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Connecting

Oct. 14, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Oct. 14, 2022,

Today's Connecting brings you a variety of stories from your colleagues – but the one that struck me most was a story from 1941 about an AP newsman at 50 Rock who learned in covering the deaths of three soldiers that one of them was his brother.

It's our lead, and yes, a possible springboard for any similar experience you may have encountered. The hope is that you never did.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Reporting on a tragic boat collision where a victim was his brother

Not many reporters ever face the situation that confronted Associated Press newsman **John Moroso** in 1941 when he was working the desk at 50 Rockefeller Plaza in New York.

He reported on his brother's death.

Our colleague [Dennis Conrad](#) uncovered this story from 81 years ago – relating how Moroso learned from authorities by phone interview of the tragic deaths of three U.S. Army soldiers in a boat collision in New York's East River. One of them was his brother, Henry, an Army sergeant. Here is this clipping of an AP story published May 15, 1941, in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram:

Reporter on River Tragedy Finds Victim Is Brother

NEW YORK, May 15 (AP).—Three soldiers were drowned when an army launch sank in the East River Thursday after a collision with a tug.

John A. Moroso III, ship news reporter for the Associated Press, was gathering the details by telephone in the Associated Press office in Rockefeller Center. There was the usual confusion among persons at the scene, but he quickly found someone who could give him the names of the victims.

"M-o-r-o-s-o," the voice at the other end spelled out.

Johnny's face went white as he wrote the name down.

He knew it was his brother, Sergt. Henry J. Moroso, 25.

But he kept right on, taking the other names, carefully spelling them back, remembering to ask for home addresses and all other pertinent details.

After obtaining all available information, Johnny turned to write the story.

The man next to him, aware of what had happened, offered to take it over.

"No thanks," said Johnny, "I'm pretty tough."

His story follows:

NEW YORK, May 15 (AP). — Three soldiers apparently drowned when the Fort Slocum launch Q-11 sank in the East River Thursday after a collision with the Lehigh Valley tug Claremont.

Army officials named the men as:

Sergt. Henry J. Moroso, native of Columbia, S. C., skipper of the craft; Pvt. Melvin Calton, Kings Creek, Ky., and Pvt. Clyde Fleming, Pittsburgh.

Newton W. Taylor, 79, of Chatfield, Is Buried

CORSICANA, May 15.—Newton W. Taylor, 79, long-time resident of the Chatfield community, who died in a local hospital Tuesday night, was buried Wednesday afternoon in the Catfield Cemetery.

Surviving are four nephews, Parker Tarrer, Chatfield; William and Oliver Little, Fort Worth, and Jimmy Little, Chatfield, and five nieces, Mrs. Mildred Jordan and Mrs. Mary Brooks, Corsicana; Mrs. Rowe Guynes, Blessing; Mrs. Mabel Patterson, Fort Worth, and Mrs. Clarence Heifner, Corsicana.

Urged for Park Body Post

SAN SABA, May 15.—James H. Baker Jr., postal employe and a civic leader among the young businessmen of the city, has been recommended by Bernie H. Hart, president of the San Saba Junior Chamber of Commerce, for appointment as chairman for San Saba County in the Texas Big Bend National Park Association.

Moroso went on to become an AP war correspondent in World War II.



Our colleague **Francesca Pitaro** found in the AP Archives this photo of Moroso from April 20, 1942. From the caption: "For six months I have sailed with the Atlantic fleet through icy or shark-infested water. I have seen these lads escort thousands of American troops and millions of dollars' worth of supplies through the most dangerous submarine zones. I have flown thousands of miles with nervy Navy fliers," speaks Moroso. (AP Photo)

Moroso died in 1980 at the age of 70.

On offering money for photos

Doug Pizac - In response to Tom Kent's piece (in Thursday's Connecting) on offering money for photos, I would like to clarify a couple portions. True, news organizations have no obligation to offer money. But I differ that it downsides news companies and photographers if done right, which I did and AP is particular about. Also, there is a big difference between paying money for photos versus stories. Photography has been, still is, and will continue to be highly connected to "licensing" which is paying for the right to publish. I did not simply offer money to the grandfather; I offered to license his picture. Licensing has been, still is, and will continue to be the business standard of

contracted agreements -- the same as when people and companies license AP photographs through AP Images.

As to how much money, that all depends on the value of the image. A headshot made by the photographer who shot a school yearbook portrait may be around \$25 while my license of the photo of the president and first lady being well worth \$100, while an airliner plunging to earth may be worth thousands. It all depends on the context.

And as to negotiating agreements in crisis situations and under stress, that is what AP photographers are trained to do and are known for. And if a photographer or reporter is not sure on what to offer as a licensing fee, there are several photo editors who are well versed and capable of doing the negotiating whereupon the field staff only has to get the imagery to the photo desk. I've seen it happen many times, and done very well by very competent colleagues at the AP mother ship which is part of their jobs. As to the contract language itself, AP corporate supplies the form that was probably written by its attorneys.

Worst reader backlashes

[Dave Tomlin](#) - Keith Robinson's salute to the co-writer of "Country Roads" reminded me of my two worst reader backlashes when I was editor of the Sunday San Antonio Express-News in the early 70s. One came after we left out the crossword puzzle. The other followed a snarky review of a John Denver concert.

Fond memories of LA bureau in its HerEx Annex days

[Jo Steck](#) - My first day on the job in LA was at the Her-Ex building in 1982 (I think) and I have so many fond memories of that bureau.

Spencer Jones was the ACOB and Ben Brown was the COB. And the cast of characters both word side and photos was incredible. We had the best of times (fruit baskets from Bob and Dolores Hope and poinsettias from someone (guys help me here) at Christmas; Bob Thomas's Hollywood connections, Linda Deutsch's Strangler and anything, really, that a name could be put to... the McMartins, Billie Jean King.

We tried our hands at softball, led by John Nadel and Denny Arar, and we partied until they kicked us out at Corky's, the hole-in-the-wall bar next to the Her-Ex. I'm pretty sure Tom Waits wrote Closing Time for us.

It was the camaraderie with the Her-Ex folks over late-night beers that kept us strong. And it was those beers (and maybe a shot or two of Southern Comfort) that made us happy despite whatever stories might've come our way during the day.

My best memory of Corky's though was one I can't really remember - which was not uncommon for me then. At the time, I drove a mustard-yellow Mustang convertible, Flicka, and we had this parking lot across the street manned by a young Hispanic man... We'd pull in at 7a, at 11th and Hill and he'd park the car

somewhere. Sometimes it was the same place, but other times maybe a car or two away... And it was never an 8-hour day, we would leave whenever.

So after this particular day, we (usually Reed Saxon, Nicky, Red McLendon, Steve Oualline, Deb, Michelle... oh the entire staff, possibly) headed across the street for adult beverages. After a few or more, we headed back to our cars and I went back up to the office to grab Paul Harrington, who was closing up shop. But when we crossed over to the parking lot, my car was missing. Not a trace.

Now I do have to admit that when retracing my steps as to how I got to where I was, time was sketchy. Corky's was more than a once-a-week stop for me. But I did remember arriving at the same time as JSJ that morning. So we went back upstairs and Harrington did what he does best: He got on the radio and called out for anyone/everyone to be on the lookout for Flicka and I called the police.

Longer story longer: A month later, I got a call from LAPD then CHP to tell me that she had been found... burned and gutted in a canal near Bakersfield.

The detectives and officers said it was the M.O. of drug dealers, and they were sorry for my loss.

I was too, but it was great fodder for another night at Corky's!

Getting first word from a photographer

[Doug Pizac](#) – Reed Saxon's account of breaking the news to a Nobel Prize winner was great and can give an internal joy to the photographer too for leading the news cycle.

I once had a similar experience, but not with a prize winner. Back in the 1980s the California Angels baseball team had a news conference before a game where they announced a player trade. As the event started the team's PR people handed out the press release. Instead of shooting talking heads, I went down to the locker room to see if I could get a picture of their traded pitcher cleaning out his locker.

To my surprise -- and his -- nobody in the organization told him beforehand that he was being traded. I broke the news to him by showing him the news release from the announcement happening upstairs. The player sat down on his stool with his head down reading the news in a stunned reaction. What did I do? I made photo of the athlete in his Angels uniform and then having to change into his street clothes.

My stool photo was in all the local papers the next day even though some of them had their own photographers at the game. The Angels were not pleased that I was the one who broke the news to their player. But then, they screwed up for not doing it themselves ahead of time.

A pleasant surprise when his first AP bureau chief pops in



Michael (left) and Hank. Photo/John Daniszewski

Michael Giarrusso – *AP deputy director for Newsgathering* - Sometimes, you get surprised at work when the former bureau chief who hired you 30 years ago visits. Great to see Hank Ackerman!

Hank was the COB in Atlanta when I started as an intern in 1982. About two months after the internship ended, he hired me there full-time. Years later, we worked together when I was in charge of the South for State News, and Hank agreed to take over the New Orleans bureau not long after Hurricane Katrina. He was in NYC for a brief visit, and we happened to see each other.

Ruminations from the Old Rockin' Chair

Gene Herrick - It continues to squeak, even though it has been oiled many times.

I spend more time in that old rocker than I have previously – you know because of those years of wear and tear – on me, not the chair. It is an art to meditate in a rocker. It is unbelievable the thoughts and ideas that run through one's mind when one's mouth is shut, and the quiet rocking adds rhythm to the whole process.

It is even better when one is able to rock and view a big woods in the back yard. I spend a little time meditating on my past and kicking myself in the derriere for not taking advantage of some of the opportunities I had overlooked. "Oh, I'm so busy!" That is the phoniest alibi humankind comes up with. I have had an exciting life and cherish every moment of it.

My 28 years with The Associated Press gave me experiences that few others have had the opportunity. I've "covered" some of the big stories of my time, five Presidents of the U.S., as an Associated Press War Correspondent -in Korea – 1950 – extended coverage of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, mostly in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Iowa. I also covered President John F. Kennedy in Duluth, Minnesota one week before his assassination in Dallas, TX.

Also, the beginning of the Civil Right's Movement, in 1956, with the trial of two Mississippi half-brothers for the killing of Emmitt Till, the 14-year-old black boy who went to Mississippi from his home in Chicago to visit relatives. While there, he was accused of making unwanted comments to the wives of two half-brothers, truck drivers, Roy Bryant, and J.W. Hunt.

When both half brothers got home, their wives shared with them the things they said Emmitt Till said to them, which, they said were offensive. The half-brothers, Roy Bryant, and J. W. Hunt, and others, reportedly went to Till's uncles' house, removed Till from bed, and got some friends and went to a big barn nearby, They reportedly severely beat Till to death, tied a big cotton gin fan around his neck, and threw his body into the nearby Tallahatchie River,

Both men were arrested and charged with the murder. They were brought to trial. However, as was expected, they were exonerated of the killing. The result was expected in Mississippi. I covered the whole trial.

There also was some irony. I had asked the judge what he would do if Emmitt's mother's announced visit came about, and she entered the courtroom door? He responded that he would "probably throw her in jail."

While sitting on the steps of the judge's bench, I whispered to him that it might be prudent that when Mrs. Till came into the courtroom, that he call a recess. And, that is exactly what he did.

We then followed her to the "Black" press table. Minutes later the trial resumed.

Immediately following, and in Alabama, was the removal of a black student, Autherine Lucy, from the University of Alabama. Then, quickly following, was the removal of Rosa Parks from a Montgomery, Alabama, public bus. Almost immediately following, was the rise of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Montgomery, which led to his growing notoriety. I took pictures of both occasions.

That was the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, and was quickly followed by Autherine Lucy, a black student, being kicked out of the University of Alabama in 1956.

Next, also in 1956, was the removal of Rosa Parks from a Montgomery city bus, fingerprinted, and jailed. I took the now famous picture of Parks being fingerprinted.



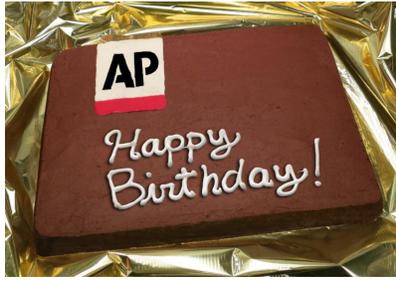
Following that was the arrest and jailing of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Montgomery. I also took the now famous picture of King being kissed on the cheek by his wife after he got out of jail. King went on to be a great orator, and speaking world-wide.

Unfortunately, on April 4, 1968, Rev. King was assassinated while standing on a motel deck in Memphis, Tennessee. His body was immediately airdropped back to Atlanta.

My New York office immediately dispatched me from my photo post in Chicago, to fly to Memphis, and take over coverage.

The next day, I went to the weathered second-floor bathroom, put my arms on the windowsill where the killer had rested his gun arm. That was a very strange feeling for me.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Happy birthday a day late to...

[Jay Jorden](#)

Today...

[Jerry Ceppos](#)

On Saturday to...

[Matt Bokor](#)

Stories of interest

Margaret Sullivan Can Only Indulge in So Much Nostalgia About Journalism (Time)

The title of Margaret Sullivan's memoir, *Newsroom Confidential*, is a retro throwback to another time, one when the journalism business was more likely to produce zesty intrigue than existential despair. The cover has a chirpy visual style that evokes the opening credits of an early-'60s film (think *The Pink Panther*), cut-and-paste that involves actual scissors and paper.

"It's so funny you say that, because when I saw the sketches, that's when I started to feel good about this book," Sullivan says. "Because I was like, This designer just captured what I was doing."

It helps that Sullivan is a bit of a throwback herself, a Lackawanna, N.Y., native drawn to journalism by the combination of civic duty generated by the Watergate scandal and by the movie, *All the President's Men*, that made it glamorous. She worked her way up to editor at the Buffalo News, enjoyed the respect of journalism's top tier signaled by service on the Pulitzer Prize Board, then made herself conspicuous at the New York Times.

Read more [here](#).

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'This is my whole life': Lesley Stahl on '60 Minutes,' longevity and her problem being called 'tough' (USA TODAY)

By Patrick Ryan

NEW YORK — Lesley Stahl doesn't back down.

The unflappable TV journalist has been with CBS for 50 years – 31 of those spent as a correspondent for venerable newsmagazine "60 Minutes." In that time, she's become known for her remarkable poise and dogged pursuit of the truth, refusing to throw softball questions to contentious interview subjects such as former President Donald Trump, who memorably stormed out of their 2020 sitdown.

"A lot of heads of state have walked out on me," says Stahl, 80, sitting at her desk on a recent rainy morning after a workout. "I'm not saying I'm proud of it, but it does signify that I'm not afraid to ask a question that a head of state isn't going to like. I see that as my role – and I see their role as being accountable for their actions, whether they're a dictator or the head of a democracy."

Half a century into her CBS career, Stahl remains as vigorous and relevant as ever. For the 55th season of "60 Minutes" (Sundays, 7 EDT/PDT), she traveled to Taiwan to report on how people are responding to the country's heightened threat from China. After stopping home in New York for a day to repack her suitcase, she flew to Tehran to interview Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Read more [here](#).

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Behind the bombshells (CNN Reliable Sources)

With Oliver Darcy

Last Thursday, at precisely 5:29pm Pacific Time, a mysterious Twitter account with the handle @LAunionLaundry posted secretly taped audio of now-former Los Angeles County Federation of Labor chief Ron Herrera. The account tagged two reporters at the Los Angeles Times, as well as the newspaper's politics account.

The move successfully caught the attention of The LAT. Its reporters soon discovered that additional audio recordings, which captured Los Angeles City Council members making racist and bigoted remarks at the Federation of Labor headquarters, had been posted to Reddit by an anonymous user 14 days prior.

David Zahniser, one of the reporters who was tagged by the Twitter account, quickly got to work on the story with the help of four colleagues: Julia Wick, Benjamin Oreskes, Dakota Smith, and Gustavo Arellano.

The team worked swiftly, but diligently, guided by their editor Steve Clow. Thursday blended into Friday, which blended into the weekend, and conference calls were convened late into Saturday night so that the team could discuss their reporting. More conference calls were held early Sunday morning until the reporters and editors agreed on a final draft.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Oct. 14, 2022



Today is Friday, Oct. 14, the 287th day of 2022. There are 78 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 14, 1964, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

On this date:

In 1066, Normans under William the Conqueror defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings.

In 1586, Mary, Queen of Scots, went on trial in England, accused of committing treason against Queen Elizabeth I. (Mary was beheaded in February 1587.)

In 1933, Nazi Germany announced it was withdrawing from the League of Nations.

In 1939, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the HMS Royal Oak, a British battleship anchored at Scapa Flow in Scotland's Orkney Islands; 833 of the more than 1,200 men aboard were killed.

In 1944, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel took his own life rather than face trial and certain execution for allegedly conspiring against Adolf Hitler.

In 1947, U.S. Air Force Capt. Charles E. ("Chuck") Yeager (YAY'-gur) became the first test pilot to break the sound barrier as he flew the experimental Bell XS-1 (later X-1) rocket plane over Muroc Dry Lake in California.

In 1964, Soviet leader Nikita S. Khrushchev was toppled from power; he was succeeded by Leonid Brezhnev as First Secretary and by Alexei Kosygin as Premier.

In 1981, the new president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak (HOHS'-nee moo-BAH'-rahk), was sworn in to succeed the assassinated Anwar Sadat. Mubarak pledged loyalty to Sadat's policies.

In 1986, Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate Elie Wiesel (EL'-ee vee-ZEHL') was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1990, composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein (BURN'-styn) died in New York at age 72.

In 2008, a grand jury in Orlando, Fla. returned charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse and aggravated manslaughter against Casey Anthony in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee. (She was acquitted in July 2011.)

In 2016, a judge in Connecticut dismissed a wrongful-death lawsuit by Newtown families against the maker of the rifle used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting massacre, citing a federal law that shielded gun manufacturers from most lawsuits over criminal use of their products.

Ten years ago: Extreme athlete Felix Baumgartner landed gracefully in the eastern New Mexico desert after a 24-mile jump from a balloon in the stratosphere in a daring, dramatic feat that officials said made him the first skydiver to fall faster than the speed of sound. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, at the age of 89, marked the 65th anniversary of his supersonic flight by smashing through the sound barrier again, this time in the backseat of an F-15 which took off from Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Former Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, 82, died in Philadelphia.

Five years ago: A truck bombing in Somalia's capital killed more than 500 people in one of the world's deadliest attacks in years; officials blamed the attack on the extremist group al-Shabab and said it was meant to target Mogadishu's international airport, but the bomb detonated in a crowded street after soldiers opened fire. The board of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences revoked the membership of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, after published reports about sexual harassment and rape allegations against Weinstein.

One year ago: New York real estate heir Robert Durst was sentenced in Los Angeles to life in prison without a chance of parole for the murder of a friend, Susan Berman, more than two decades earlier. (Durst died in prison in January 2022 at 78.) South Carolina state police said prominent attorney Alex Murdaugh had been arrested and charged with stealing insurance settlements that were meant for the sons of his late housekeeper. A work by British street artist Banksy that sensationally self-shredded

just after it sold at auction three years earlier fetched more than \$25 million — a record for the artist, and close to 20 times its pre-shredded price.

Today's Birthdays: Classical pianist Gary Graffman is 94. Movie director Carroll Ballard is 85. Country singer Melba Montgomery is 85. Former White House counsel John W. Dean III is 84. Fashion designer Ralph Lauren is 83. Singer Sir Cliff Richard is 82. Singer-musician Justin Hayward (The Moody Blues) is 76. Actor Greg Evigan is 69. TV personality Arleen Sorkin is 67. World Golf Hall of Famer Beth Daniel is 66. Singer-musician Thomas Dolby is 64. Actor Lori Petty is 59. Former MLB player and manager Joe Girardi is 58. Actor Steve Coogan is 57. Singer Karyn White is 57. Actor Edward Kerr is 56. Actor Jon Seda is 52. Country singer Natalie Maines (The Chicks) is 48. Actor-singer Shaznay Lewis (All Saints) is 47. Actor Stephen Hill is 46. Singer Usher is 44. TV personality Stacy Keibler is 43. Actor Ben Whishaw is 42. Actor Jordan Brower is 41. Director Benh Zeitlin is 40. Actor Skyler Shaye is 36. Actor-comedian Jay Pharoah is 35. Actor Max Thieriot is 34.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



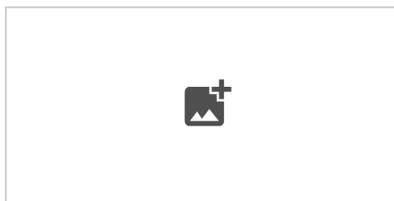
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **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.
- **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?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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