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Connecting August 12, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Aug. 12, 2021,

We bring you sad news of the death overnight of our colleague **Larry Heinzerling**, whose 41-year career with The Associated Press included service as deputy international editor for World Services, chief of bureau in Johannesburg, and West Africa correspondent in Lagos, Nigeria. Larry played a key role in AP's efforts to free **Terry Anderson** from captivity. Larry retired in 2009. (He is pictured with his wife Ann Cooper in 2014.)



Friday's Connecting will bring you his wire obituary story - and we would welcome your own memories of working with this remarkable journalist and wonderful man.

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Until he retired, **Ahn Mu-hun**, who died this week at age 97, was AP news editor in Seoul when our colleague **Kelly Smith Tunney** ([Email](#)) was chief of bureau.

"He was the very essence of a hard-working, capable, kind and generous AP staffer," she said in a note to Connecting, "a man who worked tirelessly alongside me and the staff nights and weekends covering the tumultuous days and months of a South Korea emerging from dictatorship. We wore gas masks and stood in the streets for hours at a time.

"The Mr. Ahns of the AP have always been invaluable and make it possible for us to cover the depth and breadth of political and economic unrest, as well as the everyday stories that highlight the AP news report. I was fortunate to have had the talented and able Paul Shin, who was quoted in the obituary, become news editor when Mr. Ahn retired. Mr. Ahn's son became an AP photographer, following his father into the AP family. Other than his role at AP, Mr. Ahn was proudest that he was a deacon in the Seoul Presbyterian church, the largest at that time in the world.



"Religion, he used to say, was like the AP - you had to be fully committed, day and night, to get the word out. Mr. Ahn was a gentleman and a professional all his life."



A postman with a passion for service: There are letter carriers and there is Ed O'Leary. After a 35-year career delivering mail, he embarked on a new career of community service to his fellow residents of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

My monthly Spotlight in my hometown newspaper, The Messenger, told his story. I think it's an inspiration to us all, no matter our profession. Click [here](#) to read the story.

I will be taking a few days off for a trip with Linda to the Colorado mountains, and our colleague **Peg Coughlin** will handle Connecting editor duties for the Friday and Monday editions. Send your submissions to her at pcoughlin@ap.org

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Gene Herrick: As sharp in person as in print



Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Sharp wit, attention to detail, and clear memory: Hallmarks of 95-year-old Connecting correspondent Gene Herrick's writing that, I'm pleased to report, also applies to him personally.

Ever since reading his first story in Connecting a number of years ago, I decided to make every effort to meet the former AP photographer and writer in person. It finally happened on Monday, August 9th, and it was a wonderful experience filled with stories and admiration.

Both Gene and his significant other Kitty Hylton welcome me into their home for a four-hour visit that could have gone longer were it not for his 2:40 p.m. dental appointment. The conversation starts with Gene immediately proclaiming his gratitude for Ye Olde Editor of Connecting, Paul Stevens, saying "Connecting is my family. I received 24 birthday greetings from Connecting readers, people I've never met!" He also makes special mention of Sister Donalda Kehoe with whom he corresponds regularly after reading about her in Connecting.

Their brick ranch home sits atop a hill on a quiet tree-lined street in Rocky Mount, VA, population 4,800, and is the county seat of Franklin County. As Gene explained, "This county was built on moonshine!" With that, Kitty retrieves a small bottle of the clear

liquid from the liquor cabinet for me to taste... another first-time experience checked off my list.

Not one to mince words about the political leanings of the region, Gene has been a rabble rouser with his pen when writing to and for the local paper. In fact, Kitty said she calls him Ernest T. Bass after the troublemaker from the TV show *Mayberry R.F.D.* Just like his writings, Gene's voice is very strong. He speaks clearly and his conversations are regularly punctuated with laughter, broad smiles and twinkling eyes. The only outward sign of his approaching century mark is a slight unsteadiness when rising from a chair.

Gene makes it clear he has no regrets in his 95 years of living, and readily admits "I don't have much time left," so he avoids watching television and keeps active writing two books. One is a collection of short stories about a broad selection of photos he made during his 24-year career with AP that spanned from the Korean War through the civil rights struggles of the early 70s. The other book posits the idea of him being a reporter covering Jesus Christ. Gene is a man of deep faith, but also wary of preachers who are more interested in filling the collection plate than offering spiritual guidance.



As we settle into lunch, Gene offers a heartfelt prayer for my continued safe travels, a healthier Congress and the food on the table. I am given the chair that affords the best view of the patio and the many birds and squirrels he and Kitty feed outside their kitchen slider, sightings include numerous goldfinches, cardinals, wrens, and blue jays.

Throughout our visit, Gene regales me with detailed stories about his AP career as well as his years doing non-profit administrative work. But he also asks me a number

of times to share stories about my career, saying “Tell me about yourself.” His interest about the technology changes I witnessed moving from film to digital keeps him wide eyed with curiosity, and it was good to see we both shared an enthusiasm for the fine journalism being done at AP.

This visit is indeed a highlight of my four-week cross-country road trip, I am both humbled and honored to have shared a few hours with one of AP’s legends and not surprised to see his love and respect for AP and its family of journalists, techs and administrators continues to this day.

Japanese were terrific hosts, competition was riveting



Bill Hancock ([Email](#)) - After working in the USOPC (United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee) press office for my 14th Olympics, I agree with Steve Wilson's comments (in Tuesday's Connecting) about Tokyo. The Japanese were terrific hosts and the competition was riveting.

I regret not visiting the AP office in the Main Press Center more often. When the Games begin, we're all on a treadmill and too quickly it's time to go home. I did enjoy a quick conversation with (AP sports editor) Michael Giarrusso one morning.

The pandemic limited our encounters with Japanese people, but I did have the opportunity to share Olympic pins with these children while waiting for the media bus one morning in Ginza. I thought Connecting readers might enjoy it.

Connecting Regional Reunion: September in Texas

AP 175th Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts now available/order online!

NOTE: Organizers are monitoring pandemic concerns and urging all participants to be fully vaccinated. Plans continue, at this time, for the AP Connecting Regional Reunion to be held as originally scheduled next month.

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The deadline to register for the Sept. 17-18-19, 2021, AP Connecting Regional Reunion in the Dallas-Fort Worth area has been extended to Monday, Aug. 23.

About 70 people have already registered for the event co-hosted by Mike Holmes of Omaha, Brent Kallestad of Tallahassee and Diana Heidgerd of Dallas. To register, email Diana at heidgerd@flash.net

NEW: AP 175th Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirts (men's sizes only) are now available to order online & wear during the September gathering. Cost: \$20 apiece, includes mailing & handling. Please order by Sept. 3.

_ Click on this link: <https://associatedpress175.spiritsale.com> Check out the example of the T-shirt, front & back, with AP 175th anniversary logo. One color only – gray.

_ Select the T-shirt size(s), the number you wish to order and add to cart.

_ Click on cart, fill out shipping information and click again to place your order. You will receive an initial email with your order confirmation.

_ You will later receive a second email, upon completion of the order, for you to pay via a secure credit-card link. The T-shirts will be delivered by U.S. Postal Service.

Reunion Weekend/Schedule:

_ Pay your own way for events Saturday night, Sept. 18 (Tex-Mex group dinner) and the Texas Rangers vs. Chicago White Sox game on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 19. The all-you-can-eat seats at the game are \$45 each and reservations must be made in advance via Diana. Please order game tickets by Friday, Aug. 20.

_ A bonus BBQ dinner event, hosted by David & Ellen Sedeño, is scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 17. Please also register in advance for this gathering.

_ Details on the group hotel, confirming your place at all three events and ordering/online an AP 175th Anniversary Texas Reunion T-shirt are in the registration form. Email Diana: heidgerd@flash.net

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Clarke - jclarke@ap.org

Brad Martin - bmartinap@hotmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Paul Raeburn - praeburn1@gmail.com

Stories of interest

'Please pray for me': female reporter being hunted by the Taliban tells her story (Guardian)

by Anonymous, as told to Hikmat Noori

Two days ago I had to flee my home and life in the north of Afghanistan after the Taliban took my city. I am still on the run and there is no safe place for me to go.

Last week I was a news journalist. Today I can't write under my own name or say where I am from or where I am. My whole life has been obliterated in just a few days.

I am so scared and I don't know what will happen to me. Will I ever go home? Will I see my parents again? Where will I go? The highway is blocked in both directions. How will I survive?

My decision to leave my home and life was not planned. It happened very suddenly. In the past days my whole province has fallen to the Taliban. The only places that the government still controls are the airport and a few police district offices. I'm not safe because I'm a 22-year-old woman and I know that the Taliban are forcing families to give their daughters as wives for their fighters. I'm also not safe because I'm a news journalist and I know the Taliban will come looking for me and all of my colleagues.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Susana Hayward.

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CNN's Chris Cuomo: Critics call for consequences after Andrew Cuomo resignation (USA Today)

By Maria Puente

Whither CNN's Chris Cuomo?

Now that his big brother, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, has resigned amid a sexual harassment scandal, what's next for the TV brother who helped him respond to it?

Did the younger brother have anything to do with the governor's decision Tuesday to step down in two weeks? Why are some critics calling on Chris Cuomo to be fired?

And what does CNN have to say about the prime-time anchor's future at the network? So far, nothing, but CNN provided past statements concerning its top-rated star. USA TODAY also reached out to Chris Cuomo for comment.

Why does it matter what happens to Chris Cuomo?

Read more [here](#).

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New York Times tech workers escalate union conflict with half-day walkout (Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

Hundreds of technology workers at The New York Times launched a half-day work stoppage Wednesday in protest of what they say are union-busting tactics from the company's management.

The workers are part of the New York Times Tech Guild, a roughly 600-person unit that first went public with its union drive in April. Since then, the union has clashed repeatedly with the paper. They have filed at least three unfair labor practice charges — two of which are still open — with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging that the company violated federal labor law.

“However frustrating it is to be dealing with management’s somewhat bad-faith arguments and moving goalposts in trying to form a union — that’s one thing. It’s another thing to engage in unfair labor practices,” said organizing committee member Nozlee Samadzadeh. “We really, at this point, feel like we have no choice but to garner our collective power in order to make a statement about how this isn’t okay.”

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

The Final Word

After getting laid off from the same newsroom, this couple took an epic pandemic road trip (Poynter)



Holly and Jim Weber went four-wheeling for hours on their stop in Idaho. (Photo by Jim Weber)

By: Kristen Hare

Combined, Jim and Holly Weber have about 60 years in journalism. So, they knew getting laid off was always a possibility. On the worst end of that scenario — both of them could lose their job at the same time.

On May 12, 2020, they both got the call.

Like many journalism couples, the two met in a newsroom and moved around with each other. After Holly got laid off from The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal in 2017, she soon got a job at The Memphis News, and later joined a new online newsroom as digital editor, The Daily Memphian. In 2018, Jim left The Commercial Appeal and joined his wife, where he became its first photo editor.

It was exciting to be in a burgeoning newsroom, Holly said. And they did good work in a busy news year, Jim said. But in that May call, they learned the company was restructuring and their positions were being eliminated.

They get it. They were both editors, making decent money, and that money could be used to hire more reporters.

“We immediately called a realtor and put our house on the market,” Holly said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Susana Hayward.



Celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos.

Click [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History” - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - Aug. 12, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 12, the 224th day of 2021. There are 141 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 12, 1985, the world's worst single-aircraft disaster occurred as a crippled Japan Airlines Boeing 747 on a domestic flight crashed into a mountain, killing 520 people. (Four people survived.)

On this date:

In 1867, President Andrew Johnson sparked a move to impeach him as he defied Congress by suspending Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, with whom he had clashed over Reconstruction policies. (Johnson was acquitted by the Senate.)

In 1902, International Harvester Co. was formed by a merger of McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., Deering Harvester Co. and several other manufacturers.

In 1909, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home to the Indianapolis 500, first opened.

In 1939, the MGM movie musical "The Wizard of Oz," starring Judy Garland, had its world premiere at the Strand Theater in Oconomowoc (oh-KAH'-noh-moh-wahk), Wisconsin, three days before opening in Hollywood.

In 1953, the Soviet Union conducted a secret test of its first hydrogen bomb.

In 1960, the first balloon communications satellite — the Echo 1 — was launched by the United States from Cape Canaveral.

In 1964, author Ian Fleming, 56, the creator of James Bond, died in Canterbury, Kent, England.

In 1981, IBM introduced its first personal computer, the model 5150, at a press conference in New York.

In 1994, in baseball's eighth work stoppage since 1972, players went on strike rather than allow team owners to limit their salaries. (The strike ended in April 1995.)

In 2000, the Russian nuclear submarine Kursk and its 118-man crew were lost during naval exercises in the Barents Sea.

In 2013, James "Whitey" Bulger, the feared Boston mob boss who became one of the nation's most-wanted fugitives, was convicted in a string of 11 killings and dozens of other gangland crimes, many of them committed while he was said to be an FBI informant. (Bulger was sentenced to life; he was fatally beaten at a West Virginia prison in 2018, hours after being transferred from a facility in Florida.)

In 2017, a car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer and hurting more than a dozen others. (The attacker, James Alex Fields, was sentenced to life in prison on 29 federal hate crime charges, and life plus 419 years on state charges.) President Donald Trump condemned what he called an "egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides."

Ten years ago: A divided three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta struck down the centerpiece of President Barack Obama's sweeping health care overhaul, the so-called individual mandate. (The mandate was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2012.) Tiger Woods missed the cut at the PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club with a 3-over 73, finishing out of the top 100 for the first time ever in a major.

Five years ago: The Pentagon said that Hafiz Saeed Khan, a top Islamic State group leader in Afghanistan, had been killed in a U.S. drone strike the previous month. A judge in Milwaukee overturned the conviction of Brendan Dassey, who was found guilty of helping his uncle kill a woman in a case profiled in the Netflix series "Making a Murderer," ruling that investigators coerced a confession using deceptive tactics. (The ruling was later overturned by a federal appeals court; the U.S. Supreme Court would decline to hear the case.) Katie Ledecky won her fourth gold medal of the Rio Olympics, shattering her own mark in the 800-meter freestyle.

One year ago: Appearing together for the first time as running mates, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris put aside their one-time political rivalry to deliver an aggressive attack on the character and performance of President Donald Trump; because of the coronavirus, their appearance came in a mostly empty high school gym in Delaware. Trump again pressed Congress to steer future coronavirus funding away from schools that did not reopen in the fall. Seattle's school board voted unanimously to begin the academic year with remote teaching only. Tribune Publishing said it would be closing the newsrooms at five newspapers, including The Daily News in New York; employees would continue to work from home as they had during the pandemic. Hank Williams Jr., Marty Stuart and songwriter Dean Dillon were named as the new inductees to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Today's Birthdays: Actor George Hamilton is 82. Actor Dana Ivey is 80. Actor Jennifer Warren is 80. Rock singer-musician Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits) is 72. Actor Jim Beaver is 71. Singer Kid Creole is 71. Jazz musician Pat Metheny is 67. Actor Sam J. Jones is 67. Actor Bruce Greenwood is 65. Country singer Danny Shirley is 65. Pop musician Roy Hay (Culture Club) is 60. Rapper Sir Mix-A-Lot is 58. Actor Peter Krause (KROW'-zuh) is 56. Actor Brent Sexton is 54. International Tennis Hall of Famer Pete Sampras is 50. Actor-comedian Michael Ian Black is 50. Actor Yvette Nicole Brown is 50. Actor Rebecca Gayheart is 50. Actor Casey Affleck is 46. Rock musician Bill Uechi is 46. Actor Maggie Lawson is 41. Actor Dominique Swain is 41. Actor Leah Pipes is 33. Actor Lakeith Stanfield is 30. NBA All-Star Khriston Middleton is 30. Actor Cara Delevingne (DEHL'-eh-veen) is 29. Actor Imani Hakim 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
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