



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - July 12, 2019

1 message

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

Fri, Jul 12, 2019 at 8:51 AM

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



# Connecting

July 12, 2019

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019,

Who was your first bureau chief - the person who hired you into the AP?

Ask that question these days to anyone hired in the past five years and you may get a puzzled look. It was 2014 when the title of domestic bureau chief - the men and women who operated all facets of state bureaus and reported directly to the president of AP - disappeared in a revamping of the state bureau structure that began 11 years earlier.

With the recent retirement of **Sally Hale**, there are (by my count) eight people remaining at work in the AP who once held the title of domestic bureau chief (domestic, to indicate U.S. bureaus and not international ones; the head of the Washington bureau (**Julie Pace**) continues to carry the bureau chief title.) The eight are: **Jim Baltzelle, Kia Breaux, Jim Clarke, George Garties, David Marcus, Eva Parziale, David Wilkison** and **Adam Yeomans**. All continue to make significant contributions to the AP in different roles.

My first bureau chief was **Ed Staats** - then chief of bureau in Albany, New York, who hired me in 1973 off the hiring circular that was distributed by mail to bureau chiefs on a regular basis by New York Personnel. Ed is retired, a Connecting colleague living in Louisville.



**Ed Staats**

Not only did Ed hire me, he saved my career.

When an AP-wide staff reduction took place as I was just entering my second year with the AP, eliminating the newsman position I held in Albany (junior staffer), it was Ed (and Personnel executive **Ron Thompson** and sports editor **Wick Temple** in New York) who went to bat for me and located an opening in St. Louis that allowed me to continue my career. He was a role model for me and many others - 24 of my 36 AP years were in chief of bureau positions - in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City.

How about you?

Who was your first bureau chief, and how did she or he impact your career beyond hiring you into the AP?

And if you were among those who once served as a domestic bureau chief, what are your favorite memories of the job?

**One last note:** the 50th anniversary of the moon landing by astronauts of Apollo 11 will be observed late next week - on July 20. Connecting hopes to gather your

memories of one of the most significant events in the history of mankind. So please gather your thoughts to share a memory for issues next week on any involvement you had in the news coverage and where you were when it happened.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## The years pass, but truths endure

**Jeff Fox** ([Email](#)) - My trusty little friend still sits at my desk.

Thirty-five years ago this week, I started at The Examiner. (The first time, that is. There was an interruption for a few years in Minnesota, chasing too many news stories and too few fish.)

I was a copy editor, my one true calling. These are the people who fuss over "compared to" and "compared with" - there is a difference - and the people who know all 50 state capitals. Don't watch the ballgame with them, because they sit there and correct the TV's grammar.

These are my people.

No internet in 1984, so the tools of the craft were simpler. A Webster's New World Collegiate Dictionary, the Associated Press Stylebook, a Bible - people are forever misquoting the Bible - the World Almanac and a few other good books.



**Jeff Fox**

And my little friend, a KMC 100B. It's a calculator. A good copy editor checks the math. I bought this calculator at the old Kmart on U.S. 24, and I think I paid about \$8. It runs on sun. I've crunched my way through \$300 million budgets and never put a battery in it. Good investment.

A lot of years, but here's what hasn't changed. We do journalism for one reason: What we do makes for a better community. We report information, we put it in

context, and we give people of different viewpoints a voice. We help conduct the ongoing civic conversation. The nation's founders specifically wrote this into how the great American experiment in self-government is supposed to work.

As I say, there was no internet in 1984. I can remember writing news stories a decade later about how this new thing was coming and what schools and other institutions would do about it. (Remember when the internet was going to mean an age of enlightenment and fact-based reason? What a mirage.)

The newspaper industry reacted the same way it did to all new threatening technologies. It panicked. Let's put our product online (good idea) for free (horrible idea). Ads alone will support it (dubious idea unsupported by data).

But there does seem to be a growing realization that a good product, even your favorite news app, comes at a cost. And that "the laborer deserves his wages" (Luke 10 - I told you that Bible was handy).

So that offers a degree of hope. I know this too: What we do still matters. It has great value for community and country.

You might not agree with every word you read in the paper. You might get infuriated by something we said or something a politician did. If you slam the paper down in disgust, that's not the worst thing in the world. Stay engaged. It's what we're here for.

**Jeff Fox is editor of The Examiner, Independence, Missouri.**

Click [here](#) for a link to this column. Shared by Scott Charton.

## Recalling the near disaster that was the Apollo 13 mission

**Marty Steinberg** ([Email](#)) - Here's an interesting Facebook post by a former colleague of mine when I was breaking into journalism at the Philadelphia Inquirer. At the time, Joel Shurkin was an outstanding science writer there. He wrote this

about the near disastrous Apollo 13 mission. He was covering the mission for Reuters.

**Joel Shurkin (Email)** - While we are on the subject: "Cold comfort" or how to get revenge without leaving fingerprints.

It is said revenge is a dish best served cold. You will recall that Apollo 13 was the lunar mission that suffered an explosion on the way to the moon and had to turn back. The astronauts were in danger of starring in the most public death in the history of civilization. It was easily the hardest story I ever covered, made worse by editors. I was chief space reporter for Reuters.

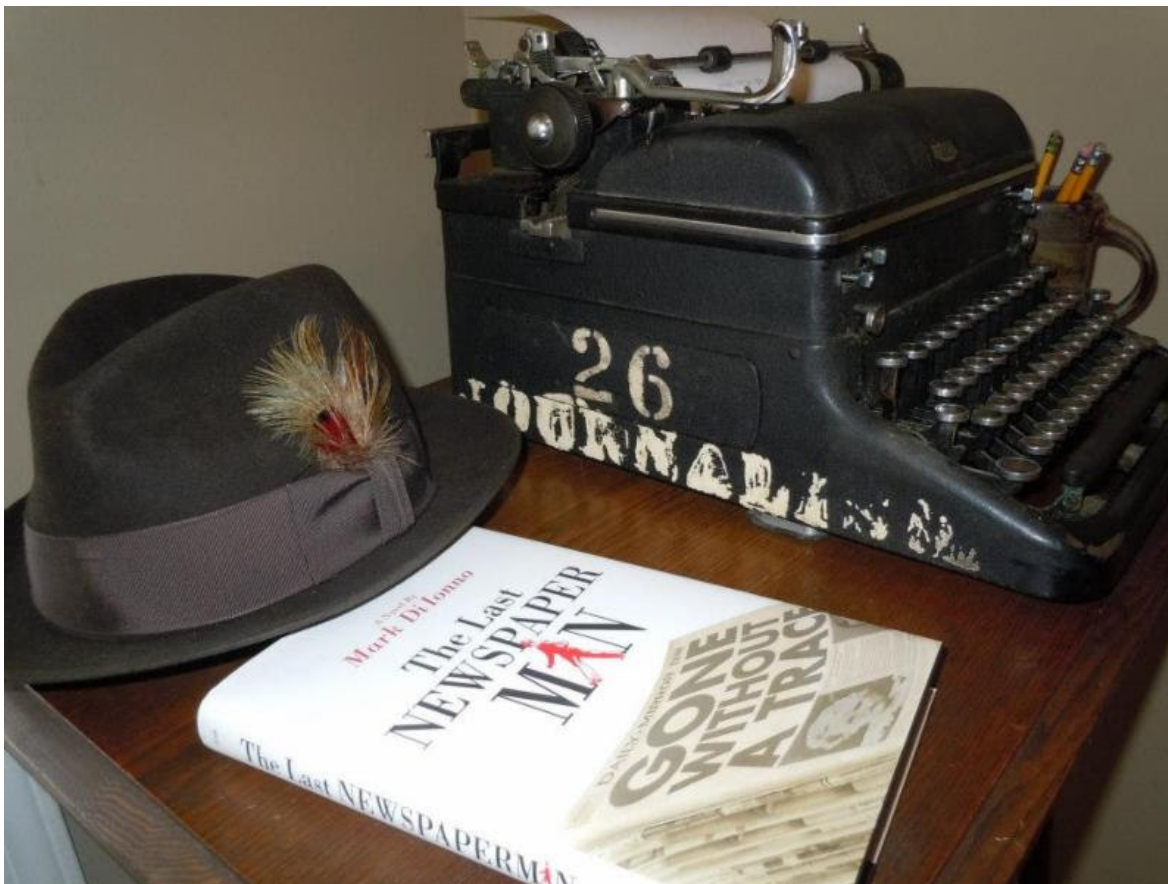
We first noticed seething amiss when stories we sent to London for editing came back with changes that we thought overdramatized a dramatic event that needed no help. Someone in London was tinkering with our ledes. We Teletyped a request for an explanation. We got back a message: "Tis cold comfort to be right when someone else is getting the play." In other words, newspapers around the world were using the Associated Press story instead of ours. Wire services care about that a lot. The AP stories were hair-raising. It was undeniable the astronauts were in mortal peril but you have to report these things straight, without hamming it up, and let the facts speak for themselves. They are actually more dramatic that way. (I have always believed the problem was at the AP's New York office, not the first-rate people they had in Houston).

We weren't the only ones having trouble. The newsroom was full of reporters arguing with editors who were seeing the AP stories and wondering why their reporters were not reporting the same things. A friend at the Miami Herald was almost in tears. Our boss, Alan Paterson, was visiting at the time, and the three reporters with me and I complained to him and mentioned we were thinking of quitting unless London left our stories alone. He got on the phone. A superb, ethical journalist, he agreed with us. He also didn't want to try to cover the story by himself. I didn't hear what he said, but I saw his face turn bright red in anger. London stopped screwing around. (The same thing may have happened at AP as their stories seemed to calm down too). The astronauts survived and it made an unusually good movie.

About a year later, a story by Stuart Auerbach of the Washington Post ran in the Columbia Journalism Review about the Apollo 13 overage. It included the "cold comfort" memo and the internal conversations, including, I think, the threatened walk out. London, of course, was furious. (So was the AP). Those were internal interactions and some miscreant made them public. They demanded Paterson find out who did it and fire the bastard. Paterson knew full well who did it, even cheering him on. (I will not comment further). He threw the request in the waste paper basket and I never heard about it again.

This stuff isn't easy as it looks.

## A bit of history preserved



**Mark Mittelstadt (Email)** - I rescued a very old Royal typewriter from a dumpster next to the former School of Communications building at the University of Iowa.

The building housed classrooms plus the newsroom, composing room and business office of the student-run daily newspaper, The Daily Iowan. In 1974 or 1975, the school cleared out its attic as it gradually moved to newer electric typewriters (possibly IBM Selectrics.) Also, the DI had two punch-tape terminals and was moving to get more.

I spotted the typewriter in the trash and figured I needed to take it home. With "Journalism" stenciled on the side, I figured it likely was used in very early courses teaching news-gathering and writing.

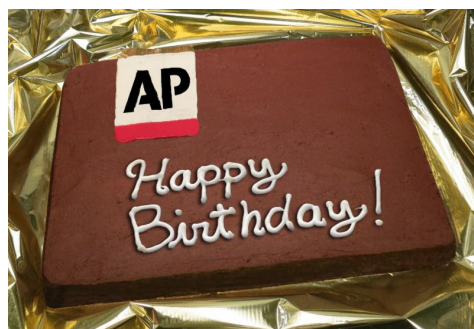


I used it for many years, including to type a final report for a typography course in which I compared the front pages of Iowa's daily newspapers. It has been sidelined for decades but has made every move around the country with me, usually sitting in the basement or on a garage shelf. It works but needs cleaning and adjustment, and a new ribbon. I've thought about sending it to one of the very few repair shops around the country.

Despite the time and expense that may involve, I think it'll be worth it.

Now I need to find an old typing stand.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



*On Saturday to...*

Doug Anstaett - [danstaett@kspress.com](mailto:danstaett@kspress.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Don Waters - [news4u2@earthlink.net](mailto:news4u2@earthlink.net)

## Stories of interest

***Governments making "fake news" a crime risk stifling real journalism - accidentally or intentionally*** (Nieman)

By ALANA SCHETZER

The rapid spread of fake news can influence millions of people, impacting elections and financial markets. A study on the impact of fake news on the 2016 U.S. presidential election, for instance, has found that fake news stories about Hillary Clinton were "very strongly linked" to the defection of voters who supported Barack Obama in the previous election.

To stem the rising influence of fake news, some countries have made the creation and distribution of deliberately false information a crime. Singapore is the latest country to have passed a law against fake news, joining Germany, Malaysia, France, Russia, and others.

But using the law to fight the wave of fake news may not be the best approach. Human rights activists, legal experts, and others fear these laws have the potential to be misused to stifle free speech, or unintentionally block legitimate online posts and websites.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

## ***Reporters Without Borders Urges Saudi Arabia to Free 30 Jailed Journalists*** (New York Times)

**By Megan Specia**

LONDON - Reporters Without Borders, which advocates for press freedom, increased pressure on Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to release dozens of journalists currently detained in the country and to relax its heavy suppression of the news media and of dissenting voices.

A delegation from Reporters Without Borders met with top Saudi officials this year, including the foreign minister and justice minister, the organization said, in a visit that was spurred by widespread outrage about the killing of the Saudi dissident writer Jamal Khashoggi.

The main objective of the trip was to urge the Saudi government to free the 30 journalists, but the kingdom's dismal ranking in the organization's annual press



freedom index also became a focus of conversation, according to Christophe Deloire, secretary general of Reporters Without Borders, who was part of the delegation. Saudi Arabia was ranked 172nd out of 180 countries on the group's annual list for 2019.

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

-0-

## ***Pro-KKK editor out at Alabama newspaper***

**By JAY REEVES**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - The longtime owner and editor of a small Alabama newspaper that called for a revival of the Ku Klux Klan has sold the publication and retired, months after igniting a firestorm with the editorial, the new owner said.

Goodloe Sutton, 80, no longer has any role with The Democrat-Reporter newspaper in Linden, said Tommy Wells, the new owner and operator.

"He doesn't even have a key anymore," Wells said.

Sutton received widespread attention after publishing an editorial in February that advocated a return of KKK night riders to deal with Democrats and "Democrats in the Republican Party" in Washington. Two universities subsequently rescinded awards to Sutton, and the Alabama Press Association censured him.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

-0-

***Bend Bulletin Must Terminate Employees Before Paper's Sale, Documents State*** (Oregon Public Broadcasting)

**By Meerah Powell**

A new court filing outlining the sale of Central Oregon's only daily newspaper shows that all employees of the Bend Bulletin and other publications must be terminated before Rhode Island Suburban Newspapers takes control.

The Rhode Island company plans to buy Western Communications' Central Oregon publications for more than \$2 million.

As a part of the sale agreement, Western Communications must terminate all employees at the Bend Bulletin, the Redmond Spokesman Weekly and other publications including Go! Weekly entertainment tabloid and Bend Homes monthly.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - July 12, 2019



### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 12, the 193rd day of 2019. There are 172 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 12, 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running-mate;

Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

**On this date:**

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr.

In 1817, author, poet and naturalist Henry David Thoreau was born in Concord, Massachusetts.

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1909, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing for a federal income tax, and submitted it to the states. (It was declared ratified in February 1913.)

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was flown by helicopter from the White House to a secret mountaintop location as part of a drill involving a mock nuclear attack on Washington.

In 1960, the Etch A Sketch Magic Screen drawing toy, invented by French electrician Andre Cassagnes, was first produced by the Ohio Art Co.

In 1962, The Rolling Stones played their first-ever gig at The Marquee in London.

In 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter defended Supreme Court limits on government payments for poor women's abortions, saying, "There are many things in life that are not fair."

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Norfolk, Va.

In 2005, Prince Albert II of Monaco acceded to the throne of a 700-year-old dynasty.

Ten years ago: Rebels in Nigeria set fire to an oil depot and loading tankers in Lagos, killing five people in the group's first attack outside the Delta region. Eun Hee Ji of South Korea made a 20-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole, finishing off an even-par 71 to win the U.S. Women's Open.

Five years ago: Afghanistan's two rival candidates reached a breakthrough agreement brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to allow a complete audit of their contested presidential election. (Former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani emerged the winner over former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.)

One year ago: After an emergency gathering of NATO leaders held to address his criticisms, President Donald Trump said the U.S. commitment to the alliance "remains very strong," despite reports that he had threatened to pull out in a dispute over defense spending. Trump then flew to Great Britain for his first visit as president. Syria's government raised its flag over the southern city of Daraa, the cradle of the 2011 uprising against President Bashar Assad, after rebels in the city surrendered. "Game of Thrones" led the way with 22 Emmy nominations; Netflix programs captured 112 nominations, taking away HBO's front-runner title.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Monte Hellman is 90. Actor-comedian Bill Cosby is 82. Singer-musician Christine McVie is 76. Actress Denise Nicholas is 75. Singer-songwriter Butch Hancock is 74. Fitness guru Richard Simmons is 71. Singer Walter Egan is 71. Writer-producer Brian Grazer is 68. Actress Cheryl Ladd is 68. Country singer Julie Miller is 63. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 63. Actress Mel Harris is 63. Actor Buddy Foster is 62. Rock guitarist Dan Murphy (Soul Asylum) is 57. Actress Judi Evans is 55. Rock singer Robin Wilson (Gin Blossoms) is 54. Actress Natalie Desselle Reid is 52. Actress Lisa Nicole Carson is 50. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 48. Country singer Shannon Lawson is 46. Rapper Magoo is 46. CBS newsman Jeff Glor is 44. Actress Anna Friel is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tracie Spencer is 43. Actress Alison Wright is 43. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., is 43. Actor Steve Howey is 42. Actor Topher Grace is 41. Actress Michelle Rodriguez is 41. Actress Kristen Connolly is 39. Country singer-musician Kimberly Perry (The Band Perry) is 36. Actor Matt Cook (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 35. Actress Natalie Martinez is 35. Actor Bernard David Jones is 34. Actress TaRhonda Jones is 31. Golfer Inbee Park is 31. Actress Melissa O'Neil is 31. Actress Rachel Brosnahan is 29. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 28. Olympic gold medal gymnast Jordyn Wieber is 24. Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye) is 22.

**Thought for Today: "A man who fears suffering is already suffering from what he fears." - Michel de Montaigne, French philosopher (1533-1592).**

## Connecting calendar



**July 27** - Services for **Ed Shearer**, a longtime AP sportswriter, will be held Saturday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, [4795 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338](#). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: **Lazarus Ministries**, [2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318](#). The family said that so we can thank you, please have acknowledgments sent to: [130 Kimberly Rd, Canton, GA 30115](#). A family contact is Sheri Browne - [sheribrowne@att.net](mailto:sheribrowne@att.net)

**August 6** - A scattering of ashes for former AP Concord and Indianapolis bureau chief **Dave Swearingen**, who died in 2018, will be held Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Reid State Park, [375 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548](#). Those attending should meet at the Todd's Point Parking lot and will head over to Half Mile Beach. While there is no formal service, brief remarks will be made. Dave's son Tim can be reached at [timswearingen71@gmail.com](mailto:timswearingen71@gmail.com)

**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.



**Paul Stevens**  
**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

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

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try email marketing for free today!