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## Connecting November 03, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Nov. 3, 2021,

Today's Connecting brings you a profile of our colleague **Randall Hackley**, who had a fascinating career working as a journalist at home and abroad.

Randall's AP assignments in the 1980s and 90s included Miami, El Paso, Buenos Aires (news editor for Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay), New York foreign desk, Long Island correspondent and London relief in 2016. Among his later work was with Bloomberg News in Switzerland for 10 years.

He has been married 29 years to **Sheila Norman-Culp**, an editor on AP's Europe Desk who has been working remotely during the pandemic.

When Randall noted that one of his most enjoyable assignments as El Paso correspondent was covering the [Great American Duck Race](#) in Deming, N.M., it hit home for Ye Olde Connecting Editor.

Years before, when I was Albuquerque chief of bureau, I collaborated with Deming Headlight editor **Harold Cousland** (now deceased) and a group of his friends over after-hours beers in 1980 to dream up the duck race. Really! It's now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year – cancelled this year due to COVID-19 precautions but set for its 41<sup>st</sup> running in 2022.



Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Connecting Profile Randall Hackley



## Randall and Sheila outside Emirates Stadium last winter in London.

**Randall Hackley (Email)** - I grew up wrestling for the morning sports section of the hometown Los Angeles Times with my dad for the first chance to read the great columnist Jim Murray. That was back when papers were hand-delivered, thrown on driveways at dawn with yesterday's news, long before the Internet that relays scores and reports events almost instantaneously was even a figment of anybody's imagination.

So it was kind of ironic in wrapping up almost four decades in the news business in a career that took me to Argentina, Switzerland and the UK with bylines from 18 other countries that I had an unexpected role in one last AP urgent series: I had just finished a short-term editing gig for AP's London sports team when I traveled to Sri Lanka to see its wildlife, architectural delights, tea plantations, savor its food, beaches and jungle.

The journey with 12 other travelers led by a Sri Lankan crew took a sudden deadly turn when the trip leader somberly reported that coup-plotters in and around the capital Colombo had bombed churches and luxury hotels, killing almost 300 people on Easter Sunday 2019. Trip plans were hastily rearranged: No visit to the elephant orphanage, it was now closed. No short route to the sea, the road had been shut. No news but the local TV, outside contact had been temporarily cut.

Ironic, or perhaps just more in the family: My cellphone rang in the remote interior where we had stopped and the person on the other end of the line asked if I was ok, then what did I know of the bombings. The caller in the Sri Lankan jungle on my WhatsApp link? My wife, longtime Europe Desk editor Sheila Norman-Culp. Soon I was dictating to her the latest from a fuzzy TV station the lodge where we were holed up was airing, aided by translations from the trip leader and other locals. We carefully reported what we knew, who said it, title, the news basics. My byline? Left off as I hadn't entered the country as a journalist, just a tourist, and not to upset the government, which imposed a brief news blackout after the blasts.

Looking back, family played in my news career more than I realized: At the University of Colorado, where I graduated early with a degree in journalism, economics and English, my uncle, an LA TV newscaster named Maury Green, encouraged his nephew's involvement in the news business. So it was perhaps fitting that I fell in love with spot news and feature stories. One of my first bylines was the coming population surge in the Boulder-Denver-Colorado Springs corridor in 1973, a front-page clip for the Daily Coloradan student paper that I've kept to this day.

My degree and a distant family connection led to my hiring as a police reporter at the Muncie, Indiana, Evening Press; that led to the Vero Beach, Florida, Press-Journal; and not long later to the news staff at AP's Miami bureau, one of my favorite jobs to this day. Miami and the Caribbean that was within my coverage antennae was a cauldron of drug violence, so many bodies growing fetid in the heat that refrigerated containers in South Florida became makeshift morgues. The Haitian refugees that washed up on Florida beaches and flotillas of Cuban boat people were constant news fodder for our readers.

The somber image of a drowned Haitian boy, maybe 15, a stubble of hair on his chin, clenching the sand in his final moment of life that I witnessed on assignment at one of those beaches has stuck with me for decades.

These were heady times for a new reporter. I became AP's El Paso, Texas, correspondent, fertile ground for feature stories and funky news fixtures like the Deming, N.M., duck race, the hottest chiles, even Chihuahua dogs from the same named town in northern Mexico. When a chance came to return to Southern California for the Orange County Register, I was off on another news adventure, covering the Mexico border and dodgy drug characters in the run-up to the LA Olympics.

But I chafed at local news routines (and errors: a supervisor sent me to the wrong house to tell an elderly woman who answered the door that her son had died in a plane crash). I negotiated a return to AP in New York, working on the foreign desk until posted as news editor for Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay in Buenos Aires shortly after the Dirty Wars ended and democracy was restored. An Easter military uprising nearly cost Argentina its democratic rule while there but I found engaging stories flying in a copter into Iguazu Falls with daredevil Brazilian air force pilots and writing about the then-unknown classic Argentine taste treat, alfajors.

Sadly, as Argentina nearly blew up, so too did my first marriage, ending shortly after my return to New York. My nuclear family became fractured, I was a fractional father, the next decade made up of foreign desk shifts and bolting to New Jersey for time with my children that featured alternating weekends, midweek overnights, kid sports coaching and split holidays. Work became secondary in that time, just enough to get by.

But as luck would have it, in time of personal tragedy, I met the love of my life, a woman newly widowed to my newly divorced shattered self. I offered to babysit the AP newswoman's toddler while on outings with my two young ones. Sheila and I married 18 months later. We're heading toward 30 years of marriage as I write this.

Fast-forward, I left AP for a startup, SmartMoney.com, worked there two years until their funding dried up. Through an AP connection, I found a job through the U.S. State Department's journalist-in-residence program and taught a semester of news and American studies at A.I. Cuza University in Romania. That led to a stint teaching Western news techniques to Palestinian journalists in Jordan and eventually joined Bloomberg News as a finance editor in Zurich, Switzerland.



**Randall with granddaughter Adelaide, taken in Chicago last April.**

My children were about to enter college, one after another after another, so the Bloomberg job became a fortuitous 10-year stay in lovely Switzerland, where the strong franc appreciated against the U.S. dollar for a decade and made college costs more bearable. When Bloomberg asked me to start a water news venture in London, where my wife had worked for AP for several years, the reunion was even sweeter. Two journalists and partners back under the same roof.

The water news venture lost Bloomberg's backing after three years so I was suddenly out of work on my 63rd birthday. I parlayed contacts, doing consulting news stints

with the World Bank on Africa, for a Swedish international water institute, a U.S. water news group and AP sports relief in London.

Almost 20 years abroad, we're back in the States, my wife helping her elderly mother in pandemic times while holding down remotely an editing job with AP. Me? In a career that spanned proofing my articles in hot type before publication and taking urgents from China correspondents via teletype to filing live online, I'm mulling as I have for years writing the Great American Novel and adjusting to life anew in the U.S. with now three grandchildren relatively close by. I've connected with some old AP colleagues, continue to hanker to travel, still miss the news and wish all the best of health and lives.

## Obituary: Howard F. Angione – once editor of AP Stylebook

KENNEBUNK (Maine) – Howard F. Angione, born in Rochester, New York, on Aug. 3, 1940, to Genevieve Rita (nee McCarthy) Angione and Charles Francis Angione passed away at home on October 31, 2021. He was the first of four children, sisters Christine (1943-2020), Pauline and Jude. He received a bachelor's degree from Holy Cross College (1962) and a master's degree from Clark University (1966), both in Worcester, Mass. He worked as a writer for the Worcester Telegram before joining The Associated Press where he edited "The Associated Press Stylebook and Libel Manual," first published in 1977. Later, Mr. Angione spent more than 10 years as an editor at The New York Times, where he directed the introduction of computer technology in the newsroom.



Read more [here](#). Shared by Lee Mitgang.

## Memories of 50 years ago



**David Kennerly (Email)** –Do you remember where you were 50 years ago this week? I do. Trekking through the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, in the U Minh Forest near My Tho, 1971, with my pal Matthew Franjola who took this photo. RIP Matt, you were a great friend. I was working for UPI at the time and Matt was a freelance photographer before joining AP Saigon a year later.

## Stories of interest

### *Court revives lawsuit filed over Texas journalist's arrest* (AP)

By KEVIN MCGILL

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal appeals court on Monday revived a lawsuit filed by an online freelance journalist in Texas who says she was arrested for merely seeking information from the police.

Priscilla Villarreal goes by the name La Gordiloca on Facebook and Twitter. Monday's opinion from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals describes her as a non-traditional journalist who posts livestreamed video and information on crime scenes in the Laredo area, along with "often unfiltered" commentary that is sometimes critical of local authorities.

Her lawsuit, revived in a 2-1 decision by the appeals court panel, said she was arrested in 2017 and accused of violating a little-known Texas law that a judge later found unconstitutional.

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

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## ***Tribunal probing journalist slayings opens in The Hague*** (AP)

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A “people’s tribunal” opened Tuesday in the Netherlands to highlight the number of journalists around the world who were killed for doing their jobs, often with impunity for their killers.

The tribunal, convened by a group of press freedom organizations, has no powers to sanction perpetrators but will present evidence to raise awareness about journalists targeted for attacks in order to stop their reporting. It is expected to issue a judgment in May next year.

The first hearing took place on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, an observance declared by the U.N. General Assembly. Appearing before the tribunal was one of the two journalists awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last month for their fight for freedom of expression in countries where reporters have faced persistent attacks, harassment and even death.

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

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## ***Cancel culture: Why do people cancel news subscriptions? We asked, they answered.*** (Nieman Lab)

By NIEMAN LAB STAFF

What was the last news subscription you canceled, and why?

Media Twitter may be full of people threatening to cancel their (for instance) New York Times subscriptions over some recent op-ed, but we wondered how many people actually went ahead with their threats to cancel news subscriptions.

Public data on cancellations is sparse. It’s not something that news organizations like sharing. It can also be surprisingly annoying to cancel news subscriptions online, often requiring an actual call to customer service. (It doesn’t have to be this way!)

So we asked our readers for their most recent cancellation stories, and received over 500 responses. Keep in mind as you read this that Nieman Lab readers are a weird (great! but weird) bunch. They’re more into news, and more likely to pay for it, than the average person; this isn’t an “ask some guy on the street” survey. Many of our respondents alluded to paying for more than one news subscription, which is not the



norm. (2017 data suggests that about half of Americans pay for some kind of news, including making donations to public radio.) Only about one in five Americans pays for online news, according to the most recent data from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.) The responses we received were largely thoughtful and detailed, and in many cases it was clear that people felt bad about canceling and hadn't made the decision lightly. (Make sure you read to the end of this post!)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dan Berger.

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## ***Lebanon's oldest English-language daily folds amid crisis*** (AP)

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's Daily Star, one of the leading English-language newspapers in the Arab world and Lebanon's oldest, has folded following a years-long financial struggle.

An email reviewed Tuesday by The Associated Press informed employees of the decision to lay off all staff as of October 31.

The Daily Star is the latest among several Lebanese newspapers that stopped printing in recent years in a struggle to compete with digital media. Lebanon's severe financial crisis, its worst in 150 years, toughened the challenge.

Many organizations have let go of employees and cut salaries, while others have closed down completely.

Read more [here](#).

## **The Final Word**

### ***To Cover World War II, These Women Journalists Fought Sexism at Home*** (New York Times)

By Christina Lamb

THE CORRESPONDENTS

Six Women Writers on the Front Lines of World War II

By Judith Mackrell

In Kabul recently after the takeover by the Taliban, I looked around the restaurant terrace of the hotel where most journalists were staying and spotted Lyse Doucet from the BBC, Susannah George of The Washington Post, Lindsey Hilsum of Channel 4 and Margaux Benn of France 24 and Le Figaro, while the CNN correspondent Clarissa Ward had just left. Women were outnumbering men. There's nothing strange in that

these days, even if we had all been told to cover our hair by the resident Taliban commander, who complained, “We didn’t fight jihad for 20 years for women to walk around like that.”

For female war correspondents during World War II, what to do with their hair was the least of their worries and, if it weren’t for their pioneering work, my colleagues and I on the hotel terrace might not have been in Afghanistan at all.

As “The Correspondents: Six Women Writers on the Front Lines of World War II,” by Judith Mackrell, recounts, not only did female journalists face the challenges and dangers of actually reporting the war, but first they had to battle even to be allowed to cover it. Barred from combat zones, they had to hitchhike to the front line and struggled to get assignments from editors, some of whom fielded complaints from readers who did not want their news to come from women correspondents.

Read more [here](#).



## 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.

## Today in History - Nov. 3, 2021



### By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2021. There are 58 days left in the year.

#### Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1997, the Supreme Court let stand California’s groundbreaking Proposition 209, which banned race and gender preference in hiring and school admissions.

#### On this date:

In 1868, Republican Ulysses S. Grant won the presidential election over Democrat Horatio Seymour.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican challenger Alfred "Alf" Landon.

In 1954, the Japanese monster movie "Godzilla" was released by Toho Co.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In 1970, Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair came to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President George H.W. Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a Black carjacker.

In 2004, President George W. Bush claimed a re-election mandate a day after more than 62 million Americans chose him over Democrat John Kerry; Kerry conceded defeat in make-or-break Ohio rather than launch a legal fight reminiscent of the contentious Florida recount of four years earlier.

In 2014, 13 years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, a new 1,776-foot skyscraper at the World Trade Center site opened for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation.

Ten years ago: Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou abandoned his plan to put a European rescue deal to a popular vote. Former San Francisco Giants outfielder Matty Alou died in his native Dominican Republic at age 72.

Five years ago: Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine delivered a speech entirely in Spanish as he addressed a small crowd in a largely Hispanic area of Phoenix as part of Hillary Clinton's push into traditionally Republican Arizona. China's plans for a permanent space station remained firmly on track with the successful launch of its new heavy-lift Long March 5 rocket.

One year ago: Democrat Joe Biden won the presidency in an election that saw more than 103 million Americans vote early, many by mail, amid a coronavirus pandemic that upended a campaign marked by fear and rancor, waged against a backdrop of

protests over racial injustice. As vote counting continued in battleground states, Biden's victory would not be known for more than three days; Republican President Donald Trump would refuse to concede, falsely claiming that he was a victim of widespread voter fraud. Kamala Harris made history as the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to become vice president. Democrats clinched two more years of controlling the House but saw their majority shrink. Republicans emerged with a two-seat Senate majority that would be erased by Democratic wins in two runoffs in Georgia in January.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lois Smith is 91. Actor Monica Vitti is 90. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 88. Actor Shadoe Stevens is 75. Singer Lulu is 73. "Vogue" editor-in-chief Anna Wintour is 72. Comedian-actor Roseanne Barr is 69. Actor Kate Capshaw is 68. Comedian Dennis Miller is 68. Actor Kathy Kinney is 68. Singer Adam Ant is 67. Sports commentator and former quarterback Phil Simms is 66. Director-screenwriter Gary Ross is 65. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 64. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 49. Actor Francois Battiste (TV: "Ten Days in the Valley") is 45. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 39. Actor Julie Berman is 38. Actor Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 35. Alternative rock singer/songwriter Courtney Barnett is 34. TV personality and model Kendall Jenner (TV: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians") is 26.

## 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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