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Connecting - April 23, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

April 23, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 23rd day of April 2019,

First responses in to AP people we recognize by one name, a la Madonna or LeBron? **Ed Tobias** ([Email](#)) adds these: **Wolman, Kathleen**. To which I - showing my age - add: **Wes** and **Keith**.

Today's issue of Connecting brings you AP wire stories on the deaths of two prominent AP journalists - **Carl Bell**, who directed bureaus in Phoenix, Charlotte and Atlanta, and **Steve Feica**, who was an AP broadcast editor for nearly 30 years.

If you have memories to share of Carl or Steve, please send them along. Carl was among the senior members of our Connecting readership, at age 95.

May you have a good day!

Paul

Carl Bell, who oversaw AP bureaus in 3 cities, dies at 95

By JEFF MARTIN

ATLANTA (AP) - Carl Bell, a journalist known for defending the free press who served as chief of three Associated Press bureaus, has died. He was 95.

Bell died April 15 after a recent fall that caused a brain injury, wife Ouida Bell said.

He headed bureaus in Phoenix; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Atlanta, in a career that began in 1944 in Arkansas and ended with his 1990 retirement in Atlanta.

Bell was always a defender of the free press, his wife recalled in an interview Monday.

"He had a great passion for the news and always thought AP was the one to be with," she said.

Former colleagues echoed that sentiment.

"He was Mr. AP," said Arlon Southall, who was assistant chief of communications in Atlanta when he retired, after working with Bell in both Charlotte and Atlanta.

"That was his great love," Southall said of the AP. "He didn't tolerate anybody or anyone who had anything bad to say about the AP."

Bell also oversaw the installation of the Atlanta bureau's first computer, as reporters moved from typewriters to keyboards, his wife said.

"It was exciting and he was in the movie they sent out to show reporters how to use the computers," she said.

Ouida Bell would sometimes help her husband on election nights and other big events such as political conventions.

Bell was fair, direct and "old-school tough," former Atlanta AP newsman Johnny Clark said.

"When you walked out of a meeting with him, there was no ambiguity in your mind about what just transpired," Clark said.

Ouida Bell said her husband began his career when he was about 19 years old, covering sports in Arkansas. He later joined the AP as a newsman in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1944.

In 1954, he transferred to the AP's Chicago bureau as a newsman. He was named chief of the Phoenix bureau in 1956, the Charlotte bureau in 1963, and then took the same position in Atlanta in 1982, according to AP employment records. He also served as a general executive in the South region.

A funeral is set for 11 a.m. Saturday at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church in Atlanta.



Carl Bell (1982 photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives)



Carl Bell (left) and ACoB Lamar Mattnews hold Bell's 40-year AP anniversary cake in 1984. (Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Longtime Connecticut AP broadcast editor dies at 72

By **DAVE COLLINS**

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - Steve Feica, a news director at AM radio stations in Connecticut in the 1970s who went on to a nearly 30-year career as a broadcast editor with The Associated Press, has died. He was 72.

The Bridgeport native died from a suspected heart attack Friday at his home in Fairfield, his daughter, Danielle Santos Da Silva, said Monday. He had spent recent months recovering from a staph infection.



This Dec. 2, 2017, photo provided by Jim Daigle shows retired Associated Press broadcast Steve Feica in Waterbury, Conn. (Jim Daigle via AP) (Associated Press)

Feica joined the AP in New York City in 1979 and later worked at bureaus in Boston and Washington, D.C., before returning to Connecticut in 1985. The early morning broadcast stories and news minutes he wrote were read daily on AP member radio and television newscasts across the state. And, as the person who answered most of their phone calls, he was the voice of the Hartford bureau to members for years.

"Steve combined a sense of calm and humor, with an ability to quickly distill the most complicated breaking news story to its essence," said Pat Eaton-Robb, an AP sports and news reporter in Hartford. "He was a mentor to dozens of young staffers and it's no accident that many of them are now leaders in the AP."

Known for his wit, warmth, compassion and love of an after-work drink, Feica attended the University of Bridgeport and later embarked on a career in AM radio news. Feica's radio days,

when he used the name Steve Thomas on air, included stints as news director at both WWCO in Waterbury and WNVR in Naugatuck between 1973 and 1979.

"Steve was just one of these guys - he knew journalism, he knew reporting," said Steve Martin, a longtime broadcaster who worked with Feica at WWCO. "Steve had an instinct. He knew where to get the news. And he was an extremely good writer for broadcast."

Martin recalled returning from a Waterbury city meeting and telling Feica that officials would not let him record for radio.

"His head just about exploded," Martin said. "He said, 'Do they understand this is a public meeting, the First Amendment?' He just wasn't going to tolerate it. Steve straightened it out."

At the AP in Hartford, Feica played vital roles in covering major news across Connecticut. He said one event in particular stood out to him - the 1987 collapse of the L'Ambiance Plaza residential tower in Bridgeport during construction that killed 28 workers.

"The reason it stands out is that it represents the epitome of member cooperation and is a great example of how AP mobilizes very quickly to cover a major news event, no matter where it is," he said in an interview with The Laurel Connecticut website just before he retired in 2009.

"At heart, I'm still a guy who loves local broadcast news," he added. "I will miss most my daily contact with the radio and TV folks who have been so important in defining what I do."

Santos Da Silva, his daughter, said there will be no funeral, as per his wishes. She said a memorial party is being planned for the summer.



Steve Feica is shown in New York, Sept. 7, 1979. (AP Photo/Marty Lederhandler)

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

Memories of Carl Bell, Steve Feica



AP newswoman Donna Tommelleo reads a proclamation from the governor's office on behalf of Steve Feica at his retirement party in 2009. Among those in the photo are Elaine Hooker and her husband Herrick, at left.

Elaine Hooker ([Email](#)) - Steve was a rock in the Hartford bureau. He had worked at radio stations in Connecticut before he joined the AP, so he knew intimately what the broadcasters needed. And he ever so patiently taught those who were trained to write for newspapers that broadcast style involved more than making sentences short and writing in present tense. His news judgment was impeccable. Because in those days we learned about so many breaking news stories from broadcasters, Steve was often the first to jump on a big story. Whenever there was a breaking story, Steve would work the phones for new angles and greater depth. He also managed the Connecticut broadcasters' awards ceremonies -- a talented emcee. In his spare time, he once ran a comedy club. Anyone who knew Steve remembers his wicked sense of humor, not to mention his love for his grandchildren. Steve was adored and he will be missed.

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John Lumpkin ([Email](#)) - Carl was an AP warrior from another era. He was first a journalist, which is where the AP in his time reached to find its managers to make them into sales executives in the domestic AP while they continued to supervise the

news operations in their territories. As bureau chiefs, they were leaders in their states in news because their jobs combined the news needs of their state with their ability on behalf of the AP "member owner" newspapers to direct coverage to meet the newspapers' needs.

Might seem to be a quaint idea today, but it worked well into the turn of the last century.

But...Carl was a part of the start of the way we apparently deal with AP member owners and other customers today and that's how I first met him in the dreary basement that served as the Charlotte AP bureau across from its former location in the Charlotte Observer in 1976.

My history may be a tad out of focus but I think long-ago AP GEO Wes Gallagher and his lieutenant Conrad Fink recognized the potential need for a representation for AP at a group ownership level, although we were adamant no group "deals" would be made. Again, in today's world, somewhat quaint but AP governance dictated only individual newspapers could be members.

Carl and the late Bill Barnard, war correspondent and Dallas bureau chief, were the two general executives in this - for AP - novel approach. UPI, the commercial competitor, already had totally divorced its news and sales operations from one another.

Carl and Bill had a challenge not to diminish the bureau chief's role but make sure AP benefited from their broader perspective.

So, when I arrived in Charlotte as chief of bureau, there was Carl, former Charlotte COB, in the office next door. With him, we signed some great business, but here are two memories:

-No. 1 - the foreign-owned Thomson Newspapers was one of Carl's first assignments in the General Executive role because they adopted what later became SOP in group ownership - managers away from local markets making decisions about local AP newspapers. So, Carl had to travel to Florida to meet with one of these types when one of our NC newspapers was in the balance. He took out a legal pad and from memory wrote down two columns, the one on the left with the Thomson Newspapers that were AP (going back to before Thomson bought them) and the much skinnier grouping on the right that were UPI.

The response from the Thomson executive, pointing to the right-hand column - "Carl, how do I get off of that shit list?" Well, Carl had the answer.

-No. 2 - in those days, the UPI bureau was in Raleigh and it ran the election co-op that included arranging for stringers and the crude computer tabulation using the technology of the time. UPI billed us for half the expenses for access to the feed of the results. In one of those elections, it was a disaster. I left at 4 a.m. with no meaningful results. When the results were available, a number of races went to runoff. Carl noted that the "old" way of election tabulation was the use of manual "pocket-boards" and hand calculators. When stringers called in results, an index card was created and the notations were put in pockets. Periodically, a hand calculation of the pockets were made. Miraculously, we found the old boards in storage and spouses and others gathered on Election Night to follow through. Carl's scheme to revert to pocket-boards worked perfectly. UPI was stuck with the total cost of the clunky computer operations and all the stringers. We used members for input of data in exchange for no special assessment for election coverage. And we called the runoffs well in advance of deadlines.

Those were the days, my friends.

Ambush or Appropriate - your stories

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - Ambush or Appropriate: Staking out a public figure on a public sidewalk and asking a question, even on Easter, is appropriate. Following him to the car and asking further questions along the way after the initial "no comment" is inappropriate. And it happens all the time. Why do reporters, usually in a group, continue to ask (or shout) questions on the run - "did you do it?"..."are you doing to drop out? - when it's obvious that no answer will be forthcoming? Would this be happening if video wasn't being recorded?

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Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Hooray for Mike Viqueira. He was doing exactly what he should have been doing -- asking questions. Mueller was perfectly within his right to say "no comment," but Viqueira was just as right to ask the questions.

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Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) - What I did as AP's Wichita correspondent back in the late 1970s was maybe not an ambush, but it was one of the hardest things I had to do as a journalist. A toxic chemical leak in the silo of an unarmed Air Force Titan II missile killed a USAF maintenance worker and forced the evacuation of 200 residents of nearby Rock, Kansas, not far from Wichita. It was an AAA story.

The Air Force was not forthcoming with any details as it investigated what happened and said very little about the worker who was killed. We learned that the victim's funeral would be held at a Wichita cemetery so I was assigned to go out to the services and see if any of the family would talk about what happened. I watched the services from a respectful distance and when family members were returning to their cars, I approached them, told them I was a reporter for The Associated Press and that I was sorry for their loss, and asked if any of them would be willing to comment.

One of the family became incensed by the intrusion - as I suppose I would have been if placed in his shoes - and threatened bodily harm if I did not leave immediately. I apologized and left. I knew it was my job as a journalist to ask and I later tried to figure how I could have handled this in another way. It's something I never forgot.

Connecting mailbox

Most memorable assignment - Hee Haw tapings in Nashville

Joe Edwards ([Email](#)) - Undoubtedly, my most memorable assignment(s) were going to the "Hee Haw" tapings in Nashville.

The producer gave me the run of the place, and even adjusted the shooting schedule around my interviews.

One day we went next door to a Cracker Barrel for lunch, and before we left Buck Owens warned, "Don't stop for autographs. We'll never get out."

The tapings were very laid back as you can imagine. One time Archie Campbell's toupee fell off as the tape rolled. He went , "Oh oh". There was a moment of silence and then quiet chuckling.

The most memorable day for me was when the cast was assembled on risers and I was down front to the side chatting with Buck Owens. (For some reason he liked me and usually wanted to engage in small talk.)

Suddenly someone in the booth said, "Joe Edwards crowd in." So I did and as instructed shouted "Saaaa-lute!"

I never got to see it, but I'm sure I stood out in my blue blazer and red tie.

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An AP lunch in Venice, Florida



Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#)) - Monday at Snook Haven, an "old Florida" joint on the Myakka River in Venice, Fla. From left, Marguerite Orazi, spouse of Adolphe Bernotas, center, and Mike Recht. Bernotas is AP Concord alum. Recht's AP service was in Los Angeles, St. Louis, New York Sports and Concord.

Welcome to Connecting



John Marshall - jtmarshall@cox.net

Mike Recht - michaelrecht1539@gmail.com

Stories of interest

News groups fight to keep Harvey Weinstein's hearing open



FILE - In this Jan. 25, 2019, file photo, Harvey Weinstein, left, leaves court

with attorney Ron Sullivan in New York. Both sides in Harvey Weinstein's sexual assault case want the media and the public barred from the disgraced movie mogul's next court appearance. News organizations including The Associated Press are fighting to keep the hearing open plan to file a petition Monday, April 22, with the court. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

NEW YORK (AP) - News organizations are fighting to pull back the curtain on a Harvey Weinstein court appearance that the prosecution and defense want held in secret.

The organizations, including The Associated Press and The New York Times, argued in court papers filed Monday that the sides haven't met a high legal standard for banning the media and the public from Friday's hearing in Weinstein's sexual assault case.

Prosecutors contend the hearing should be closed to protect Weinstein's right to a fair trial and for the privacy of women whose allegations against him are not part of the underlying criminal charges. Weinstein's lawyers say news coverage could taint the jury pool.

Prosecutors want the women to testify at Weinstein's June 3 trial to show he has had a pattern of violating women. They also expect to discuss evidence that could be used against Weinstein if he testifies.

Read more [here](#).

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N Ireland: Woman arrested in slaying of journalist McKee

LONDON (AP) - The Northern Ireland Police Service said Tuesday they have arrested a woman under the Terrorism Act in connection with the slaying of journalist Lyra McKee.

The arrest of the 57-year-old under the Terrorism Act came as an Irish Republican Army splinter group admitted that one of its "volunteers" killed journalist McKee, who was shot dead while reporting on rioting in Londonderry.

In a statement issued Tuesday to the Irish News, the New IRA offered "full and sincere" apologies to McKee's family and friends.

The group said the 29-year-old journalist was killed during Thursday night's unrest "while standing beside enemy forces" - a reference to the police.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Myanmar court rejects appeal of jailed Reuters reporters



FILE - In this Sept. 3, 2018, combination file photo, Reuters journalists Kyaw Soe Oo, left, and Wa Lone, are handcuffed as they are escorted by police out of a court in Yangon, Myanmar. Myanmar's Supreme Court on Tuesday, April 23, 2019, rejected the final appeal of the two Reuters journalists and upheld seven-year prison sentences for their reporting on the military's brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims. They earlier this month shared with their colleagues the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, one of

journalism's highest honors. (AP Photo/Thein Zaw, File)**By AUNG NAING SOE**

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) - Myanmar's Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected the final appeal of two Reuters journalists and upheld seven-year prison sentences for their reporting on the military's brutal crackdown on Rohingya Muslims.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo earlier this month shared with their colleagues the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, one of journalism's highest honors. The reporters were arrested in December 2017 and sentenced last September after being accused of illegally possessing official documents, a violation of a colonial-era law.

The court did not give a reason for its decision, which was quickly decried by rights advocates.

"Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo should never have been arrested, much less prosecuted, for doing their jobs as investigative journalists," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for New York-based Human Rights Watch. "Sadly, when it comes to media freedom, both Myanmar's military and the civilian government seem equally determined to extinguish any ability to question their misrule and rights violations."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Sri Lankan government blocks social media and imposes curfew following deadly blasts

(Washington Post)

By Jennifer Hassan, Niha Masih and Tony Romm

The Sri Lankan government blocked access to Facebook and other social-networking sites Sunday after suicide attacks killed more than 290 people, a move

meant to stop misinformation from inciting further violence in a country where online mistruths have fomented deadly ethnic unrest.

But the blackout also had the effect of eliminating a key means of communication during a major terrorist event - a problem Sunday for both Sri Lankans and foreigners desperate to get information about security and check in with loved ones.

Analysts, meanwhile, question whether shutting down social media is effective at defusing strife. The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists has said there is no "substantive" evidence to show that such bans, which are common in South Asia, can "scale down violence."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 23, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 23, the 113th day of 2019. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On April 23, 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

On this date:

In 1616 (Old Style calendar), English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

In 1789, President-elect George Washington and his wife, Martha, moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

In 1943, U.S. Navy Lt. (jg) John F. Kennedy assumed command of PT-109, a motor torpedo boat, in the Solomon Islands during World War II. (On Aug. 2, 1943, PT-109 was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer, killing two crew members; Kennedy and 10 others survived.)

In 1968, student protesters began occupying buildings on the campus of Columbia University in New York; police put down the protests a week later. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1971, hundreds of Vietnam War veterans opposed to the conflict protested by tossing their medals and ribbons over a wire fence in front of the U.S. Capitol.

In 1987, 28 construction workers were killed when an apartment complex being built in Bridgeport, Connecticut, suddenly collapsed.

In 1988, a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.

In 1995, sportscaster Howard Cosell died in New York at age 77.

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital

at age 70.

In 2005, the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama met privately with leading executives of credit-card issuing companies; afterward, the president said he was determined to get a credit-card law passed that eliminated the tricky fine print, sudden rate increases and late fees.

Five years ago: Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal signed a law allowing legally owned guns in bars without restriction and in some churches, schools and government buildings under certain circumstances. Facebook reported its earnings had nearly tripled and revenue had grown sharply in the first quarter, surpassing Wall Street's expectations.

One year ago: A man plowed a rental van into crowds of pedestrians in Toronto, killing 10 people and leaving 16 others hurt; police said the suspect, Alek Minassian, had posted a Facebook message indicating anger toward women. (Minassian is due to go to trial in February 2020.) French President Emmanuel Macron began a three-day state visit to Washington by visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon estate with his host, President Donald Trump, and their wives. The Duchess of Cambridge, formerly known as Kate Middleton, gave birth to a new prince who was fifth in line to the British throne; Louis Arthur Charles was the third child for the duchess and her husband, Prince William.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 89. Actor David Birney is 80. Actor Lee Majors is 80. Hockey Hall of Famer Tony Esposito is 76. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 72. Actress Blair Brown is 72. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 70. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 70. Actor James Russo is 66. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 65. Actress Judy Davis is 64. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 59. Actor Craig Sheffer is 59. Actor-comedian-talk show host George Lopez is 58. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 54. Actress Melina Kanakaredes (kah-nah-KAH'-ree-deez) is 52. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 51. Country musician Tim Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 51. Actor Scott Bairstow (BEHR'-stow) is 49. Actor-writer John Lutz is 46. Actor Barry Watson is 45. Rock musician Aaron Dessner (The National) is 43. Rock musician Bryce Dessner (The National) is 43. Professional wrestler/actor John Cena is 42. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 42. Actor Kal Penn is 42. Retired MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 42. Actress Jaime King is 40. Pop singer Taio (TY'-oh) Cruz is 36. Actor Aaron Hill is 36. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 35. Actress Rachel Skarsten is 34. Rock musician Anthony LaMarca (The War on Drugs) is 32. Singer-songwriter John Fullbright is 31. Tennis player Nicole Pietrangeli (vay-deh-SOH'-vuh) is 30. Actor Dev Patel (puh-TEHL') is 29. Actor Matthew Underwood is 29. Actor Camryn Walling is 29. Model Gigi Hadid is 24. Rock musicians Jake and Josh Kiszka (Greta Van Fleet) are 23. Actor Charlie Rowe (TV: "Salvation") is 23. U.S. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Chloe Kim is 19.

Thought for Today: "In the future everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." - Andy Warhol, American pop artist (1928-1987).

Connecting calendar



June 20 - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to recognition@ap.org

August 17 - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

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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