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Connecting

November 09, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Nov. 9, 2021,

Our colleague **Denne Freeman**, who served with distinction as AP sports editor in Dallas for three decades, turns 85 today.

And to help celebrate his birthday milestone, Connecting brings you a profile he assembled on deadline with little notice. Hasn't lost that touch at all!

I loved his reply to the profile question, would you do it all over again? He said:

Obviously I would. I was lucky to take the fork in the road that led to The AP. Wire service work is a 24-7 job and you have to love it and have understanding family. I've scrambled to cover no hitters in progress with a call from a stringer while eating dinner. Also your neighbors have a hard time figuring out your job. I had one who thought it was a cleaning service.

If you have a favorite memory of working with Denne, a favorite story, please send it along.

Connecting extends congratulations to **Prinda Mulpramook** ([Email](#)), who competed in her first marathon Sunday as a participant in the 50th New York Marathon. Prinda ran in honor of her cousin **Nick Jesdanun**, who ran 83 marathons on seven continents.

Nick was deputy technology editor for the AP in New York when he died April 2, 2020, of coronavirus complications. “WE DID IT, NICK!!!! I miss you and I love you and I feel you so close,” Prinda said in a Facebook post.

Our colleague **Norm Abelson** writes touchingly about the people he most misses in his life of 90 years - and we invite you to share your own story of those you miss most.

ARE YOU A VETERAN? Connecting plans to publish on Thursday - Veterans Day 2021 – a listing of Connecting colleagues who have served in the military. If that’s you, please send me your name, branch of service, and years served - and briefly, please, the biggest life's lesson learned from your service. Thanks to the 20 or so of you who have already responded.

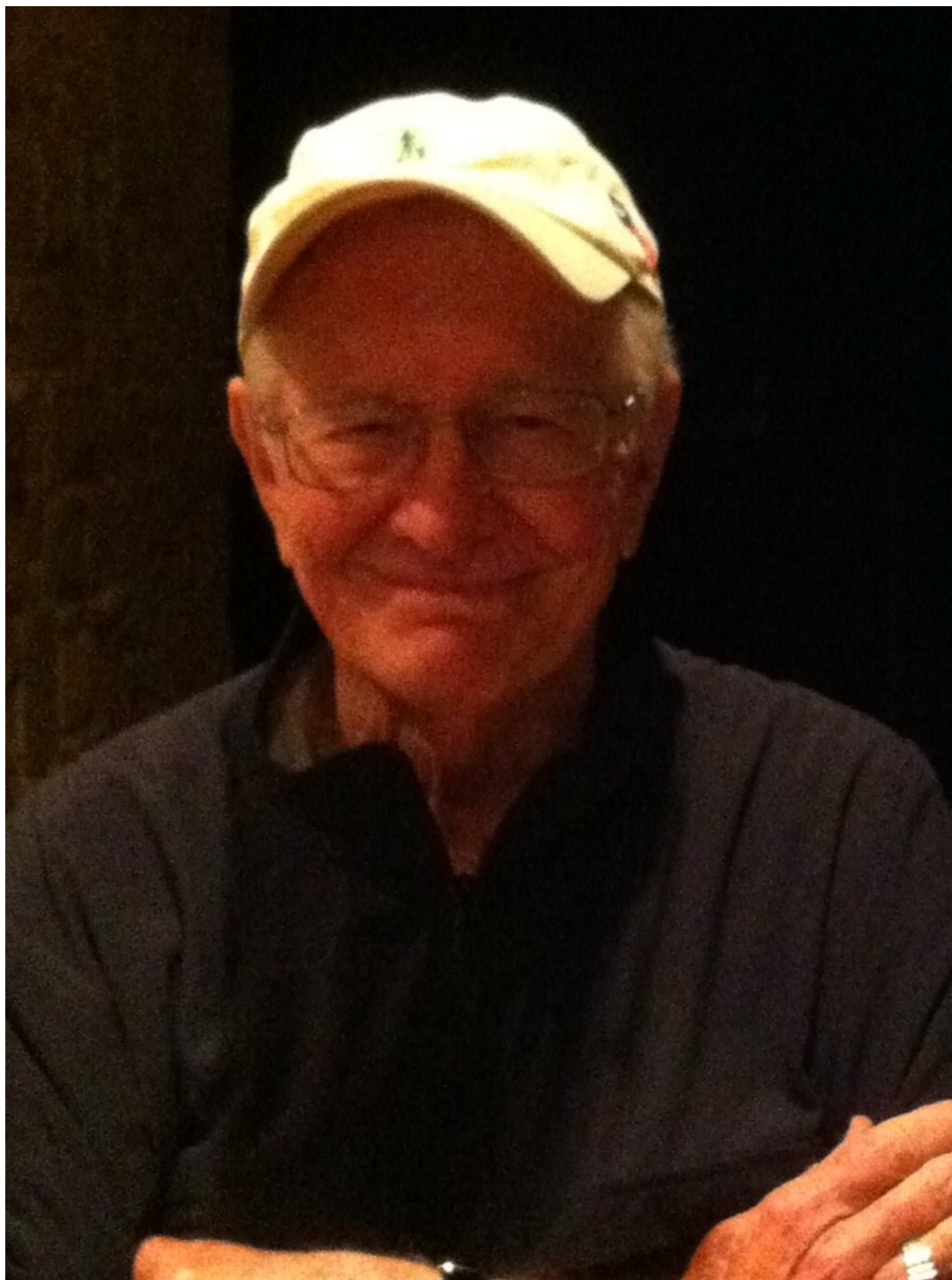
Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul



Connecting Profile

Denne Freeman

**What I'm doing these days?**

Getting four shots, three for the covid and one for the flu and attending the great Texas AP reunion in Arlington. In the future looking forward to casino trips with wife Judy, celebrating my 85TH BIRTHDAY in Waco, getting over heart surgery, and being inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

Who hired me?

Bob Johnson did when I defected from UPI. Made me the sports editor in 1968 in the Dallas bureau.

What were some big stories?

In 1963 I covered the President Kennedy assassination while working in Dallas for UPI. We flashed the call from the motorcade. Biggest news story for the AP was Apollo 13 where I answered telephones. Also covered an airliner crash at Dallas-Fort Worth airport and interviewed survivors.

I was sports editor for 30 years and covered every Super Bowl the Cowboys have played in starting in 1970. The Boys have won just one playoff game since I retired in 1999.



ABOVE: I am with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones (right) when Jones was under interrogation in 1994 about his acid relationship with Coach Jimmy Johnson. I seemed quizzical about his answers.

RIGHT: I was walking with Tom Landry at the groundbreaking of the Dallas Cowboys Valley Ranch facility in 1985. Notice my Big Chief tablet. How many reporters remember having that in their Arsenal?

Also was honored to cover major golf tournament including 11 Masters, Nolan Ryan's 7th no-hitter and 5,000 strikeouts, decades of Cotton Bowls, Southwest Conference games including the epic Texas-Arkansas 1969 shootout, and two Olympics.

Most significant helpers?

The Texas A&M journalism department which inducted me into their Hall of fame, the late Blackie Sherrod of the now defunct Dallas Times Herald, and every one of my AP colleagues including John Lumpkin, Mike Cochran, Sylvia Wingfield, Diana Heigerd, Tom Decola, Charles Richards and Doug Kienitz in Dallas, Doug Tucker in Kansas City and New Yorker Hal Bock. Also my golf gurus Doug Ferguson, Jim Litke and Tim Dahlberg. Not to forget my successor at the time Jaime Aaron, who co-authored a book with me on Tom Landry. I also wrote books on Baylor and Texas football.



Best Hobby and Vacation

Loved golf and shot my age at 76 before heart surgery two years ago. Trying to make it back again. Once shot 87 at Augusta National.

Best vacation

Toured Nova Scotia. Loved Scottsdale.

Would I do it again?

Obviously I would. I was lucky to take the fork in the road that led to The AP. Wire service work is a 24-7 job and you have to love it and have understanding family. I've scrambled to cover no hitters in progress with a call from a stringer while eating dinner. Also your neighbors have a hard time figuring out your job. I had one who thought it was a cleaning service.

Oh well, it was a fun ride and sign me up for another tour of duty.

Denne Freeman's email - freeman.denne@gmail.com

Miss you more than I can say...

Norm Abelson (Email) - As I was sitting alone in my work room one recent day, a new thought came up: Of all the people in my life who have passed on, who do I miss more than I would have expected, think about most often, and why? The answers kind of surprised me.

After all, there were others who were key and beloved parts of my life, like my late wife, Dina, and my son, Michael, who died so much too early. Of course, I'll never forget them.

But the two who continue to pop up are my brother and only sibling, Stephen, and my dear friend and journalistic colleague, Gordon Glover. These two played vastly different roles over the years in widely differing circumstances. So why them?



Could it be that they were the ones I most depended on, trusted, looked to for counsel, for support, for understanding, for companionship, for sharing memories – my brother for more than 80 years, Gordon some six decades?

Steve's place in my life was rather complicated.

He suffered all his years from something (we never discovered exactly what) in the autism spectrum. As a young person I often felt embarrassed and confused by that. However, as the years passed and he matured and improved, and I (finally) grew up, our relationship changed, was enriched. In the earlier days I often was his sitter; sometimes we'd scare each other listening to some of our favorite radio horror shows, such as Arch Obeler's "Lights Out." We each had good memories and, sitting alone, often performed sing-alongs of all our old favorites. At times I would falter, but Steve never missed a single word. And how he loved visiting us at the Maine seaside, splashing in the tide, riding the Ferris wheel at Old Orchard Beach, being on the old streetcars at the Seaside Trolley Museum. His joy always made me feel young again.

In his final years, spent at a caring nursing center at the institution where he resided most of his years, we became brothers in every sense of the word. Can I ever forget the loving smile on his face when my partner, Magdalene, and I arrived for a visit? Laughing over old, shared memories. Pushing his wheelchair around the campus on a sunny summer day? Is there any price I can assign to our sharing lunch, filling each other in on the latest happenings, attending the parties, the musicales? The shared hugs and kisses. And, of course, remembering. He was after all, the last living relative with whom I could reimagine my earliest days; I guess I was the same for him. Because of his "affliction," and resulting innocence, we were able to put aside "grown-up" pretensions and discomforts, and have true and open and loving days together.

Our final meeting was on the day he died. His loving caregivers told us his time had come; he was barely able to hear, but I assured him he soon would again be with his parents, grandparents and his old dog Salty. Steve firmly believed in heaven, and who is to doubt him.

My first meeting with Gordon could well have started on a sour note.

I had spent several years as the junior in the two-person Concord, N.H., AP office. When the correspondent left for greener pastures, I fully expected to get his job. But instead I was passed over, the post to go to a guy I didn't know from the Portland, Maine, bureau. To say that I was not looking forward to my new boss arriving was an understatement.

But show up at the office he did, with his wife, Lynn, one autumn day in 1961. Well, to my surprise, my negative feelings melted quick as an ice cube on a hot stove. I don't remember a word we said, but something in the atmosphere foretold we were going to be friends. The strangest part of our long relationship was that for a good part of it we were physically located hundreds of miles apart, but seemed to get closer as the years went by. It happened this way.

Gordon and I worked together in Concord for about two years, happily writing as an AP team, enjoying our collegiality and the growing friendship of our families.

Then I left AP for a stint in Washington. Several years later I returned to Concord, but by that time Gordon also had left AP, and purchased a faltering weekly in New Jersey which he built into highly praised publication. We stayed in touch those years by phone and letters and during vacations when he and his family summered at their seaside Maine cottage. Before long, we both were retired, and the Glovers returned full-time to Maine. By then I too had bought a full-time home just up from the Maine coast.

It was during those final years, now able to spend more time together, that we became even closer, or as Gordon might have put it - "a couple of old farts" reliving their glory days. Our last get-together was in his room at the care center where he and Lynn were living. We managed a few laughs about the old days, and before I left we grasped each other's hands, just for a minute.

It has been said that those with the most to brag about are often the most modest. That was Gordon to a T. For example, I had long known that as a 20-year-old he had piloted a B-17 in Europe during World War II. But try as I may, I never could get him to talk about those times. Only in the final months did he share his epic experiences, bombing German industrial cities amidst Nazi fighters and flak, seeing other American planes going down in flames, one time having to ditch his own plane.

He remained a dedicated pilot for the rest of his life, first flying his single-engine plane, later shifting to gliders. My memory bank holds and relishes the times we glided together – he at the controls, me the thrilled passenger. Two old buddies



floating free, silent, with the birds alongside, soaring high above the crests of the snow-capped White Mountains.

Stephen and Gordon. I hope they'll continue to visit my memory. God how I miss them.

Fly me to the moon



Peter Leabo (Email) - With its contrail illuminated by the setting sun, a Southwest Airlines flight heads toward the waxing crescent moon in the skies over Kansas City, MO, on Monday evening.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Denne Freeman - freeman.denne@gmail.com

Andale Gross – andale.gross@gmail.com

Welcome to Connecting



Jonathan Aiken - aikenjf@comcast.net

Stories of interest

Modi's India Is "One of the Most Dangerous Countries for Journalists" (Nation)

By Suchitra Vijayan and Francesca Recchia

Journalist Siddique Kappan has been in prison since October 2020. He has been charged under India's seditious law and the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for trying to report on the Hathras gang rape and murder case. In Hathras, a 19-year-old Dalit woman was gang-raped by upper-caste Thakur men and later died in the hospital. She was hurriedly cremated by the Uttar Pradesh Police in the middle of the night without the consent or the presence of her family. The gruesome violence and the police complicity in protecting the perpetrators made headlines in India. Kappan and three others—two student activists, Atikur Rahman and Masood Ahmed, and their driver, Alam—were arrested. After his arrest, Kappan was tortured by the police and denied medication for diabetes.

Almost six months after his arrest, a 5,000-page charge sheet was filed against Kappan accusing him of failing to write like a "responsible journalist" and of orchestrating riots by reporting on oppressed and marginalized communities. The charge sheet said, without irony, that such reports could "incite Muslims," and cited 36 articles written by Kappan as evidence for his crimes.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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Storm Lake (C-SPAN)

Filmmakers Beth Levison and Jerry Risius discussed their documentary, Storm Lake, about the Storm Lake Times, a small town family-run newspaper in Iowa and its efforts to stay afloat amidst shrinking ad revenues and the coronavirus pandemic. In 2017, the editor of the newspaper, Art Cullen, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing.

Click [here](#) to view. Shared by John Willis.

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UDK distribution boxes to be removed from campus, continuing online publishing (Daily Kansan)

By Stef Manchen

The mission of the University Daily Kansan has always been to serve our campus community with trustworthy news and information. The Student Voice Since 1904 is an integral part of our tradition-rich university.

So let's start by saying this: We're not going anywhere.

At the same time, we serve our audience best when we recognize changes in their world. And we have all experienced a lot of change in the past year and a half.

When the pandemic forced students to leave campus for remote learning in spring 2020, the Kansan aggressively covered coronavirus news on kansan.com and our social media platforms. Our team worked from locations across the country and around the world to publish online. We stopped publishing print editions because no one was on campus to read them.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Bowker, who notes, "Always a sad day to see newspaper boxes removed from campus, a sign of the times. An obvious action to take, but still sad for a former University Daily Kansan reporter and KU William Allen White J-school student. Rock Chalk lives online!"

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Iran bans newspaper that linked supreme leader to poverty (AP)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's judicial authorities reportedly banned a newspaper Monday for publishing a front-page graphic that appeared to show Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's hand drawing the poverty line in the Islamic Republic, amid widespread anger over the cratering economy.

The semiofficial Mehr news agency said Iran's media supervisory body shut down the daily newspaper Kelid after it published a front-page article titled "Millions of Iranians Living under Poverty Line" on Saturday.

Under the headline, the graphic shows a person's left hand holding a pen and drawing a red line across the page as silhouettes of people underneath are reaching up to the line.

The graphic resembled an earlier image of Khamenei writing on a piece of paper with his left hand, a prominent ring on one of his fingers. His right has been paralyzed since a 1981 bombing.

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



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. 9, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2021. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 9, 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom or deliberate persecution that became known as “Kristallnacht.”

On this date:

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1872, fire destroyed nearly 800 buildings in Boston.

In 1918, it was announced that Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II would abdicate; he then fled to the Netherlands.

In 1935, United Mine Workers president John L. Lewis and other labor leaders formed the Committee for Industrial Organization (later renamed the Congress of Industrial Organizations).

In 1953, Welsh author-poet Dylan Thomas died in New York at age 39.

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours, leaving 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1970, former French President Charles de Gaulle died at age 79.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West; joyous Germans danced atop the Berlin Wall.

In 2000, George W. Bush's lead over Al Gore in all-or-nothing Florida slipped beneath 300 votes in a suspense-filled recount, as Democrats threw the presidential election to the courts, claiming "an injustice unparalleled in our history."

In 2005, three suicide bombers carried out nearly simultaneous attacks on three U.S.-based hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 victims and wounding hundreds.

In 2007, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) of Pakistan placed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) under house arrest for a day, and rounded up thousands of her supporters to block a mass rally against his emergency rule.

Ten years ago: After 46 seasons as Penn State's head football coach and a record 409 victories, Joe Paterno was fired along with the university president, Graham Spanier, over their handling of child sex abuse allegations against former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky. Taylor Swift won her second entertainer of the year award at The Country Music Association Awards.

Five years ago: Democrat Hillary Clinton conceded the presidential election to Republican Donald Trump, telling supporters in New York that her defeat was "painful, and it will be for a long time." But Clinton told her faithful to accept Trump and the election results, urging them to give him "an open mind and a chance to lead."

One year ago: President Donald Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper, injecting more uncertainty to a rocky transition period as Joe Biden prepared to assume the presidency; Trump said Christopher Miller, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, would serve as acting secretary. Attorney General William Barr authorized

federal prosecutors to pursue “substantial allegations” of voting irregularities before the presidential election was certified, despite no evidence of widespread fraud; the action raised the prospect that Trump would use the Justice Department to try to challenge the outcome. The Trump administration blocked government officials from cooperating with President-elect Joe Biden’s team on a transition. Georgia’s two Republican senators called for the resignation of the state’s top election official, Brad Raffensperger, a fellow Republican, who had said there weren’t enough doubtful votes to tip Georgia into the Trump column.

Today’s Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog is 90. Movie director Bille August is 73. Actor Robert David Hall is 73. Actor Lou Ferrigno is 70. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 69. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 62. Rock musician Dee Plakas (L7) is 61. Actor Ion Overman is 52. Rapper Pepa (Salt-N-Pepa) is 57. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 51. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS’-kee) is 51. Actor Jason Antoon is 50. Actor Eric Dane is 49. Singer Nick Lachey (98 Degrees) is 48. Country musician Barry Knox (Parmalee) is 44. R&B singer Sisqo (Dru Hill) is 43. Country singer Corey Smith is 42. Country singer Chris Lane is 37. Actor Emily Tyra is 34. Actor Nikki Blonsky is 33. Actor-model Analeigh (AH’-nuh-lee) Tipton is 33.

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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