2019

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 9:15 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

January 31, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Services for veteran AP Washington newsman **Tom Raum** have been set for Saturday, Feb. 23, from 4-6 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center at [5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria VA](#) in the Magnolia Ballroom. Please RSVP to Tom's wife, **Nora**, at NRaum@aol.com



In lieu of flowers, Nora asks that any contributions in his memory be made to charity and that Tom's favorites were Doctors Without Borders, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and March of Dimes. Tom died last Friday at the age of 74.

Sixty years ago this coming Sunday marks the anniversary of "the day the music died." It is the day - immortalized in Don McLean's 1971 song "American Pie" - when a small plane carrying Buddy Holly, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson Jr. and Ritchie Valens crashed in a snowstorm in a northern Iowa cornfield after their appearance at Clear Lake's Surf Ballroom and killed all aboard including the pilot.

On Wednesday, January 30, 1959, the Winter Dance Tour featuring the three entertainers and Dion and the Belmonts played at the Laramar Ballroom in my hometown of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and their appearance - and the historic ballroom - were the topic of my latest Spotlight in The Messenger. Click [here](#) for a link to the story.



Have a great day!

Paul

Connecting mailbox

Movie Review: 'Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People'

Don Harrison (Email) - SAN DIEGO - Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People is soon to be released in theaters around the country, starting with March premieres in New York City and Los Angeles.

The 85-minute documentary traces Pulitzer's life as a Jewish immigrant from Hungary to his rise as the powerful publisher of both the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the New York World. It capsulizes some of his famous campaigns, his innovations in the art of newspapering, and his battles with such luminaries as William Randolph Hearst and Theodore Roosevelt.



Directed by Oren Rudavsky, the documentary skillfully weaves together historic photos, voice reenactments, and newspaper front pages and headlines with interviews of 13 experts on the publisher. Among them were his descendant Emily Pulitzer and Hasia Diner, one of the nation's foremost historians of the Jewish experience in the United States.

Read more [here](#).

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'Get it first, but first get it second'

Mike Feinsilber (Email) - Hal Bock's yarn (in Wednesday's Connecting) about the tension of being first with a big story reminds me of something the late Barry Schweid, AP Washington's supreme Supreme Court and diplomatic reporter used to say, tongue half in cheek: "Get it first, but first get it second."

That made no sense, except that in a way it did.

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List of films featuring printing presses

Kent Prince ([Email](#)) - Somebody put together a list of films that feature printing presses -- certainly more than I would have guessed. Click [here](#) to take a look.

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Seeking President Nixon's prediction on Super Bowl winner

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Mike Harris' story in the Jan. 29 Connecting of tracking former President Nixon reminded me of the time, as the 1990 Super Bowl between Denver and San Francisco approached, that the then-St. Petersburg Times, as it did every few years, would call celebrities, politicians and so on to ask for predictions on the game.

Knowing that the former president was a rabid pro football fan (namely the Redskins), I told the sports editor, "I'll get Nixon." He snorted and shooed me out of his office, as though I had made some ridiculous suggestion.

After two phone calls I had Nixon's phone number in New Jersey. I called and introduced myself to his secretary, who advised me, "The president does not do interviews." I said I knew that, that I just wanted to know, to put in the paper, who he thought would win the Super Bowl. The secretary asked me to hold a moment, left, returned and asked me for my name and phone number.

Two days later a signed letter from Nixon arrived. I tossed it on the editor's desk. A minute later he burst out of his office and said, "How the hell'd you do that?" I just smiled. The Times ran all the other predictions in newsprint under a photo of the letter.

By the way, Nixon, in picking San Francisco, wrote, "... I do not think they will beat the point spread." The 49ers won 55-10.

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Scenes from frigid Chicago



George Garties ([Email](#)) - AP director of local markets in Chicago for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin - and his wife Cathy Futa outside their Chicago home Wednesday, documenting the coldest morning they've ever awakened to.



A person walks by the lake in Chicago on Wednesday amid a fatal, record-breaking deep freeze sweeping the Midwest. Kiichiro Sato/AP Photo

New-member profile - Stan Tiner

Stan Tiner ([Email](#)) - I was the first grade reporter for the Wildcat, a four-page compendium of news, mimeographed and stapled before delivery to students at the Cotton Valley, LA, (1-12 grades) school.

After that I was always a reporter, or an editor, or both, whether in high school, our church paper, college paper, or in the Marines where I published a newsletter on the troop ship to Vietnam. I arrived in the war zone as an infantryman but soon became a combat correspondent, an assignment where I learned much.

I covered city hall at The Shreveport Times and as Politics Editor reported the rise of Edwin Edwards to the Governor's mansion. Robert Shelton, then Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, told cheering throngs at a rally and cross burning near Oil City, LA, he'd like to "kick my butt."



At 31 I was named editor of the Shreveport Journal, a paper that championed civil rights and progressive causes in a community and state that did not necessarily treasure, either. But, the Journal was a beacon.

On November 23, 1974 I stood on a low wooden platform, on a windswept Soviet Air Base in Siberia with about 20 American journalists awaiting Air Force One to land en route to Vladivostock and Salt II talks.

General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev arrived early and regaled us with folksy banter. He pointed out bunkers that dotted the airfield - "You probably think these are full of bombs," he said, "but they store vegetables - that one is full of tomatoes," he chuckled.

When the President's plane arrived, Gerald Ford rushed to visit with the press. His first question - I promise this is true - "Who won the Michigan - Ohio State game?"

My journey through the decades carried me to editorships at the Mobile-Press Register, the Oklahoman, and my final 15 years at the Sun Herald in Biloxi, where we lived through the fury of Katrina. The little newspaper never missed an edition, delivering the news through the utter devastation that destroyed the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

One of my abiding memories is the honor of delivering the paper to the great storm's survivors in their desperate time, and advocating for them in the days and months that followed. Our Public Service Pulitzer Prize is dedicated to the people of South Mississippi who inspired our coverage.

I retired in 2015, 67 years after my first reporting gig in Cotton Valley.

These days I enjoy the garden, photography and being PawPaw to four beautiful grand-daughters. I volunteer at the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, an organization that provides no-interest loans to sailors and Marines. It was established in 1904 with the proceeds from that year's Army-Navy game.

On Zapata, Bogey and Circling Vultures

Mort Rosenblum ([Email](#)) - in his blog:

TUCSON, Arizona - Two movie scenes, both by serendipitous circumstance from 1952, have always powered me through dark nights of the soul when it seemed as if humanity's better side was losing it. They may no longer be enough.

In "Viva Zapata," peasants stop troops taking Marlon Brando - Zapata - to jail for resisting a corrupt president. One aims a machete at the telegraph line to prevent a call for backup. If you cut that, an officer shouts, it's rebellion. Brando growls, "Cut it!"

In "Deadline U.S.A.," a mobster phones Humphrey Bogart, editor of "The New York Day" to warn him not to run an exposé, or else. "What's that noise?" he asks. Bogey replies: "That's the presses, baby. And there's nothing you can do to stop it."

A growing number of outraged Americans are ready for rebellion. Presses roll at a big New York daily and another in Washington. In too many other cities, however, bad guys simply buy out newspapers, gut the staff, and dictate "content" that suits them.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

Happy 96th to Dr. Sam!



Two distinguished doctors and one nosy journalist - all Connecting colleagues - together for lunch this week honoring one of them, **Dr. Sam Montello** (center), who delivered thousands of babies in the Kansas City area during his medical career. His 96th birthday is today. Sam hails from upstate New York, Navy vet of World War II, Harvard Med grad who practiced in Kansas City many decades. His favorite part of Connecting: Thought for Today.

The other doc is retired physician **Dr. George Varghese**, for whom the Spine Learning and Resource Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center is named. That's Ye Olde Connecting Editor at right.

Other members of Connecting's 90s Club - who I hope will send their birthday pics to Connecting each and every birthday:

Mercer Bailey
Carl Bell
Albert Habhab
Gene Herrick
Elaine Light
Joe McKnight

**Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder
Harold Waters**

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Don Deibler - russd225@gmail.com

Sam Montello - smontello@kc.rr.com

Welcome to Connecting



Jane Wolfe - sjwinparis@yahoo.fr

Stories of interest

Loss of newspapers contributes to political polarization

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - The steady loss of local newspapers and journalists across the country contributes to the nation's political polarization, a new study has found.

With fewer opportunities to find out about local politicians, citizens are more likely to turn to national sources like cable news and apply their feelings about national politics to people running for the town council or state legislature, according to research published in the Journal of Communication.

The result is much less "split ticket" voting, or people whose ballot includes votes for people of different parties. In 1992, 37 percent of states with Senate races elected a senator from a different party than the presidential candidate the state supported. In 2016, for the first time in a century, no state did that, the study found.

"The voting behavior was more polarized, less likely to include split ticket voting, if a newspaper had died in the community," said Johanna Dunaway, a communications professor at Texas A&M University, who conducted the research with colleagues from Colorado State and Louisiana State universities.

Read more [here](#).

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What a Way to Go: Russell Baker was a newspaperman's newspaperman (American Scholar)

By Ernest B. Furgurson

Sixty-six years ago, Russell Baker, who died on January 21 at the age of 93, was the London correspondent of the newspaper where I spent most of my working life, the one its own editor called "the best unread paper in the country," the once great Baltimore Sun. On June 2, 1953, Baker dispatched a story that began:

"All the races of the earth sat within the crumbling gray walls of Westminster Abbey today to see a beautiful young woman crowned queen of 400,000,000 people and kissed by her dashing young husband."

Across the Atlantic, James Reston, chief of the New York Times's Washington bureau, read those and 3,500 more words that rolled richly after them to describe the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He reacted promptly. As he remembered, "I spotted Russell Baker writing iambic pentameter in London for The Baltimore Sun and invited him sight unseen to come around if he ever got jumpy."

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

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Mapping the future of local news, together

(Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

Last week, I caught up with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Emily Ristow. We talked about how that newsroom has changed the way it uses social media, how they don't post every story they publish to Facebook anymore, and how their page likes have tripled. This bubble freezing video the Journal Sentinel shared, from sister paper the Green Bay Press Gazette, encompassed a lot of what we talked about (which you can read more about [here](#).)

It's not meant to drive clicks, but engagement (37,000 views and growing.)

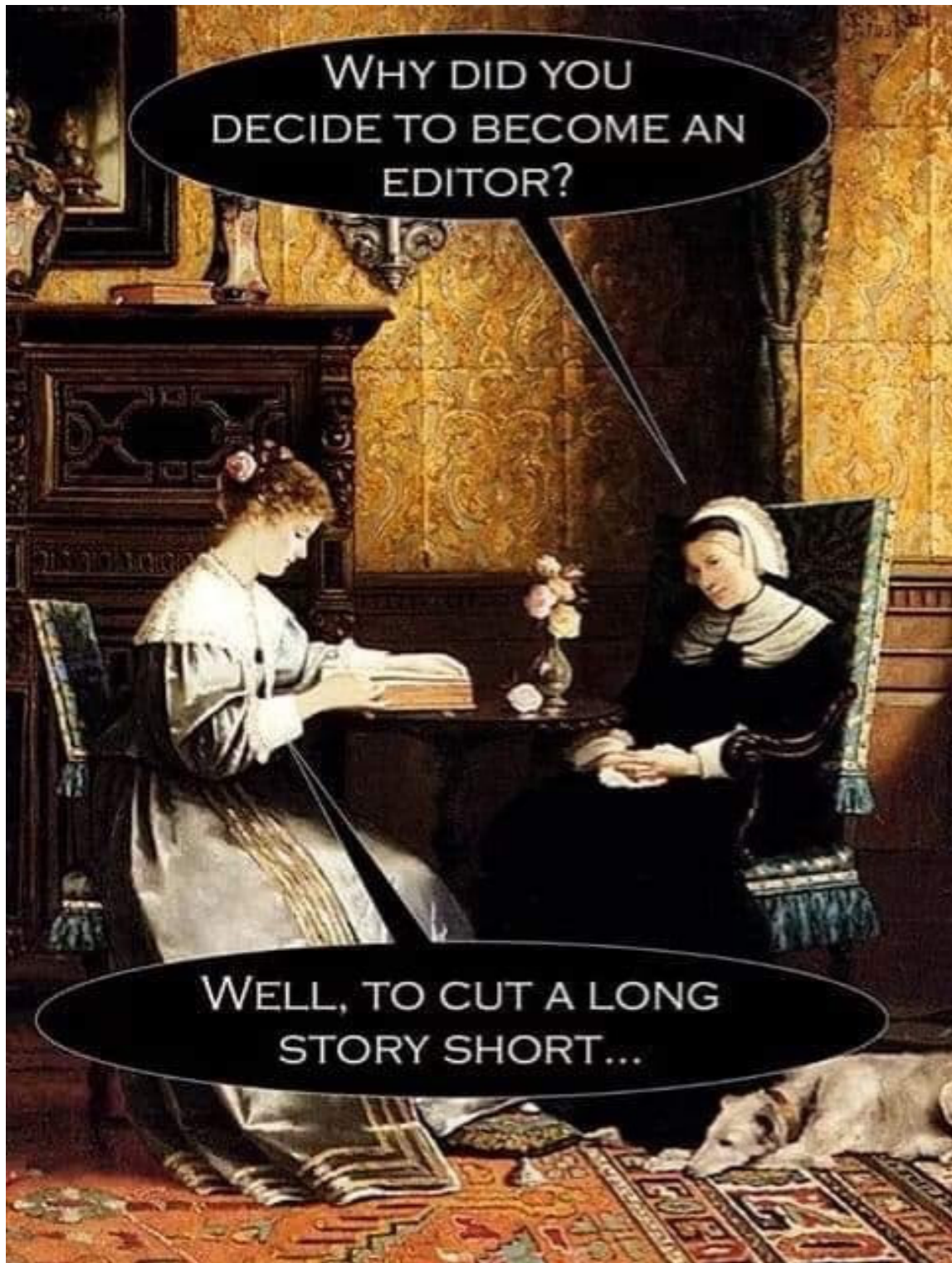
The reason that's valuable gets us back to the top of the funnel, it gets the Journal Sentinel in people's feeds and gets people who aren't subscribers a bit closer to becoming them.

Darn it, it's just fun. "Sometimes having fun or being entertained, that is a value, too," Emily said.

How is your newsroom using social media? It's fraught these days, no question. What's working for you?

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word



(Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

Today in History - January 31, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2019. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard, Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

On this date:

In 1606, Englishman Guy Fawkes, convicted of high treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot," was set to be hanged, drawn and quartered, but broke his neck after falling or jumping from the scaffold.

In 1863, during the Civil War, the First South Carolina Volunteers, an all-black Union regiment composed of former slaves, was mustered into federal service at Beaufort, South Carolina.

In 1865, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution abolishing slavery, sending it to states for ratification. (The amendment was adopted in December 1865.) Gen. Robert E. Lee was named general-in-chief of the Confederate States Army by President Jefferson Davis.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice that it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1929, revolutionary Leon Trotsky and his family were expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1945, Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

In 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite, Explorer 1, from Cape Canaveral.

In 1961, NASA launched Ham the Chimp aboard a Mercury-Redstone rocket from Cape Canaveral; Ham was recovered safely from the Atlantic Ocean following his 16 1/2-minute suborbital flight.

In 1990, McDonald's Corp. opened its first fast-food restaurant in Moscow.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines MD-83 jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Port Hueneme (wy-NEE'-mee), California, killing all 88 people aboard.

In 2005, Jury selection began in Santa Maria, California, for Michael Jackson's child molestation trial. (Jackson was later acquitted.)

Ten years ago: Iraqis passed through security checkpoints and razor-wire cordons to vote in provincial elections considered a crucial test of the nation's stability. A gasoline spill from a crashed truck erupted into flames in Molo, Kenya, killing at least 115 people. Serena Williams routed Dinara Safina 6-0, 6-3 to win her fourth Australian Open. Bruce Smith and Rod Woodson were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in their first year of eligibility; they were joined by Bob Hayes, Randall McDaniel, Derrick Thomas and Buffalo owner Ralph Wilson.

Five years ago: The long-delayed, controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline cleared a major hurdle toward approval as the U.S. State Department reported no major environmental objections to the proposed \$7 billion project. A week of peace talks aimed at stemming Syria's civil war ended in Geneva with no concrete progress.

One year ago: A train carrying dozens of Republican members of Congress to a strategy retreat crashed into a garbage truck in rural Virginia, killing one person in the truck and injuring others; there were no serious injuries aboard the chartered Amtrak train. Republican congressman Trey Gowdy of South Carolina, who became known for leading a House panel's investigation into the 2012 attacks against Americans in Benghazi, Libya, announced that he would be retiring from Congress after his term expired. Much of the world was treated to a rare triple lunar treat - a total lunar eclipse combined with a particularly close full moon that was also the second full moon of the month.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Philip Glass is 82. Former Interior Secretary James Watt is 81. Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, the former queen regent, is 81. Actor Stuart Margolin is 79. Actress Jessica Walter is 78. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 78. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 75. Actor Glynn Turman is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan is 72. Actor Jonathan Banks is 72. Singer-musician Harry Wayne Casey (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 68. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 63. Actress Kelly Lynch is 60. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 60. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 58. Actress Paulette Braxton is 54. Rock musician Al Jaworski (Jesus Jones) is 53. Actress Minnie Driver is 49. Actress Portia de Rossi is 46. Actor-comedian Bobby Moynihan is 42. Actress Kerry Washington is 42. Bluegrass singer-musician Becky Buller is 40. Singer Justin Timberlake is 38. Actor Tyler Ritter is 34. Country singer Tyler Hubbard (Florida Georgia Line) is 32. Folk-rock singer-musician Marcus Mumford (Mumford and Sons) is 32. Actor Joel Courtney is 23.

Thought for Today: "We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing." - R.D. Laing, Scottish psychiatrist (1927-1989).

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](#)

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