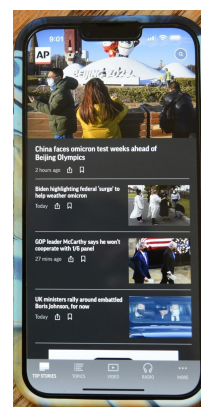


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Connecting

Jan. 10, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Jan. 10, 2023,

Fond memories of our colleague **Mike Tharp** lead today's Connecting – remembering a journalist who made his mark as a reporter, correspondent, editor and college educator.

Mike died late last week in Dallas after a valiant battle with cancer.

One who wrote about Mike was **Ron Yates** - professor emeritus and former dean of the University of Illinois College of Media who earlier worked at the Chicago Tribune for 25 years. But most proudly, he's a member of the Vietnam Old Hacks Group - journalists who covered the war in Vietnam and whose ranks include many in our Connecting family. "Don't forget the hack part," Ron said. "That's what I'm most proud of. You can forget the rest."

AP's **Edie Lederer**, the senior member of the AP active-duty family, is another "Old Hack" who shared thoughts about Mike.

Our colleague [Joe Carter](#) has a question - "Is any reporter still alive who was aboard the White House press bus in Dallas Nov. 22, 1963?"

Because UPI's Merriman Smith's regular back-up reporter Al Spivak was on vacation, Carter was among the reporters on the White House press bus in Dallas 60 years ago following JFK to the place where he was assassinated. "I turned 90 this year which prompts the question about living news reporters who were riding that bus in Dallas around noon, Nov. 22, 1963. While we honor the dead, my grandkids have raised the question and I act on their behalf noting that I am currently alive."

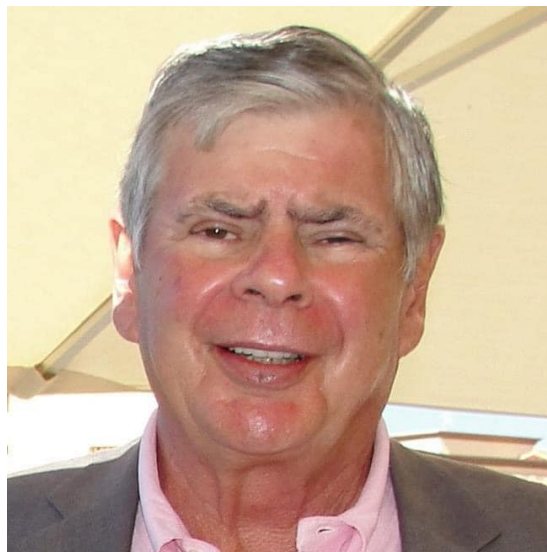
Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Mike Tharp forged stellar career at highest levels of journalism

[Ron Yates](#) - Mike Tharp was a good friend and longtime colleague. I first met him more than 45 years ago when we were both foreign correspondents based in Tokyo, Japan. Mike was with the Wall Street Journal, and I was with the Chicago Tribune.

Since then, we remained in almost constant contact. I watched Mike put together a stellar career at the highest levels of journalism, working for major news organizations such as the Wall Street Journal, U.S. News & World Report, The New York Times, and the Far Eastern Economic Review. Most recently, he served as Executive Editor of the Merced, Cal. Sun-Star.



We bonded quickly after meeting in 1976 in Tokyo because we had a lot in common. We were both natives of Kansas and graduates of the University of Kansas, and we both played basketball in high school and college.

Here's a little history about Mike:

Mike began his journalism career as a copyboy for the Topeka Daily Capital when he was 16 and later worked there as a darkroom boy, sports desk assistant, intern, and environmental writer. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English literature from St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kan., where he was student body president and a two-year letterman on the national championship basketball team.

He then spent a year in grad school at the University of Wales as a Rotary Foundation Fellow, followed by a semester on scholarship at the University of Notre Dame Law

School, from which he was drafted into military service. As a soldier in Vietnam, he wrote for the Army magazine 'Hurricane' and was awarded a Bronze Star.

After completing coursework for a master's in journalism at the University of Kansas, he was hired by the Wall Street Journal, where he served as a reporter and bureau chief in Dallas, Tokyo, and San Francisco. He also was a correspondent for the New York Times in Tokyo and Tokyo bureau chief for the Far Eastern Economic Review. In 1989-90 he was elected president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, and I served as his vice president.

For 14 years, he was a bureau chief in Tokyo and a correspondent in L.A. for U.S. News & World Report, covering four wars in the '90s.

He taught journalism for seven years at Cal State Fullerton University, where he was awarded an M.A. in Communications in 2007 and was named Outstanding Graduate Student. He became the local news editor of the Merced Sun-Star in June 2007 and executive editor in October 2008.

He won first place for Local News Writing in the 2007 Inland Press Assn. Contest for his story on a Merced Marine killed in Iraq, and a Gruner Prize for meritorious public service in journalism for 2009. He covered the war in Iraq for six weeks for McClatchy in the summer of 2008 and returned there in mid-June 2009 for another deployment.

Mike was a consummate professional. He was an excellent reporter and a superb writer. Journalists such as Mike are rare and his expertise and talent will be missed—both in the newsroom and at the University of Texas at Dallas, where he taught journalism.

RIP, old friend.

-0-

Edie Lederer – I met Mike Tharp when five American reporters got to cover the 1979 World Table Tennis Championships in North Korea when he was working for the Wall Street Journal. It was an incredible trip. Mike was a real pro and had a great sense of humor.

-0-

Jeff Rowe - Mike crammed enough journalism triumphs and adventures into his life for 10 men.

I was lucky enough to work with him in two arenas -- the Wall Street Journal and California State University Fullerton, where we both taught.

Mike was an all-star journalist, reporting with equal skill from war zones and the pages of corporate and government documents.

His students revered him -- no other professors or instructors brought his depth of experience to the classroom.

For Mike, reporting always seemed to turn into James Bond-like adventures, many of them related in editions of Connecting over the years. He was bold, dedicated, hard-working, and seemed to see the world with bemused detachment.

What I would give for just one more conversation with Mike.

Seeking photos of everyday life in Afghanistan

[Suzette Heiman](#) - I am now one of a very small group of tutors helping Afghan refugees in Jefferson City, Mo., learn English. Our families come from the Kunar district near Kabul, and I work one-on-one with a father of 10 children. Others work with similarly with the women, most of whom have very little or no education.

For one lesson I showed my student some pictures from two children's books at the library and some general Afghanistan pictures found on the internet. The goal was for him to verbally share what he saw in the pictures and talk about his life there. He and his wife, now fully engaged in the activity, wanted to see more photos of the Kunar area as they hadn't visited other parts of the country. These are very hard to find. I would love to have more photos of everyday life, streets, buildings, markets, people, geography, etc. in that area. If you think this is a worthy request and that Connecting members might have some photos to share to help us with our English-language tutoring, they could be sent to heimans@missouri.edu.

Aside: As part of the picture class, my student got out his backpack and shared the work he did for the U.S. military. It was full of medals, letters, certificates and other commendations for the very risky work he did, that of going into villages and identifying where the Taliban lived. He talked about getting inside their homes and opening the doors for the soldiers to come in and how he always wasn't sure if he would see his family again. Such courage for such an important cause.

On the virtues of Charlie Price

[Dale Leach](#) - Allow me to chime in on the virtues of Charlie Price, who was a great partner during my time as Seattle COB.

Charlie was the consummate COC -- eager to help in any situation and on top of every facet of his job overseeing the needs of AP members in Washington and Alaska. As Dave Herron pointed out, Charlie was quick to dispatch technicians to Alaska when emergencies occurred -- and also quick to ask the critical question during a winter service outage: "Have you cleaned the snow out of the satellite dish?"

The number of his colleagues who attended Charlie's retirement dinner was testament to the respect he commanded among his AP colleagues.

RIP, Charlie.

Holding on to your notes

Henry Bradsher - The recent account of notes from reporting in Cuba going by mistake to Moscow instead of Miami brings to mind my own near loss of reporting notes not yet written up.

After covering President Gerald Ford's December 1975 visit to China, Indonesia and the Philippines for The Washington Star, I continued on around the world for reporting from South Asian countries that I had covered for The AP from 1959 to 1964: Bangladesh (then East Pakistan), Nepal, India and Pakistan. I cabled home reports from the first three countries.

From India I crossed overland to Lahore, Pakistan, to begin interviews on the situation under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. In the early 1960s, when from AP Delhi I was also responsible for Pakistan, I had several lengthy background talks with Bhutto. A UC Berkeley graduate, as a government minister he liked to bounce ideas off an American in a relaxed way.

But he had changed. I had followed reports of his increasingly dictatorial rule since assuming power in formerly West Pakistan after East Pakistan broke away to become Bangladesh in 1971 (a war I covered). So my first call in Lahore was to the heavily guarded home of a once prominent colleague of Bhutto's who had fallen out with him, accusing him of illegalities. Turned out I was followed from there. Soon after returning to my hotel, I was visited by an aggrieved official from the government information office who complained that I had not registered there.

After also talking with a judge in Lahore who had raised legal objections to some of Bhutto's actions as well as several of the prime minister's local officials and supporters, I moved on to Rawalpindi and nearby Islamabad, its building then being completed as Pakistan's new capital. There I interviewed both supporters and critics of Bhutto in his government and out, as well as diplomats from several embassies and international NGO representatives.

Then I was taking a late-night flight connecting to Washington before writing a series on Pakistan for The Star. Shortly before I left my Rawalpindi hotel, a Pakistani friend since 1959 phoned from Islamabad. He needed to talk to me, privately, not on the phone. Sorry, no time to meet him, I was leaving for the nearby airport. Years later, he told me that I had been under continuous surveillance ever since that first Lahore interview.

At the airport I went through security normally, checked a suitcase and, carrying my notes in a small briefcase, boarded the plane. Then, when it should have left, several officials came aboard and asked me to return to the terminal. There, others seemed unsure what to do, hesitant to confront me. As I held tightly to the briefcase, they eyed it but did not try to seize it. Finally, I was allowed to reboard the delayed plane. When I got to Washington, I found that my suitcase had been broken open and searched.

Using those notes, I wrote a series for the Star that described a political situation that no longer observed constitutional rules. It got some attention at the State

Department. I was invited to meet there for a discussion of the reality in Pakistan. I later learned the meeting was also attended by some CIA analysts, not identified to me.

A year and a half later Bhutto was deposed in a military coup. Charging him with having ordered the murder of a political opponent – I had heard reports of several such cases but could not verify and publish them – the military hanged him in April 1979 amid considerable public discussion of whether a once freely elected leader should face the death penalty.

Butterflies a solution to identifying suitcase

[Henry Bradsher](#) - Identical suitcases can often be a problem, as Doug Goodrich reports on an airport switch with a man who ended up in a hotel across the street.

In early 1970, the first time I flew into Saigon to begin reporting for overviews of the Vietnam situation, I had a hard time finding my hard-shell Samsonite suitcase among many identical ones stacked on a large dolly wheeled in from the plane.

When I got back to my family in Hong Kong, I mentioned this. Without telling me ahead of time my wife got our sons, then 5 and 6, to paint butterflies all over the suitcase.

Easily identifiable, although sometimes embarrassing.

Having a Vietnamese lunch



Nick Ut - Peter Arnett (left) and I have Vietnamese lunch after New Year's together (with Andrew Arnett)

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER **AP sportswriter breaks news of Pelé's death**

Brazil sportswriter Mauricio Savarese had been preparing for the death of soccer legend Pelé for months, if not years. When it happened, he and his colleagues from all formats delivered a huge win for AP.

Savarese long had been building sources close to Pelé, from among his current and former agents, friends and family of the three-time World Cup winner considered by many as the greatest player ever.

The 82-year-old Pelé was hospitalized in November to treat ailments related to colon cancer. Through sources, Savarese learned that Pelé's condition was critical and that his death could occur at any minute. Colleagues across all formats mobilized to put finishing touches on the preparedness, from the main obituary to stories looking at every aspect of Pelé's life and accomplishments, to video, lives and photo packages.

Savarese provided daily updates through dedicated Slack and WhatsApp. There were also editorial resources on stand-by to support on-site coverage at the hospital in Sao Paulo, in Pelé's hometown of Santos and to gather reactions.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

AP reveals Mexico officials benefitting from increased migration

In July, Edgar Clemente, a freelance reporter in the southern Mexican city of Tapachula near the border with Guatemala, proposed a story about how lawyers, immigration agents and migrant smugglers were working together to sell immigration documents to thousands of migrants crossing Mexico to the U.S. border.

Clemente worked with Mexico reporter María Verza over the following months to detail how a loose network of corruption was feeding off the migrants. Clemente relied on long-time sources in Tapachula, while Verza made freedom of information requests and combed public records for evidence of how Mexican authorities were doing little to address corruption in the country's immigration agency. Verza also found a public defender in central Mexico who had been waging a lonely fight against immigration authorities who were colluding with a local attorney to steer clients to her firm.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Bob Burns](#)

Welcome to Connecting



[June Erlick](#)

[Lou Uchitelle](#)

Stories of interest

Axios Launches Centralized News Hub (Axios)

1 big thing: In 2023, Axios will launch a new centralized news hub bridging the newsroom's national and local coverage.

The new team of reporters and editors will synthesize reporting from Axios' national news team and Axios Local cities to identify key stories and trends emerging across the country.

Hub reporters will also produce data-driven coverage, special weekend reports and city guides for Axios Local newsletters, breaking down how national trends impact readers' communities, and the latest updates in key areas like entertainment, real estate and sports.

Read more [here](#).

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Rural editor dreads writing her column, because 'The world has become an ugly place for us to exchange ideas and thoughts,' with 'baseless cynicism and unwillingness to think' (Rural Blog)

By Sharon Burton

"One Voice" column, Adair County Community Voice, Columbia, Ky.

I've been a journalist for several decades now, and I'm honored to have won my share of awards over the years. When it comes to annual newspaper contests, the ones I've been most proud of were awards for writing this column.

I'm proud to say I've won first place more than once, and there was a time when that encouraged me to bravely share my thoughts on this page, hoping that readers would take the journey with me as I called out elected officials when I believed it was needed, when I shared words of wisdom I had learned from life's experiences, or even when I shared a warm story about family.

I often heard from readers who either loved what I have written or really, really didn't like it, and either way, I knew I had encouraged others to spend at least a moment in thought about something important.

Today, the part of my week I dread the most is sitting down and writing this column. I leave it until I can no longer avoid it, and this page is often the last one to make it to the printers.

Read more [here](#).

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The Streaming TV Model Must Change (Mediaite)

By Dan Perry

Contrary to popular belief, the entertainment industry and news business face a remarkably similar problem, and the streaming platforms will start to grapple with it this year: Consumers cannot subscribe to everything.

People will seek out content, be it video or other experiences, but there is only so much attention to dispense, so many hours in the day and so much willingness to create permanent customer relationships. Subscriptions, unless modestly priced, quickly annoy.

Consider the TV evolution, and how it has tracked with human psychology: Once there were a few TV channels, even in the United States. By the 1980s there were hundreds, distributed by cable in single bundled subscriptions – the first proof of concept for payments. But in each region, you only had to get one of these to get all the channels.

Then came premium channels like HBO and Showtime, which you paid a little extra and received via cable; not many paid for more than one of those.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

How about those Bulldogs?



Georgia players celebrate their victory during the 2023 College Football Playoff National Championship game against TCU at SoFi Stadium, Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, in Inglewood, California. (Hyosub Shin / Hyosub.Shin@ajc.com)

EDITOR'S NOTE: And for we print fans, have you ever seen a post-game celebration where players hold up their iPhone with the big headline???

Today in History - Jan. 10, 2023



Today is Tuesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2023. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

On this date:

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts, collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first Black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1971, French fashion designer Coco Chanel died in Paris at age 87.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 2002, Marines began flying hundreds of al-Qaida prisoners in Afghanistan to a U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2003, North Korea withdrew from a global treaty barring it from making nuclear weapons.

In 2007, President George W. Bush said he took responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announced an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence. The Democratic-controlled House voted 315-116 to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

In 2011, a judge in Austin, Texas, ordered former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay to serve three years in prison for his money laundering conviction. (DeLay's conviction was ultimately overturned.) No. 1 Auburn beat No. 2 Oregon 22-19 on a last-second field goal to win the BCS national title.

Ten years ago: Vice President Joe Biden met with representatives from the National Rifle Association and other pro-gun groups as he worked on recommendations to curb gun violence. A series of bombings in different parts of Pakistan killed nearly 200 people. Three Kurdish women, including a founder of a militant separatist group battling Turkish troops, were found shot to death in Paris. Major League Baseball announced it would test for human growth hormone throughout the regular season and increase efforts to detect abnormal levels of testosterone.

Five years ago: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra said Charles Dutoit had stepped down as artistic director and principal conductor after multiple allegations of sexual assault. After nine terms in the House, California Republican Rep. Darrell Issa announced that he would not seek re-election.

One year ago: Robert Durst, the New York real estate heir who was sentenced to life in prison for killing his best friend, died at a hospital outside the California prison where he'd been serving the sentence; he was 78. Novak Djokovic returned to the tennis court for training after winning a round in the legal battle to stay in Australia and compete in the Australian Open; a judge reinstated his visa, which had been pulled after officials said he didn't qualify for an exemption to a rule requiring all non-citizens to be vaccinated against COVID-19. (Djokovic would eventually be deported for almost a year before returning for the Australian Open in 2023.) Stetson Bennett threw two touchdown passes to lead Georgia to a 33-18 win over Alabama for its first national championship in 41 years.

Today's birthdays: Jan. 10: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 88. Movie director Walter Hill is 83. Actor William Sanderson is 79. Singer Rod Stewart is 78. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 75. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 74. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 72. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 71. Singer Pat Benatar is 70. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 69. Rock musician Michael Schenker (UFO) is 68. Singer Shawn Colvin is 67. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 64. Actor Evan Handler is 62. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 59. Actor Trini Alvarado is 56. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 45. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 44. Actor Sarah Shahi is 43. American roots singer Valerie June is 41.

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.

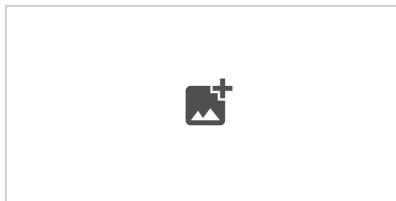
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



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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