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Connecting - August 27, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 27th day of August 2019,

Among those who dropped a note Monday to retired Richmond chief of communications **Bobby Baker**, who is in home hospice care, was former AP president and CEO **Lou Boccardi**, who wrote:

"Our paths didn't exactly cross all that often over the years, but I'll tell you one thing: When a communications issue came across my desk at 50 Rock along with word that Bobby Baker was on the case, I knew that I'd soon be putting the problem in the 'Solved' box. Thank you for all those great years of service to AP. I see in Paul Stevens' Connecting that you're involved in a medical fight at the moment, and I wish you well on that score."

Carol Robinson says she hopes she will never "forget Bobby Baker's smiling face. He was one of the kindest individuals I was lucky to work with when I was the Broadcast Executive, aka BE, of the mid-Atlantic region. During my training, my manager, General Broadcast Executive, aka, GBE, Matt Hoff, told me to make your CoC your friend and I was able to do that with Bobby. He was more than a colleague, he received several of the first phone calls I made on the road when I signed a contract to add a new radio station to AP membership in the state of Virginia. He was my friend who was always excited and ready to make the installation even before he received the wire order. The same holds true for Steve Salerno, Charleston, WV, Ken Berger, Baltimore, MD and Larry Stevens, Washington, D. C."

Bobby's email is - bebaker3@msn.com - and he'd love to hear from you.

Have a great day!

Paul

Remembering Bob Haring

John Dorfman (Email) - One of my favorite Bob Haring moments occurred when I made some suggestion and he replied, "No, two reasons," and proceeded to tell me what his reasons were. So clean, so concise, so definite.

I also remember Bob telling me that he could probably go through my copy and remove one word out of every 10.

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Lee Mitgang (Email) - As one of many staffers whom Bob Haring hired at the AP (in my case, when he and the late Steve Miller led biznews in the '70s), I was very sad to read about Bob's passing in Connecting. I'll remember him as a tough-minded but caring newspaperman who kept track of me over the years and didn't

hesitate to pass on a kind word or gentle criticism when deserved. I thank him for all that and wish his family all the best.

Recollections on Angus MacLean Thuermer



This photo is from his scrapbook. He wrote next to it: "From my hotel bath. Very plush but the AP pays for all." This was in the Haus Oberschlesien, Gleiwitz, (see the towel) where Nazis took over several floors in the days before the invasion and from which he photographed troops, artillery and supplies during the buildup.

Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) - I was fascinated to read the account by Angus M. Thuermer Jr. in Connecting Aug. 20 about his father's reporting from Gleiwitz, Germany, in August 1939 in the lead-up to World War II.

I offer the following recollections about my four-decade friendship with Angus MacLean Thuermer, whom I first met in November 1966 when I arrived in New Delhi on my first assignment as a staff foreign correspondent for the AP.

Thuermer introduced himself at the American Community pool as a former AP journalist who was on the staff of Ambassador Chester Bowles. He told me of his reporting for the AP from Germany, Chicago and then Washington, and his aspiration to get an overseas assignment. But he said he left the AP in the early 1950s when he did not get an opening in New Delhi, and he joined "another agency," a euphemism for the Central Intelligence Agency, where he did get his share of foreign assignments including, later in his career, as station chief in Berlin, following another important assignment at the CIA headquarters in Washington, as the chief spokesman (or as he would say to friends, "chief spooksmen") during the Watergate scandal.

Thuermer and his wife Alice, who met when they were journalists in the Chicago bureau, would host a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner complete with turkey and all the trimmings at their residence in New Delhi. No politics was discussed, and the highlight after dinner was a reading by Thuermer of Art Buchwald's classic column, "Le Grande Thanksgiving," in which the humorist tried to explain Thanksgiving to the French in a way that only Buchwald could do about "the only time during the year, (Americans) eat better than the French do."

I next saw Angus and Alice in the early 1980s when they visited London in retirement, and we had a traditional pub lunch at Old King Lud across from the AP bureau, which was then on Farringdon Street, two blocks from St. Paul's Cathedral.

My wife Rachel and I had what turned out to be our last time together with Alice and Angus when we were invited to a family lunch in 2005 at Zaytinya restaurant, a short walk from the International Spy Museum. We walked the Thuermers to the museum, Angus saying as we said goodbye: "I guess it is time that having been one, I should now see the Spy Museum."

Angus died at age 92 in 2010 and his wife Alice passed away two years later.

Angus MacLean Thuermer's ties to the AP live on even after his death. His daughters Christina and Katherine collected his decades-old AP documents from a file and folder in the family's Virginia home and donated them to the Associated Press archives.

Will Lester's obituary of Thuermer can be read by clicking [here](#).

Art Buchwald's Thanksgiving column is available by clicking [here](#).

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Henry Bradsher (Email) - When our hard-working Connecting compiler asked for contributions on life after journalism, I reported in May 2017 my second career. Paul introduced it with a comment about my having made an unusual move from journalism to the CIA. There I became a senior analyst after my post-AP employer, The Washington Star, closed in 1981. CIA officials who had followed my analytical writing on the Soviet Union and China recruited me, to my initial surprise. To my later surprise, I learned that a man identified as a Moscow embassy political officer with whom I'd been vaguely acquainted, when I was AP's Moscow bureau chief in the '60s, had in fact been the CIA station chief. He told me he had been queried about me as my security clearance was being run.



Angus M. Thuermer

But, to qualify Paul's comment about being unusual, there's another example of moving from journalism to the CIA. It is Angus M. Thuermer, whose son contributed treasurers from his father's 1939 AP dispatches from Germany to last week's Connecting.

When I was covering foreign and security affairs for The Star in the late 1970s, on several occasions I followed a common Washington correspondent practice of asking for a CIA briefing on a subject (separate, of course, from developing sources there). The person I asked was Thuermer, then the information officer at the agency - or non-information, as was often the case when he politely refused to comment or offer help. Once, however, he arranged for me an interview with the CIA director, Admiral Stansfield Turner, that was minimally helpful. Later, when I was working at Langley, I was asked several times to brief correspondents, having to be careful about what I said to former colleagues (and having several times to decline requests phoned to my home for help on stories that would have involved my discussing classified information; the periodic lie detector tests for CIA staff asked about such things).

After World War II service in the U.S. Navy, Thuermer returned to The AP. Frustrated in his desire for an overseas assignment, he quit AP and soon became the CIA station chief in four-power-divided Berlin during some of the most harrowing times of the Cold War before returning to Washington and his spokesman role.

Thuermer's August 18, 1939, dispatch from Gleiwitz, Germany, on the Polish border that his son gave to Connecting was most interesting in describing Germany's military buildup for what became on September 1 the Nazi invasion of Poland, starting WWII in Europe. It would be even more interesting to know what the 21-year-old Thuermer filed in subsequent days. His son said AP digitized his later reports.

Instead of Thuermer, who seems to have deserved part of the credit, the acclaim for a scoop that the Germans had begun the invasion went to 27-year-old Clare Hollingworth for her report to the Daily Telegraph in London. Earlier, from the Polish side, she had reported the German military buildup across the border on August 28, but that was ten days after Thuermer began reporting it.

Twice-married and divorced but childless, Hollingworth went on to a career of reporting many wars. I met her in Dacca (now Dhaka), East Pakistan, in 1971 when she came to look at the Bengali struggle against West Pakistani control that led to the creation of independent Bangladesh. Having covered that struggle from the beginning, I filled her in, and also told her about the power struggle then going on in China, my primary focus from my base for The Star in Hong Kong. She knew nothing of China but was intrigued. Soon after, she came to Hong Kong, where I updated her on China. Then she went up to Peking (now Beijing) to report for years - without a proper visa, defying attempts to throw her out. She finally settled in Hong Kong, becoming a fixture at the Foreign Correspondents' Club. When I last saw her there about 2015, she had declined into senility. She died in Hong Kong in 2017 at the age of 105.

In the face of death, the party of a lifetime



In this May 10, 2019, photo, End of Life Washington volunteer Stephanie Murray, right, brings the drugs that will end the life of Robert Fuller to him as he lies in bed, in Seattle. Earlier in the day, Fuller had the party of a lifetime. He's one of about 1,200 people who have used Washington's Death with Dignity Act to end their lives in the decade since it became law. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

By GENE JOHNSON

SEATTLE (AP) - The day he picked to die, Robert Fuller had the party of a lifetime.

In the morning, he dressed in a blue Hawaiian shirt and married his partner while sitting on a couch in their senior housing apartment. He then took the elevator down three floors to the building's common room, decorated with balloons and flowers.

With an elaborately carved walking stick, he shuffled around to greet dozens of well-wishers and friends from across the decades, fellow church parishioners and social-work volunteers. The crowd spilled into a sunny courtyard on a beautiful spring day.

A gospel choir sang. A violinist and soprano performed "Ave Maria." A Seattle poet recited an original piece imagining Fuller as a tree, with birds perched on his thoughts.

And when the time came, "Uncle Bob" banged his walking stick on the ceiling to command attention.

"I'll be leaving you in a little over an hour," he announced.

A sob burst. Fuller turned his head sympathetically toward its source.

"I'm so ready to go," he said. "I'm tired."

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Amelia nailed it! A future photographer?



Noreen Gillespie ([Email](#)) - AP deputy managing editor for U.S. news: My daughter Amelia came to work with me Monday and was lucky enough to get a crash course in photography from AP photographer Maye-E Wong, who noted, "Check out this posture : NAILED IT! I love this smart cookie!" Amelia worked her way around the newsroom and also got exclusive access to a senior leadership meeting-as long as she only took photos! Amelia, who is 6, starts first-grade classes next week.

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A crop was needed here



Harry Cabluck (Email) - A picture editor might have cropped out the body in the background. Spotted on Page D6, Austin American Statesman, Aug. 22, 2019.

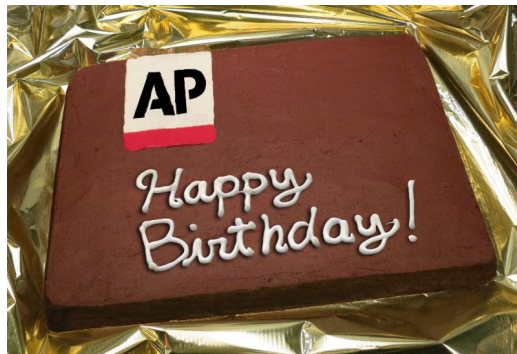
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AP sighting - Little League World Series



Dick Lipsey (Email) - Here is an AP sighting of current interest, one of the official caps of the 2019 Little League World Series. This one represents the Asia-Pacific region, only \$35.99 on the LLWS website.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Charlie Monzella - cmonzella@comcast.net

Stories of interest

Why Journalists' Old Tweets Are Fair Game for Trump (Politico)

By JACK SHAFER

Journalists don't have thin skins, broadcaster Edward R. Murrow is reputed to have said, they have no skins. Reporters are so sensitive that you needn't criticize their work to earn a buzz saw in the face in return. Just offer the observation, "I saw your piece," and frown. They'll be on you with tooth and claw in a millisecond, demanding to know what you're implying.

And of all the thin-skinned beasts prowling the journalistic forest, few have a thinner epidermis than the boys and girls who work at the New York Times. On Monday, the Times' immune system was activated to produce a Page One story to retaliate against pro-Trump activist Arthur Schwartz, an intimate of Donald Trump Jr. Schwartz, the Times reports, is part of a network of pro-Trumpies who have been digging for embarrassing dirt on journalists who work for Trump-critical media-CNN, the Washington Post, and, of course, the New York Times. According to the Times,

the network shares its embarrassing discoveries-call them oppo research, if you'd like-with conservative political operations and then stands by to enjoy the drama.

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

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Unusual deal keeps a shrinking Ohio city's newspaper going



In this Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2019, photo, Kari Shacklock sorts and counts The Vindicator newspaper at the distribution center in Liberty Township near Youngstown, Ohio. The Youngstown paper announced in June it would cease publication Saturday, Aug. 31, because of financial struggles, but the paper will be printed by the Tribune Chronicle, which has bought The Vindicator name, subscriber list and website from owners of the Youngstown publication. (AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

By Mark Gillespie, Associated Press

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - When readers pick up Sunday's edition of The Vindicator, the newspaper will be emblazoned with its familiar masthead, but it won't be the Vindicator that has published news from Youngstown, Mahoning County and beyond for the past 150 years.

The paper will be published and produced by The Tribune Chronicle in neighboring Trumbull County as part of a deal finalized this month by the Ogden Newspapers chain to buy the name, subscriber list and news website from the family-owned "Vindy" in Youngstown, where the presses will go silent early Saturday.

The agreement appears to save the essence of a hometown newspaper whose demise represents yet another body blow to a community pummeled for decades by job losses, poverty and a shrinking population.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac, Paul Shane.

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Bend Bulletin Owners Plan To Sell Everything And Dissolve The Company (Oregon Public Broadcast)

By **EMILY CURETON**

The owner of the Bend Bulletin plans to dissolve the company and sell all seven newspapers in its Pacific Northwest chain, according to a liquidation plan filed in federal bankruptcy court Wednesday.

In the plan, Western Communications outlines the terms of its own demise, but provides few details on who might buy the newspapers, real estate and other assets. The corporation owes roughly \$30 million in debt, about two thirds of which is secured under a single creditor through the terms of a previous bankruptcy. This week's court filing assures creditors the company is negotiating with a short list of buyers.

"Five (potential buyers) have toured Debtor's facilities and engaged in follow-up discussions and negotiations," according to the disclosure statement signed by Chairwoman Elizabeth McCool.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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Why Americans need nonprofit sources for news (America)

For some time now, the nation has seemed unable to have a civil discussion about a growing list of public policy issues. There seems to be no common ground on racism, gun control, immigration policy, international relations, the economy or climate change. News outlets, by providing facts and context, could be a part of the solution, but many Americans no longer trust the media and blame it for ratcheting up tensions in an era of what some call Fake News.

While the finger-pointing is understandable, it suggests that Americans assign too much power to the for-profit news media, in terms of both its share of blame for society's problems and its ability to fix them. These expectations are unrealistic for an industry that, after all, is driven by a profit incentive. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a strong business reason for the major media outlets to change many of their sensationalist or more cynical practices.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

Today in History - August 27, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 27, the 239th day of 2019. There are 126 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 27, 2008, Barack Obama was nominated for president by the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

On this date:

In 1776, the Battle of Long Island began during the Revolutionary War as British troops attacked American forces who ended up being forced to retreat two days later.

In 1859, Edwin L. Drake drilled the first successful oil well in the United States, at Titusville, Pa.

In 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In 1949, a violent white mob prevented an outdoor concert headlined by Paul Robeson (RAH'-buh-suhn) from taking place near Peekskill, New York. (The concert was held eight days later.)

In 1963, author, journalist and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois died in Accra, Ghana, at age 95.

In 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson accepted his party's nomination for a term in his own right, telling the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey, "Let us join together in giving every American the fullest life which he can hope for."

In 1967, Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, was found dead in his London flat from an accidental overdose of sleeping pills; he was 32.

In 1975, Haile Selassie (HY'-lee sehl-AH'-see), the last emperor of Ethiopia's 3,000-year-old monarchy, died in Addis Ababa at age 83 almost a year after being overthrown.

In 1979, British war hero Lord Louis Mountbatten and three other people, including his 14-year-old grandson Nicholas, were killed off the coast of Ireland in a boat explosion claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

In 1989, the first U.S. commercial satellite rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida - a Delta booster carrying a British communications satellite, the Marcopolo 1.

In 2005, Coastal residents jammed freeways and gas stations as they rushed to get out of the way of Hurricane Katrina, which was headed toward New Orleans.

In 2006, a Comair CRJ-100 crashed after trying to take off from the wrong runway in Lexington, Ky., killing 49 people and leaving the co-pilot the sole survivor.

Ten years ago: Mourners filed past the closed casket of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Jaycee Lee Dugard, kidnapped when she was 11, was reunited with her mother 18 years after her abduction in South Lake Tahoe, California. Alex Grass, 82, founder of the Rite Aid drugstore chain, died in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Five years ago: Both Israel's prime minister and Hamas declared victory in the Gaza war, though their competing claims left questions over future terms of their uneasy peace still lingering. The University of Southern California suspended cornerback Josh Shaw for 10 games after he confessed to lying to school officials about how he'd sprained his ankles, retracting his story about jumping off a balcony to save his drowning nephew. (Shaw reportedly jumped from the balcony of an apartment following an argument with his girlfriend; he was reinstated after authorities determined no criminal charges would be filed against him.)

One year ago: Under pressure to take part in the national remembrance of the late Arizona Sen. John McCain, with whom he had feuded, President Donald Trump tersely recognized McCain's "service to our country" and re-lowered the White House flag, which had been at half-staff only briefly after McCain's death. The Trump administration reached a preliminary deal with Mexico to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement. Simona Halep (HAL'-ehp) lost in the first round of the U.S. Open to Kaia Kanepi (KY'-uh kuh-NEP'-ee) of Estonia, becoming the first top-seeded woman to lose her opening match at the tournament in the half-century of the professional era.

Today's Birthdays: Author Lady Antonia Fraser is 87. Actor Tommy Sands is 82. Bluegrass singer-musician J.D. Crowe is 82. Actress Tuesday Weld is 76. Actor G.W. Bailey is 75. Rock singer-musician Tim Bogert is 75. Actress Marianne Sägebrecht is 74. Country musician Jeff Cook is 70. Actor Paul Reubens is 67. Rock musician Alex Lifeson (Rush) is 66. Actor Peter Stormare is 66. Actress Diana Scarwid is 64. Rock musician Glen Matlock (The Sex Pistols) is 63. Golfer Bernhard Langer is 62. Country singer Jeffrey Steele is 58. Gospel singer Yolanda Adams is 58. Movie director Tom Ford (Film: "Nocturnal Animals") is 58. Country musician Matthew Basford (Yankee Grey) is 57. Writer-producer Dean Devlin is 57. Rock musician Mike Johnson is 54. Rap musician Bobo (Cypress Hill) is 52. Country singer Colt Ford is 50. Actress Chandra Wilson is 50. Rock musician Tony Kanal (No Doubt) is 49. Actress Sarah Chalke is 43. Actor RonReaco (correct) Lee is 43. Rapper Mase is 42. Actress-singer Demetria McKinney is 41. Actor Aaron Paul is 40. Rock musician Jon Siebels (Eve 6) is 40. Actor Shaun Weiss is 40. Contemporary Christian musician Megan Garrett (Casting Crowns) is 39. Actor Kyle Lowder is 39. Actor Patrick J. Adams is 38. Actress Karla Mosley is 38. Actress Amanda Fuller is 35. Singer Mario is 33. Actress Alexa PenaVega is 31. Actor Ellar Coltrane is 25. Actress Savannah Paige Rae is 16.

Thought for Today: "Reality can destroy the dream; why shouldn't the dream destroy reality?" - G.E. Moore, British philosopher (1873-1958).

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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