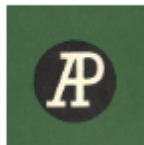


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Connecting

April 13, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 13th day of April 2021,

The striking photo above was taken on an iPhone by meteorologist **Carissa Bunge**. It has gone viral on social media and was the centerpiece of a Washington Post story about an incredible display of rainbows in the nation's capital on Sunday. Click [here](#) to read the story by **Matthew Cappucci** and view other photos. (Thanks to Sandy Johnson and Bill McCloskey for sharing.)

First responses are in for Connecting's call for your experiences in moving with the AP, and your favorite stories – good or not so good. I hope you share your own story. Thanks again to **John Rogers** for getting the ball rolling with his story Monday.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

On the move with your AP career

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - I was a New Yorker from birth and had this "thing" about California for years and once I'd gotten my first newspaper job, with the Port Chester (N.Y.) Daily Item just north of New York City in 1965, my next goal was to move to California. A year and a half later The AP in Los Angeles answered my Editor & Publisher and I realized my dream.

Fast-forward three years. I was single, 27, the night sports editor under Jack Stevenson, loving LA and had just moved into a fully furnished apartment in a complex overrun with California girls.

As I walked into the buro late one day to start my shift, Stevenson pulled me aside and asked, "How'd you like to go back to New York?" I replied with a retort I won't mention here. Stevenson laughed and said, "I knew that's what you were going to say. Well, tomorrow Bill (Waugh, the buro chief) is going to ask you that, and here's what you're going to say ..."

Stevenson coached me on what to say and ask for, including a guarantee that I could return to LA within three months if I didn't like New York. After a month or so with NY Sports, Ken Rappoport convinced me that if I returned to LA I might get stuck on the broadcast desk or doing farm reports and so on but if I wanted to cover sports I should stay in NY. I did, for 16 years, becoming a baseball writer, then Pro Football Editor, then a national sports features writer, none of which I'd have done if Jack Stevenson hadn't intercepted me that afternoon.

-0-

Paul Stevens (Email) – AP moves back in the day when there were no job postings could be immediate and unexpected. Five of the first seven positions I held with the AP were offered to me out of the blue. Job postings did not begin until 1984 (when I applied for and was hired as Kansas City chief of bureau).

When we got word in 1973 that I had been hired off the job circular by CoB Ed Staats for the Albany bureau, Linda and I packed our belongings into a U-Haul truck for the 1,300-mile drive from Lawrence, Kan. (where I completed grad school at the University of Kansas) to Albany, she trailing me in our car with our dog Chauncey by her side.

The stay there was short – a year – because AP had a nationwide job cutback and as junior staffer in Albany, my position was eliminated – a month or two after the birth of our first child. I was lucky that my work in sports on the Albany night shift caught the eye of Sports Editor Wick Temple, and he and Personnel Executive Ron Thompson found me a home when an opening came in the St. Louis bureau where someone with sports experience was needed. The AP covered the move.

My next AP moving experience came 2 ½ years later when I was named the AP's correspondent in Wichita, Kan. It didn't start off well – the packers scooped up and packed our 2-year-old daughter Jenny's favorite security blanket and she was dismayed – until we unpacked the 20th or so box outside our St. Louis apartment and rescued it.

Linda and I arrived in Wichita in a snowstorm and stayed at a hotel with Jenny and faithful canine Chauncey while looking for an apartment ahead of the moving van's arrival. That's when I got word that I needed to cover a farm convention being held nearby. And off I went to do just that, stranding my family without a car in a Holiday Inn for a couple days.

Thanks to Linda, who moved more than a dozen times before high school, we survived just fine and made three more AP moves, settling into Kansas City since 1984. And Chauncey? He made two of those moves with us before going over the Rainbow Bridge in Indiana.

Garage Band? This One Struck Gold Singing Far and Wide



Rural Route 4 in comedy mode – from left: Jim Bagby, Willard Yoder, brother Calvin Yoder and Calvin’s son Wes, our 3rd and final tenor. 1994 at KC Music Hall



TONE-HENGE – from left: Dan Henry, Keith Schweer, Jim Bagby, Bruce Wenner.

Jim Bagby (Email) – *retired AP Kansas City broadcast editor* - My first “garage band” sang forth when I was 12. Its name was the Bagby Brothers, and that set a lifelong pattern. Barbershop harmony is part of our family DNA; I’m a 61-year, third-generation member of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

In some seven decades, I’ve had the good fortune to be a part of 14 organized quartets (and countless disorganized ones). But I hit the brass ring (and more) in 1972 when I was approached by four Mennonite farmers from Cass County, about 35 miles southeast of Kansas City, looking for coaching. At the time, I was directing the Heart of America barbershop chorus.

This quartet was brand-new but with amazing potential, built around a lanky pair of brothers who could ring chords by themselves. And in this form of a cappella singing, chord ringing – or producing more sound than the sum of the parts – is the name of the game. The name of this foursome was the Rural Route 4, which they took from the fact they lived on R.R. 2, between Harrisonville and Garden City.

By 1976, the RR4 had won the championship of this six-state district, become a sought-after country comedy act, qualified for international competition and baritone Rufus Kenagy had decided that was more activity than he had signed up for. So I stepped in to replace him. There is no magic combination of voices, but this one seemed to click. A year later, to our own amazement, we found ourselves being called off in the top 10 at the BHS contest at Philadelphia.

That was problematic, because that put us into the third round of the contest – and we didn’t have two more contest songs. Lead and bass Calvin and Willard Yoder were sole proprietors of Yoder Brothers Dairy Farm – milking twice a day in addition to keeping up with a herd of Holsteins ranging from 70 to 90. I won’t bore you with the amount of choring that involves, but it doesn’t leave a lot of time for quartet practice.

At any rate, we improvised with two of our show songs. By the time we retired in 1994, we had performed in 38 states, Canada, the Barbican Center in London (home of the BBC Symphony and the Royal Shakespeare Company) and several Caribbean Cruises. And yes, we did learn more contest songs.

In fact, in 1983, original tenor Everett Roth, a (ahem) smoker bowed out of the quartet because of voice problems. We hated to lose him because he and Calvin were lifelong friends; they used to come home from school and swim in the stock tank together. But we were fortunate that in the HOA chapter, a feller named Don Kahl (kale) was available – and his brilliant tenor made up for us having to make a new set of crushed velvet overalls to fit the four of us (we couldn’t match the material we had...)

To make the story short, we had laid out of competition a coupla of years. With Don we placed 11th, 5th (our first medal, at Minneapolis in 1985) and suddenly became gold medal champs at Salt Lake City in 1986.

In later years, as the RR4 slowed down and accepted fewer shows, I was fortunate to sing with a guy some of you may know -- one of the funniest and most talented people I’ve ever been around: former WDAF-TV weatherman Dan Henry (Bowser). He moved to Kansas City from WIBW radio in Topeka. We formed a senior comedy

quartet that Dan named Tone-Henge, and it lasted almost 15 years until he died in 2015.

My harmonizing these days centers on directing a mini-chorus of about 20 men, the New Harmony Handful. We perform primarily for retirement and nursing homes, senior centers, churches in the summer when choirs are on vacation and daytime gigs not practical for the HOA chorus. Our joy comes from greeting and engaging our audience members following each performance, because many need the human contact.

A senior fellow recently grabbed both hands and told me, "You sparked up my heart!"

Our NHH members are either retired or self-employed. We rehearse one night a month at the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church, where I'm also active.

Otherwise my wife Joann has lots for me to do in our large yard and garden. We have one daughter, three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. We're headed for the Grand Canyon, one of our favorite travel spots, to celebrate our 57th anniversary this month.

'Buy a bottle of the restaurant's best champagne' – whoops!

Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - Since Tom Kent asked for tales of rewards that reporters got for stories, let me tell one involving Tom himself.

In the mid-1990's, while he was International Editor and I was his deputy, he approved a trip by me to the Vienna bureau. Led by Alison Smale, Vienna was running coverage of the Balkan wars, and it seemed a good idea to meet her and her staff in person, as I was dealing with them daily by telephone. Smale then arranged to have the chiefs of our Balkan bureaus fly in for a big staff lunch during my stay: Dusan Stojanovic of Belgrade, Aida Cerkez of Sarajevo and Hrvoje Hranjski of Zagreb.

The three had been covering the wars from their respective capitals but had never met in person before, so AP needed to somehow mark this special occasion. "Buy a bottle of the restaurant's best champagne," Tom suggested.

So when we settled into an ancient cellar dining room in a Vienna restaurant, I asked and the waiter pointed down the wine list: a vintage Moët & Chandon. I did a quick euro-dollar conversion in my head: \$450. I tried not to gulp.

"I'll take that," I said. Then I looked at the number of guests. About a dozen of us.

One bottle would seem cheap.

"Make it two," I added.

The sum was a pittance compared to the risks our reporters took daily to cover that war. Still, I expected it to raise an eyebrow and a question about that lunch when I got

back to 50 Rock and submitted my expense account. To AP's eternal credit, it sailed right through.

I became a 'Ducker'

Gene Herrick (Email) – Adding to the previous stories about being an AP photographer dodging sports missiles, such as baseballs, footballs and golf balls, I will admit to dodging many, and being hit by some.

Baseball – Most of my baseball experiences evolve around the Minnesota Twins, in Minneapolis-St. Paul. One All-Star game I got behind the screen protecting the pitcher during the batting practice. Unconsciously, I put one of my knees up against the screen, and wham; a driven ball came right at the cage and made a direct hit on my knee. Immediately things stopped, and Twins trainer George Lentz came running out from the Twins dugout, and, with his new pain- numbing can of spray, did a number on my knee. Believe it or not, my knee never hurt. Lentz became famous for his spray. After that, when a player was hurt, George would run out and spray the wound. We used to holler down from the photographer's loft, "Heh, George, if you can't fix it, spray it."

The photographers' loft, a deck hanging down from the edge of the second deck, was a regular landing spot for foul balls on the first base side. We were always concerned about the fans jumping down into our box to retrieve a foul ball. Each time we covered a game, we would politely admonish the nearby fans to not jump down, because it might knock us, or a big-bertha cameras over the railing and down onto the fans below. We said that if a ball landed up here, we would give it to someone right there.

One day, a regular family of fans, including their little 8-9 year old son, were right behind us. I picked up a foul ball one day and gave it to him. You talk about excitement...! After taking a few pictures, I was headed to our darkroom and transmitter in the basement, right across the hall from the Twins dressing room. I asked the little boy if he would let me have the baseball for a little bit, and that I would get an autograph on it. You talk about reluctance, whew. Finally he gave it to me, and I got the autograph, and returned the ball to him when I returned. He was so happy.

Sometimes, when I covered a game on the ground, a foul line-drive would give me only time to duck, or lift a leg. Baseball is "Dangerous."

Football – Covering the games of the oblong ball are mostly more dangerous than other sports. There is more action all around you in this sport. I almost always had a caption writer right with me on the field. I have been hit by players sliding, or running out of bounds. The fans, and God, saw a lot of the bottoms of photographer's shoes! One time I remember well, was during a Vikings-Los Angeles game in Minneapolis, at Christmas time in the 60's. My usual caption writer wasn't with me, and didn't remember that part of his job was to protect me when danger approached. It was Christmas time, and the Viking's mascot – a big tall man dressed like a Viking warrior, and a person dressed like Santa Claus, were talking at the edge of

the end-zone. I was taking a couple of feature shots while the game was being played. Suddenly, everyone had scattered because two opposing players were approaching from my right rear. Wham, the two players were airborne and they hit me on the back shoulder, and we three went sailing out of bounds.

An LA player rushed over and screamed, "That'll teach you to keep your eye on the ball!" Then the half occurred, and as Vikings' coach "Dutch" Van Brocklin was running off the field, he came over to me, hit me on the shoulder, and said, "Hey, Gene, welcome to the NFL!" As they say, there isn't any sympathy for photographers.

I covered quite a few football games in Iowa. That was hazards-ville for photographers on the sidelines. We were always targets from flying football players, and the fans, who threw apples in the good weather, and snowballs in the bad.

In golf, a photog must be alert all of the time, especially where two or three holes came together in certain areas. I've had to duck, run, to escape golf balls all across the country. My times of coverage was when Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Jerry Barber were stars. I also covered Patty Berg and Byron Nelson. (How old am I? I knew Nicklaus and used to walk the fairway with him until he was getting near his next shot.) We always had to be on the alert when covering Tommy Bolt, the golfer who would get mad and wrap a club around a tree, or throw his bag of clubs into a lake. One rainy day I accompanied him. We both had rain gear on. I had my camera and long lens under the coat. Tommy looked over at the protrusion and said, "Wow." I knew what he meant. He asked why I was tagging along, and I replied: "Waiting for you to wrap a club around a tree." Bolt replied, "Hell, I ain't mad today, and I am not going to throw anything." "Well, I responded, If that is the case, I might as well go somewhere else" He smiled and we said goodbye.

One day in Ardmore, Okla., I took a shot of a golfer named Springer, who tried to hit his ball from right next to a big tree, at the edge of a green. When he shot, I took the picture. The ball was in the air. Springer got mad because he flubbed the shot. He turned and threw his club at me, hitting me on the backside of my knees. He was mad, and came charging toward me. I knew I was going to get talked to, or beat up. He marched toward me, as did three husky young fellows from tee gallery. Then I knew I was going to get it from two sides. However, the three young men stepped in front of Springer and defended me. I processed and transmitted the picture, plainly showing the ball in the air. A PGA official came to the office and looked at the picture, and said, "The ball is in the air." I was clear. Then New York called to verify the story.

I don't remember any fearful days covering tennis.

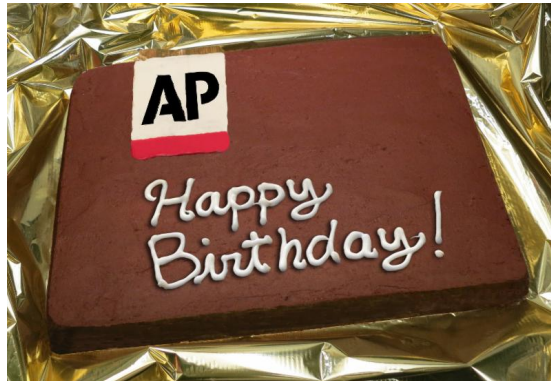
Being a photographer around sports events is not a lily-pad life.

Hummingbirds at work



Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - Today I shoot California Hummingbirds in Huntington Beach, CA.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Marcus Kabel - mkabel13@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Reuters names Alessandra Galloni as its next editor-in-chief



FILE PHOTO: Global News Editor of Reuters Alessandra Galloni attends a meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin (not shown) with heads of leading global news agencies as part of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2016 (SPIEF 2016) in St. Petersburg, Russia, June 17, 2016. REUTERS/Grigory Dukor/File Photo

By Reuters Staff

(Reuters) - Reuters News has named one of its top editors, Alessandra Galloni, as its next editor-in-chief, the first woman to lead the globe-spanning news agency in its 170-year history.

A native of Rome, Galloni, 47, will replace Stephen J. Adler, who is retiring this month after leading the newsroom for the past decade. Under his leadership, Reuters has received hundreds of journalism awards, including seven Pulitzer Prizes, the industry's highest honor.

A speaker of four languages, and with broad experience covering business and political news at Reuters and previously at the Wall Street Journal, Galloni takes the helm as the news agency faces an array of challenges. Some of these are common to all news media. Others are specific to the organization's complexity: With a worldwide staff of some 2,450 journalists, Reuters serves a range of divergent customers and is also a unit in a much larger information-services business.

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

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Fox stands behind Tucker Carlson after ADL urges his firing (AP)

By TALI ARBEL

Fox Corp. is standing behind Tucker Carlson after the Anti-Defamation League last week called for the company to fire the opinion host for his on-air defense of the white-supremacist “great replacement” theory.

In a letter sent Sunday to the civil rights group and shared with The Associated Press, Fox CEO Lachlan Murdoch said Carlson had “decried and rejected replacement theory” when he said during the Thursday evening segment, “White replacement theory? No, no, this is a voting rights question.”

The ADL argued in a reply sent Monday to Murdoch that Carlson used white-supremacist language even if he claimed he didn’t.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 13, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2021. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On April 13, 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. (The astronauts managed to return safely.)

On this date:

In 1613, Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, was captured by English Capt. Samuel Argall in the Virginia Colony. (During a yearlong captivity, Pocahontas converted to Christianity and ultimately opted to stay with the English.)

In 1742, "Messiah," the oratorio by George Frideric Handel featuring the "Hallelujah" chorus, had its first public performance in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell in the Virginia Colony.

In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina fell to Confederate forces.

In 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was incorporated in New York. (The original museum opened in 1872.)

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. on the 200th anniversary of the third American president's birth.

In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first Black performer in a leading role to win an Academy Award for his performance in "Lilies of the Field."

In 1992, the Great Chicago Flood took place as the city's century-old tunnel system and adjacent basements filled with water from the Chicago River. "The Bridges of Madison County," a romance novel by Robert James Waller, was published by Warner Books.

In 1997, Tiger Woods became the youngest person to win the Masters Tournament and the first player of partly African heritage to claim a major golf title.

In 1999, right-to-die advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian was sentenced in Pontiac, Michigan, to 10 to 25 years in prison for second-degree murder in the lethal injection of a Lou Gehrig's disease patient. (Kevorkian ended up serving eight years.)

In 2005, a defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta.

In 2015, a federal judge in Washington sentenced former Blackwater security guard Nicholas Slatten to life in prison and three others to 30-year terms for their roles in a 2007 shooting in Baghdad's Nisoor Square that killed 14 Iraqi civilians and wounded 17 others.

Ten years ago: Ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his two sons were detained for investigation of corruption, abuse of power and killings of protesters. A federal jury in San Francisco convicted baseball slugger Barry Bonds of a single charge of obstruction of justice, but failed to reach a verdict on the three counts at the heart of allegations that he'd knowingly used steroids and human growth hormone and lied to a grand jury about it. (Bonds' conviction for obstruction was ultimately overturned.)

Five years ago: A task force issued a report saying that Chicago police had “no regard for the sanctity of life when it comes to people of color.” A judge in Fort Worth, Texas ordered 19-year-old Ethan Couch, who had used an “affluenza” defense in a fatal drunken-driving wreck, to serve nearly two years in prison. The Golden State Warriors became the NBA’s first 73-win team by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 125-104, breaking the 1996 72-win record of the Chicago Bulls. Kobe Bryant of the Lakers scored 60 points in his final game, wrapping up 20 years in the NBA.

One year ago: President Donald Trump claimed “total” authority to decide how and when to reopen the economy after weeks of tough social distancing guidelines; governors from both parties quickly pointed out that they had primary responsibility for public safety in their states. Charles Thacker Jr., a crew member on the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, died at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam, becoming the first active-duty military member to die from the coronavirus. “Good Morning America” host George Stephanopoulos revealed that he had tested positive for the coronavirus, but said he had been relatively symptom-free. Bernie Sanders urged his progressive supporters to rally behind Joe Biden’s presidential campaign. The XFL, a spring professional football league backed by WWE, filed for bankruptcy. Sculptor and painter Glenna Goodacre, who created the Vietnam Women’s Memorial in Washington, D.C., died in New Mexico at the age of 80.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 88. Actor Edward Fox is 84. Actor Paul Sorvino is 82. R&B singer Lester Chambers is 81. Movie-TV composer Bill Conti is 79. Rock musician Jack Casady is 77. Actor Tony Dow is 76. Singer Al Green is 75. Actor Ron Perlman is 71. Actor William Sadler is 71. Singer Peabo Bryson is 70. Bandleader/rock musician Max Weinberg is 70. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 69. Rock musician Jimmy Destri is 67. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 64. Actor Sandra Santiago is 64. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa., is 61. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 58. Actor Page Hannah is 57. Actor-comedian Caroline Rhea (RAY) is 57. Rock musician Marc Ford is 55. Reggae singer Capleton is 54. Actor Ricky Schroder is 51. Rock singer Aaron Lewis (Staind) is 49. Actor Bokeem Woodbine is 48. Singer Lou Bega is 46. Actor-producer Glenn Howerton is 45. Actor Kyle Howard is 43. Actor Kelli Giddish is 41. Actor Courtney Peldon is 40. Pop singer Nellie McKay (mih-KY’) is 39. Rapper/singer Ty Dolla \$ign is 39. Actor Allison Williams is 33. Actor Hannah Marks is 28.

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

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