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## Connecting

April 27, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021,Our colleague **Hal Buell** marks his 90<sup>th</sup> revolution around the sun on Wednesday, a journey that began in Chicago on April 28, 1931.As has become a tradition for those who achieve our august Connecting 90s Club, on the heels of **Norm Abelson** joining it weeks ago, Hal has offered some thoughts on those years and what he experienced during a career that included 25 years as director of AP's worldwide photo operation.

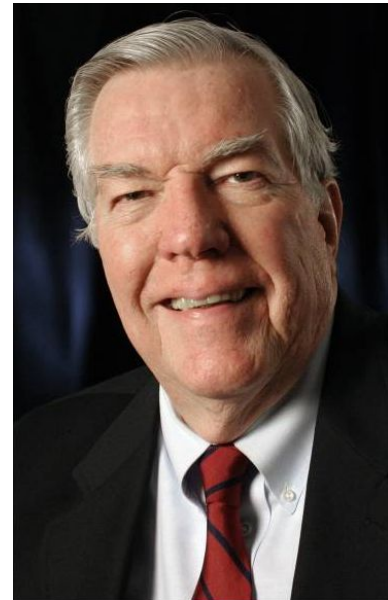
The overriding theme: Teamwork.

During his career, which began in his hometown Chicago as a radio writer in 1956, he served in New York and Tokyo and New York again before succeeding **Al Resch** as Executive Photo Editor in 1968. He covered stories in 35 countries, was photo director for 25 years

and worked with the team that transferred AP Wirephoto to the digital world.

He has published 15 books as photo editor and/or author, most recently a biography on **Nick Ut** and his Napalm Girl photo, FROM HELL TO HOLLYWOOD. In retirement Hal published books, curated international photo exhibitions, lectured and appeared in numerous TV documentaries for History Channel. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Got a favorite story to share of working with Hal – who is one of Connecting's most active contributors? Please share it - to be published on his birthday. Hal's email - [hbuell@mail.lanline.com](mailto:hbuell@mail.lanline.com)



Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

**During Hal Buell's career, 'a team came together in a manner cooperative in spirit and action'**



**Hal Buell of the Associated Press presents AP award to Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Joe Rosenthal on his retirement at Treasure Island Naval Base, San Francisco, Calif., March 24, 1981. In 2006, Buell authored a book, *Uncommon Valor, Common Virtue: Iwo Jima and the Photograph that Captured America*, that chronicled the story of Rosenthal's iconic photo of Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945. (AP Photo)**

**Hal Buell (Email)** - Turning 90 inevitably inspires a look back with what you might call more than an over-the-shoulder glance, perhaps to review times and places visited, perhaps to recollect past assignments and adventures, perhaps to refuel fond memories.

Responding to that urge I thought: Why not recall AP's show-stopper pictures, the truly memorable images that crossed my desk over four decades of toiling in AP's photo vineyard. And including the back-channel stories of those special moments. Plus add a bit of photo activity before and after the AP years.

Listing such photos without benefit of serious research produced a visual chronicle of the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century long enough to fill a book-length document. So, no. That was not the route to take. Connecting's Ye Olde Editor would be burdened with a mountain of photographs, including 12 Pulitzer Prizes.

Recalling the pictures proved beneficial, however, by reminding me of the thread running through those years. From beginning to end and in virtually every situation, be it unexpected news break or major planned event, a team came together in a manner cooperative in spirit and action. That team, so often composed of several staffers working in more than a single place, guided the photo journey from news site to printed page.



**Hal Buell and AP staffer Jim Palmer work with Leafax transmitter at the Atlanta Democratic National Political Convention in 1988. It was the first time digital scanning was used on a major news story.**

AP Wirephoto, and the digital world that Wirephoto morphed into, was and remains the work of a team. Photographers and editors. Darkroom staff. Messengers to carry film from the field to points of transmission. Technical staff to create circuits where previously none existed. It included bureaus with member newspaper contacts that offered access to their pictures. And accountants that found funds for equipment to do the job. Topside interest and enthusiasm for the pictures was always on board.

Photo staff delivered front-page pictures for a single wire crowded with images for front pages, sports, business, politics, state news, international datelines, features, graphics. One day it was the NY Stock Exchange, another day the Super Bowl, Korea's frozen landscape, a tunnel in Cu Chi or a blinding sandstorm in Kuwait, assassination of a president. Photo teams turned up in world capitals one day, in hidden corners of the human condition another day, each location feeding the constant flow of news.

Pictures sometimes seemed unlikely but the team gathered and pictures rolled in. Think of transmitting a picture from an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific minutes after a space vehicle recently on the moon splashed down at a location marked only by longitude and latitude numbers on a map. Any miscue would mean a missed photograph of significant history.

There was the huge team effort that managed the dramatic transfer from analog to digital. Wirephoto's shrill, squealing song played across a telephone line turned silent, replaced by satellites sending pixels through silent space. Film vanished. Wet developer, hypo wash and prints made in a professional darkroom or a motel toilet faded to memory. All that remains? A few elders saying, "You shoulda been here when..."

Photographing the news with film or the magic of digital was romance of a kind. Physical, exciting and serious, each image a keeper, each a visual record and a permanent reminder of history's successes and foibles.

## On the Smithsonian's salute to AP's 175th



**Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)) - While the Smithsonian writer chose a good Lawrence Gobright quote to illustrate the AP's traditional mission, I've always liked another: "My business is to communicate the facts; my instructions do not allow me to make any comment upon the facts which I communicate."

That's old school, for sure, especially in an era when every website, cable TV show and many print outlets think their "take" is essential to the success of their brands. Meanwhile, the public grows ever more skeptical about what's true.

That fact is very troubling — and makes those "dry dispatches" more important than ever.

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**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - Yesterday's story in Connecting, by Amy Crawford, regarding The Associated Press' 175th birthday, hit the warm and proud spot in my heart for my 28 years with the organization. Actually, it has been, to me, more than an organization – It has been a lifestyle, and "Home" to me since 1926. That is the year I was born, but my father, Walter "Eddie" Herrick, was a telegrapher for AP at the time. He died in 1934.

I joined the AP family in 1943 when hired as an "Office Boy" in the Columbus, Ohio bureau. I became an AP staff photographer and served for 28 years until early retirement in 1971.

AP was everything a person could want in a "Job." I never thought of it as a job, but a tremendous chance to learn, and be a part of a big family of journalists around the world. I was always proud of the AP and its beginning history, and honest, plain journalism over the many years. Honesty, non-biased writing, and later, the same moral and honesty standing with photography. Photography, in AP, permitted no doctoring of a picture. It had to be just like we would take it.

Those are high standards, but AP journalists have adhered to them for 175 years. As for me, at the age of almost 95, I continue to admire AP, and am so very proud to have

been a part of their coverage of some great stories. With the advent of Connecting, and the labors of love of its creator, Paul Stevens, I am able to keep up with AP, its old staffers, and the ones I never got a chance to work with. It is one helluva family, and I am proud to be a part of it.

## Good writing to you, Norm!

**David Briscoe** ([Email](#)) - Loved Norm Abelson's list of overworked words in Connecting Monday. The length and breadth of the list call for precision and clarity in every word we use. Most refreshing and revealing for me has been to find that it is entirely unnecessary not only to use any variation of the name of the immediate past president but also, as you point out, to use any of the overworked modifiers that describe his supporters or detractors - "never, former, long-time, or sometime".

Profanity, cliches, jargon, bad grammar, bad journalism and bad politicians can all be safely erased from the public discourse.

Good writing to you, Norm!

## Incredible!

**Jerry Cipriano** ([Email](#)) - To Norm Abelson's list of overused words in journalism, I would add incredible. It is a bad word for a profession that depends on credibility. Yet it is used by television news anchors day after day, night after night, to hype stories. This week, a network anchor told viewers that after the commercial, the broadcast would be reporting an "incredible" story. Since the story wasn't credible, I saw no point in staying tuned to watch it. So I switched over to a M\*A\*S\*H rerun. It was incredibly funny.

## AP et al study re public attitude toward press

**Lyle Price** ([Email](#)) - Re the Connecting articles of April 14-15 re an AP story by AP media writer David Bauder and Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan and only one (1) response from a Connecting colleague so far. This is mine, after putting off an analysis for a week and now spending the last hour studying the Bauder and Sullivan reports on a study made at the behest of the American Press Institute and Associated Press NORC Center for public affairs.

To recap very briefly for starters: the Bauder lede states: "A study of the public's attitude toward the press reveals that distrust goes deeper than partisanship and down to how journalists define their very mission." That mission is: 1) "keep watch on public officials and the powerful." 2) "give voice to the unheard." 3) "support for open information; 4) "facts help lead to truth." 5) "focus in needed on a . . . problem to solve it." "In short," Bauder states, "Americans want more than a watchdog." Two-thirds of those surveyed supported what Bauder termed a "fact-finding mission." The

other items got a bit less than 50% and less than 33% liked the problem-solving focus."

(FYI, the Sullivan take of Connecting April 15 makes the point that the survey's "researchers asked participants how much they support the values mentioned above *but kept it in the abstract without focusing on journalism.*" (italics are mine, LWP; I don't discount the conclusions, however, since other than educators I can't think of another potentially interested group and conclude the survey-takers guessed the media to be involved.)

At this stage let me cite what I consider the follow-up thinking that active-duty journalists and retired journalists such as myself ought to take from this survey:

One, as the Post's Sullivan states: "Given that trust in the media has fallen from about 70% in the early 1970s to about 40% according to Gallup it seems worth viewing this report with an open mind."

Two, as stated by Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of American Institute which is in league with The AP in the study, "We tend to think that stories that celebrate the good things in society are soft stories, kind of wimpy. But they may be more important than we think in providing a full and accurate picture of the world."

Whoa: And now, piggybacking on the Rosenstiel observation, I am ready to make my suggestion of what just might be helpful to gain and keep readership--if not guaranteed to solve the problems of the world.

As a journalist, I didn't set out to solve the problems of the world or dig out corruption and untruths to which there is seemingly no end--although I did my share and probably more so than asked or expected both in my 12 years at AP and before and after on daily newspapers. Sure, I enjoyed finding out things, getting to the bottom of things, and spinning a good (but true) yarn. So my proposed recipe isn't to pretend that writing about all the airplanes that didn't crash yesterday and all the cities that were riot-free in the last 24 hours constitutes good news that readers and broadcast listeners and viewers are just waiting and needing to hear. But there are plenty of human interest stories that reflect how America works successfully. The two most interesting stories I have ever read in my life were: 1: A feature on what seemed best described as "a philosophical bum" that had held down a spot close to the New York Times Building on a daily basis for like two decades; 2: A report on how a university study (Harvard, if memory serves) studied for months and maybe years attempting to figure out why kangaroos hop. They tested, called in zoologists, and scratched their heads and finally figured it out mathematically: If they didn't hop, they would be unable to get from water hole to water hole without dying of thirst. Honest, as humor columnist Dave Barry says on occasion, I AM NOT MAKING THE ABOVE UP, AND I TAKE ON FAITH THAT THE NEWSPAPER PRINTING THEM (THE NYT) DIDN'T EITHER.

BTW, starting in junior high, I read the daily column written by AP's legendary Hal Boyle, in my hometown Bellingham (Wash.) Herald.

I can't recollect the contents of any but I can tell you I enjoyed every one. As a journalist, I wrote as many off-beat stories that told something entertaining and to my

mind worth reading. And, more to the point, something that readers and listeners beaten down by unrelenting tragedies likely need as badly as Seattle baseball fans need the Mariners to get into the post-season after about a 20-year absence.

Frankly, I don't quite see how amidst tracking down the latest bill at the state legislature that makes no sense except to the lobbyists that actually wrote it (I covered the XGR in Sacramento one year for AP and for a decade at the South King County (Wash) Journal) is more fun for a journalist or for readers than at least a stab at humor from time to time. One of my pet humor stories was a recollection of the time during a call of the House (where members are hunted down by the state patrol if necessary for a mandatory vote in the XGR) that one representative was finally spotted and hauled in as he was standing on a second-story ledge on the legislative building. As the weather writer (among other things) for the Aberdeen Wash. Daily World, I once called up Chief Charlie Moose of the Quinault Nation to inquire if his Native American tribe had a way of coping with the 90 inches a year on the Washington Coast and 180 inches a year in the nearby Olympic Rain Forest. He said they'd chant the following when it got really bad: "The sun is shining on the middle of my canoe." He said that it seemed the rain god was more powerful than the sun god when I inquired and that the chanters weren't always optimistic that the chant would work and sent out a youngster to check it out rather than doing so themselves.

I'm not going to say anything bad about getting to the bottom of things. But the AP story I recall most fondly writing is the five-day-long tale of a hippo that escaped from Lion Country Safari near Disneyland in the early 1970s and evaded capture for five days or so amidst the Pacific Coast fog and orange groves despite the best effort of helicopters and searchers. The critter finally made it to the Pacific Ocean where it was corralled. That story got damn good play! I was the one who happily wrote it every day on the night shift.

## Connecting mailbox

*Time for another North Carolina head count!!!*





**Dennis Conrad** ([Email](#)) - A scene from today's dog walk in fast-growing Chatham. County, NC.

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***More names for our newspaper-reading canine***



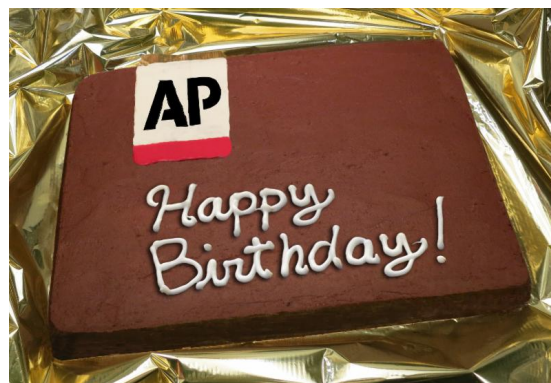
**Bruce Nathan** - I have two more:

Erudite Canine Gives Primacy to the Rin-Tin Word

Scoopy-Doo

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting earlier attributed the following to Bruce Nathan when instead it came from Bruce Lowitt: Dogged Consumer of Cur-ent Events)

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



**Jim Carrier** - [jimcarrier@msn.com](mailto:jimcarrier@msn.com)

Sally Hale - [sallyhale00@gmail.com](mailto:sallyhale00@gmail.com)

Larry McDermott - [lmcdermott@aol.com](mailto:lmcdermott@aol.com)

Dan Sewell – [dsewell@ap.org](mailto:dsewell@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

### *Why The New York Times Is Retiring the Term ‘Op-Ed’*

By Kathleen Kingsbury  
Opinion Editor, The New York Times

The first Op-Ed page in The New York Times greeted the world on Sept. 21, 1970. It was so named because it appeared opposite the editorial page and not (as many still believe) because it would offer views contrary to the paper’s. Inevitably, it would do that, too, since its founders were putting out a welcome mat for ideas and arguments from many points on the political, social and cultural spectrums from outside the walls of The Times — to stimulate thought and provoke discussion of public problems.

That important mission remains the same. But it’s time to change the name. The reason is simple: In the digital world, in which millions of Times readers absorb the paper’s journalism online, there is no geographical “Op-Ed,” just as there is no geographical “Ed” for Op-Ed to be opposite to. It is a relic of an older age and an older print newspaper design.

So now, at age 50, the designation will be retired. Editorials will still be called editorials, but the articles written by outside writers will be known as “Guest Essays,” a title that will appear prominently above the headline.

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

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### *Dan Rather on today’s college journalists: ‘So smart it makes your head hurt’* (Poynter)

By: Barbara Allen

Earlier this semester, I was honored to be a judge in the Dan Rather Medal for News and Guts, a new award for professional and student journalists originating at the University of Texas.

I emailed Dan Rather to ask him about the awards, and he said the goal was to honor not just the end product, but the work it took to produce the journalism.

“Long, hard work is often a hallmark of good journalists; it almost always is with exceptional and great journalism,” he wrote. “My experience has been that the general public and even many journalists don’t grasp this truth. Anything we can do to remind people, especially ourselves, of it is good for the profession.”

He said you have to be “totally committed” to the craft to do it well.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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## ***Is Facebook Buying Off The New York Times?*** (Washington Monthly)

**By Dan Froomkin**

Over the past two decades, as Big Tech has boomed, news organizations have been going bust. Between 2004 and 2019, one in every four U.S. newspapers shut down, and almost all the rest cut staff, for a total of 36,000 jobs lost between 2008 and 2019 alone. Local newspapers have been particularly devastated, making it ever more difficult for people to know what is happening in their communities.

Many factors contributed to this economic collapse, but none more so than the cornering of the digital advertising market by the duopoly of Facebook and Google. Facebook’s threat to a free press—and, by extension, to democracy—is especially pernicious. The social media company is financially asphyxiating the news industry even as it gives oxygen to conspiracy theories and lies. As a result of its many roles in degrading our democracy, it faces mounting scrutiny by politicians and regulators.

Facebook has responded to the negative attention by creating a highly sophisticated public relations effort, which includes becoming the number one corporate spender on federal lobbying and engaging in a massive advertising blitz aimed at the D.C. policy audience. Less well known, and potentially far more dangerous, is a secretive, multimillion-dollar-a-year payout scheme aimed at the most influential news outlets in America. Under the cover of launching a feature called Facebook News, Facebook has been funneling money to The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, ABC News, Bloomberg, and other select paid partners since late 2019.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sonya Zalubowski.

And in Salon: [Major media is taking millions from Facebook — and keeping the details secret](#)

# Today in History - April 27, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 27, the 117th day of 2021. There are 248 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 27, 1978, 51 construction workers plunged to their deaths when a scaffold inside a cooling tower at the Pleasants Power Station site in West Virginia fell 168 feet to the ground.

### On this date:

In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed by natives in the Philippines.

In 1791, the inventor of the telegraph, Samuel Morse, was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

In 1810, Ludwig van Beethoven wrote one of his most famous piano compositions, the Bagatelle in A-minor.

In 1822, the 18th president of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio.

In 1865, the steamer Sultana, carrying freed Union prisoners of war, exploded on the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee; death toll estimates vary from 1,500 to 2,000.

In 1941, German forces occupied Athens during World War II.

In 1973, acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray resigned after it was revealed that he'd destroyed files removed from the safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt.

In 1982, the trial of John W. Hinckley Jr., who shot four people, including President Ronald Reagan, began in Washington. (The trial ended with Hinckley's acquittal by reason of insanity.)

In 1994, former President Richard M. Nixon was remembered at an outdoor funeral service attended by all five of his successors at the Nixon presidential library in Yorba Linda, California.

In 2009, a 23-month-old Mexico City toddler died at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, becoming the first swine-flu death on U.S. soil.

In 2010, former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega was extradited from the United States to France, where he was later convicted of laundering drug money and received a seven-year sentence.

In 2015, rioters plunged part of Baltimore into chaos, torching a pharmacy, setting police cars ablaze and throwing bricks at officers hours after thousands attended a funeral for Freddie Gray, a Black man who died from a severe spinal injury he'd suffered in police custody; the Baltimore Orioles' home game against the Chicago White Sox was postponed because of safety concerns.

Ten years ago: Powerful tornadoes raked the South and Midwest; according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, more than 120 twisters resulted in 316 deaths. An Afghan officer, Col. Ahmed Gul, killed eight U.S. airmen and one U.S. civilian during a routine meeting at an Afghan air force headquarters compound in Kabul; Gul died in an exchange of fire that followed his attack. Responding to critics' relentless claims, President Barack Obama produced a detailed Hawaii birth certificate in an extraordinary attempt to bury the issue of where he'd been born and confirm his legitimacy to hold office.

Five years ago: Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert was sentenced in Chicago to more than a year in prison in a hush-money case that revealed accusations he'd sexually abused teenagers while coaching high school wrestling. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam signed a bill allowing mental health counselors to refuse to treat patients based on the therapist's religious or personal beliefs.

One year ago: In a call with governors, President Donald Trump said states should "seriously consider" reopening public schools before the end of the academic year. Attorney General William Barr told federal prosecutors to "be on the lookout" for state and local coronavirus-related restrictions that could be unconstitutional. New York canceled its June Democratic presidential primary because of the pandemic. The family of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman who was shot to death in her home by officers serving a narcotics warrant, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city of Louisville, Kentucky and its police department. (The suit would be settled in September.) Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, sentenced to 10 years in prison in a corruption case in 2014, was released early because of the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Anouk Aimee is 89. Rock musician Jim Keltner is 79. Rock singer Kate Pierson (The B-52's) is 73. R&B singer Herb Murrell (The Stylistics) is 72. Actor Douglas Sheehan is 72. Rock musician Ace Frehley is 70. West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice is 70. Pop singer Sheena Easton is 62. Actor James Le Gros (groh) is 59. Rock musician Rob Squires (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 56. Singer Mica (MEE'-shah) Paris is 52. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., is 52. Actor David Lascher is 49. Actor Maura West is 49. Actor Sally Hawkins is 45. Rock singer Jim James (My Morning Jacket) is 43. Rock musician Patrick Hallahan (My Morning Jacket) is 43. Rock singer-

musician Travis Meeks (Days of the New) is 42. Country musician John Osborne (Brothers Osborne) is 39. Actor Francis Capra is 38. Actor Ari Graynor is 38. Rock singer-musician Patrick Stump (Fall Out Boy) is 37. Actor Sheila Vand is 36. Actor Jenna Coleman is 35. Actor William Moseley is 34. Singer Lizzo is 33. Actor Emily Rios is 32. Singer Allison Iraheta is 29.

## 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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