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## Connecting

Jan. 26, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Jan. 26, 2023,

Our colleague **Peter Arnett** shares the story of how he and the late **Jane See White** collaborated back in the 1970s on an AP takeout covering a sensational murder mystery that exploded across the pages of the Big Apple's tabloids.

"I had the good fortune to be based in AP Headquarters as a Special Correspondent during the 1970s when Jane was steadily building her journalism career," Arnett wrote. "As you'll see below, I had the wonderful opportunity in late summer 1978 to work with Jane on a feature story ordered by Executive Editor Lou Boccardi for the AP wires."

We lead today's Connecting with Arnett's account of their collaboration. White, who died Jan. 11, was a journalist for 40 years including six with the AP in New York from 1976-82 as an editor on the World Desk and as part of a six-person national writing team.

ON NORM ABELSON'S MEMORIES: John Brewer writes to say "I'm a big, big fan of Norm Abelson (soon to turn 92). Delighted he's part of Connecting. Never had the opportunity to meet him, but always look forward to reading his poignant, often-poetic remembrances like the one published Wednesday about Gordon Glover and other AP comrades going back some 70 years -- "All of these people remain alive in, and enrich, my memory." And then there was Norm's wonderful New Year's evaluation (Jan. 3 Connecting) which concluded: "Here's my other resolution for 2023: Less research. Less negative. More lack Daniels."



**DID YOU EVER QUIT A JOB IN A HUFF?** That's a question I pose to you after our colleague **Nora Raum** told how she did just that, three times even, one of those she left being the AP. "I think everyone should quit in a huff once in their life," she said.

How'd it work out for you? For Nora, she landed at NPR where she has worked as a newscaster for the past 36 years - and still is at it. No regrets that she worked for AP, she adds - that's where she met her husband, the late **Tom Raum**.

I look forward to your story.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

# Covering a Manhattan murder mystery with Jane See White



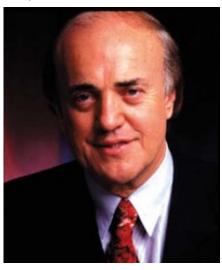
The story of a brutal New York murder involving a beautiful young model and her feuding boyfriends was assigned to a promising young AP reporter recently from the World Desk, Jane See White, and a veteran international correspondent Peter Arnett. Their 1978 Sunday feature carried their bylines and was heavily played in many U.S. newspapers including the Memphis Commercial Appeal that gave it most of a whole page with pictures in the A Section on August 20, 1978.

<u>Peter Arnett</u> - "This is not a movie script, though it could be. This is about life on a very fast track and what one detective called "the juiciest murder that has come down the pike in New York for years." So reads the Nut Graf in a feature story I had the pleasure of writing in New York with AP colleague Jane See White in late summer 1978. CONNECTING'S recent touching tributes to Jane White on her purposeful life in journalism and her recent untimely death brought back memories of not only of working with her on this one story, but also of Jane's sparkling personality and her moxie, a very American word of that era used to describe courage and determination.

The murder mystery began Sunday August 6, 1978, with the discovery of the mutilated body of New York restauranteur Jack Tupper in a charred wooden crate in a Bronx wasteland. Witnesses noticed that two men had dumped the box and departed in a yellow Cadillac. Police soon picked up a former well known horse trainer Howard "Buddy" Jacobson and a second man traveling in the Cadillac. By next morning New York's competitive media was splashing stories of a murderous "love triangle" involving prominent young model Melanie Cain who was said to have dumped her long-time boyfriend Jacobson and had moved in with the victim Tupper. There were other undocumented headlined assertions alluding to call-girl rings and cocaine

dealerships, and that the FBI was involved along with the Mafia. Network television took the story nationally.

Jane See White and I were given the assignment by Executive Editor Louis Boccardi with the instruction to come up with the "definitive" story of what was really happening in this murder mystery and have it ready for Sunday AP newspapers in "a week or so." We agreed that initially Jane would track down Melanie's model friends in New York and that I would seek out Jacobson's racing acquaintances, and work with police investigators and sources in the east side



bars and restaurants frequented by the parties. This was a wide-open Manhattan still reeling from the erratic John Lindsay mayoral years and leads on significant and exclusive information came quickly. After several productive days the AP's superb news feature writer Sid Moody joined us to shape up our developing story, now scheduled for use Sunday, August 20.

eek after work at Alvin Ailey's At the Saratoga racetrack they say he school. If anything opened up, she wanted had a mind like a calculating machine. to be ready Numbers. Odds. "You have to move fast. Melanie's modeling career blossomed at Buy. Sell. Keep active," he said. "You've Buddy And Melanie In Happier Days When They Lived Together

that can be strung together

The animals ask each of food which is hidden from and then use the name to rethen share.

In a similar exercise, or kinds of food which its con Plexiglas wall, can see and the food then selects the through an opening in the

The achievement, an ac August 18 issue of the journ instance in which apes that tary language skills have about subjects that are bey communication.

Although other chimps ed to ask one another for tilanguage of the deaf, these chimpanzees have been obs a native form of nonverba

In the new experimen Regional Primate Research panzees communicate thro which each key bears a geo specific word.

The first chimpanzee to male named Lana who, begit to converse with human beit the names and colors of varied with an assortment of old correctly such questions as

Lana made a conceptual when she spontaneously dev request not only physical ob that she saw and wanted to s grasped the concept that lan not only concrete objects it

The scientist responsib Lana and for the new report chimps named Austin and St baugh, chairman of the psycl State University. The new re Savage-Rumbaugh and Sally Yerkes, which is a Federallyated with Emory University

Sherman is 4½ years old most recent experiment bega training since infancy and a kinds of food such as commer oranges, milk, bread, sweet

To prepare the animals to their through the keyboard chimp out of the room and st put inside the container. The were taken back into the rowaited.

The trainer then asked what was in the container. The chimp, having read the first encouraged to ask for the food chimp did so correctly, both

Former Eileen Ford model Melannie Cain photographed here with boyfriend Howard "Buddy" Jacobson in happier days where they lived together for five years in an apartment building he owned on East 84th St. Their relationship collapsed when Melanie fell in love with Jack Tupper, the murder victim, who ran the Third Avenue bar the All Ireland. AP Photo.

Of course, all this happened 44 years ago and I'm sure a lot more compelling stories were covered by the AP that year. But let me share with you are few paragraphs from our murder-mystery story that I recalled courtesy of the yellowing tear-sheet from the Commercial Appeal newspaper I found in my garage.

#### OF MELANIE CAIN

At the eye of the storm, in the beginning as at the end, was limpid eyed, lovely Melanie Cain. Everyone remembers Melanie as nice. Beautiful certainly. Bright but naïve. Down to earth in her open mid-western way. Listen to Cathy Main, a classmate of Melanie's in Naperville, Ill. "There are certain people you can be jealous of in school -- they're beautiful, smart, everything you want to be. There are some you can't be jealous of because they are so nice. Melanie was one of those people."

Melanie went to New York in 1973 and presented herself to Eileen Ford, grande dame of the modeling business. This taut, tough agent sees thousands of pretty young women each year, and tells most, 'No. You haven't got it.' Melanie Cain had it. Five feet, eight inches tall, 34-24-34, brown hair, blue eyes, and that something special something else. She was taken on by Mrs. Ford. Her first tentative step landed her at the top of the heap. She was 18 years old. 'She was very, very young and extremely pretty,' recalls Mrs. Ford's partner and husband, Jerry. 'And she was terribly naïve.'

Melanie's career blossomed at Ford. There was a Seventeen cover. Then a Cosmopolitan cover. At Glamour and Redbook and Cosmopolitan they say Melanie is reliable, professional, and competent. Melanie and two other models decided to live together and found a seven-story brick building on East 84th street across from Nicola's, a restaurant decorated with framed book jackets autographed by authors like Gay Talese and Peter Mass and frequented by those with fame and money and with those chasing both.

#### OF HOWARD "BUDDY" JACOBSON

The landlord of their building lived there. His name was Howard "Buddy" Jacobson, part of the crowd that flocked to Nicola's. Melanie's roommate found him a bit strange. Another tenant, Bob Murphy, called him, "The Weasel". But Melanie liked Buddy Jacobson. He looked a little like Charlie Chaplin --- lean face, bushy moustache, unruly dark hair. He said he was 29 and, since he looked older, carried ID to prove it. She liked the two teenage boys he introduced as his brothers. She enjoyed joining the three in Jacobson's apartment for take-out Chinese food. Melanie chose not to trouble herself when other tenants told her buddy was lying. He was 43. The two boys were his sons. He had an ex-wife on Long Island. "She wanted to believe his little lies," a roommate says, "and it didn't seem so important." Melanie moved in with Jacobson a year later.

There was a time when nothing Jacobson did was mediocre, when everything he touched turned to gold. He was born in Flatbush. Brooklyn, on December 30, 1930, his father a hat company executive. His mother Florence was sister to three of horse racing's biggest names: Eugene, Sydney and Hirsch Jacobs. Hirsch's daughter Patrice and her husband, Louis Wolfson, owned Affirmed, this year's triple crown winner. In 1965 Buddy, seeing his future in racing, trained for eight owners. He saddled 198 winners and was the nation' most successful trainer for the third straight year.

Success did not make Jacobson popular. Other trainers did not think much of him. He viewed racing as a business, as a way to make money. Horses, he often said, are "'machines". Jockeys simply steer. At the Saratoga racetrack they say he had a mind

like a calculating machine. Numbers. Odds. "You have to move fast. Buy. Sell. Keep active," he said. "You've got to wheel and deal. Stand still and you're dead."

Eventually everything tumbled down. In February 1970 one of his owners accused him of stealing, one saying Jacobson cheated him out of \$14,500 by lying about some horse deals. Later that year he bought two tenement buildings on East 84th Street, tore them down and built an apartment building. Then came Melanie.

#### OF THE VICTIM JACK TUPPER

Jack Tupper was 34, a big guy nearly six feet and hefty, round-faced and balding. He grew up in Queen's. His father was a clerk in the Hall of Records. Tupper had a master's degree in business from St John's University and had built and operated the Sherwood Inn, a bar and restaurant, before leaving Queens for Manhattan. He was divorced with a son. He ran sports programs for ghetto kids with his brother Jerry. And he was ambitious, full of plans for his future. Those who knew Jack Tupper say he was no sex symbol. Just a nice guy on his way up. He had moved into Buddy Jacobson's building some months earlier. He jogged often with his new neighbor Melanie Cain. By then friends say Melanie was unhappy. "Apparently, she'd been contemplating breakup with Buddy for a long time, but it was hard. She'd been with him five years." Jack Tupper, his family says, represented a safe port to Melanie. Beyond that he may have been a way to strike back at Jacobson who had taken over her life.

#### OF THE BLOODY FINALE

The fuse ignited when Melanie announced her feelings. Tupper's sister Dorothy said Melanie simply turned to him one day as they jogged and said, "I have a crush on you." Melanie moved in with Tupper across the hall from the apartment she had occupied five years earlier. She said she was going to marry him. "It was a very loving relationship," she said later. "We were going to spend a loving life together." Tupper's family says he wasn't planning marriage. His sister says he became involved with Melanie "only because he felt complimented by her affections and because he was protective and wanted to help her out of the brutal relationship with Jacobson."

Jacobson tried desperately to win Melanie back. Tupper secretly tape-recorded one plea in which Jacobson offered to set him up in another restaurant and bar if he gave her up. Melanie tried to ride out the storm, to reason with Jacobson. "We were trying to handle it like adults," she said later. I thought we were finally getting it resolved."

By Sunday August 6 Melanie had decided she and Tupper should move and went apartment hunting. She returned around noon and found Tupper unexpectedly gone. She looked in at Jacobson's apartment, found it in disarray, and alarmed, called police. About that time a couple driving 11 miles away in the Bronx saw two men drag a crate from a yellow Cadillac. They saw the men attempt to set the crate afire, then sped away. They wrote down the license number. Police stopped a Cadillac with that license. The driver was Buddy Jacobson. Police say the couple can identify him as one of the two men. The other is being sought. Fireman found a burned body inside the charred crate. The medical examiner said Tupper had been beaten, repeatedly stabbed, shot several times, then burned.

Jacobson was charged with murder and jailed. When he turned up at a bail hearing, the Charlie Chaplin look was gone, his black moustache shaved, his bushy hair cropped close. He looked his age. Police privately ruled out reports that drugs and mafia figures were involved in the case. "Melanie just outgrew him. She learned everything that Jacobson knew and wanted to move on," one detective says. "Her departure threatened not only his manhood but his business interests."

Melanie is in seclusion. Tupper's family is bitter. Just 15 months ago his brother Jerry died of Leukemia. Now Jack is gone. They gave his watch and his crucifix to his 10-year-old son Paul.

(Howard Jacobson was eventually convicted of second-degree murder in 1980 after a sensational 11-week trial. By then Jane White was part of a six-person AP national writing team and was winning recognition for her investigative stories on the toxic damage by chemicals used in defoliants and fertilizers. As for me, I was about to move on from the AP with many wonderful memories of staffers I had known and worked with in my 20 years with the news organization.)

### Hosea Williams & Lester Maddox



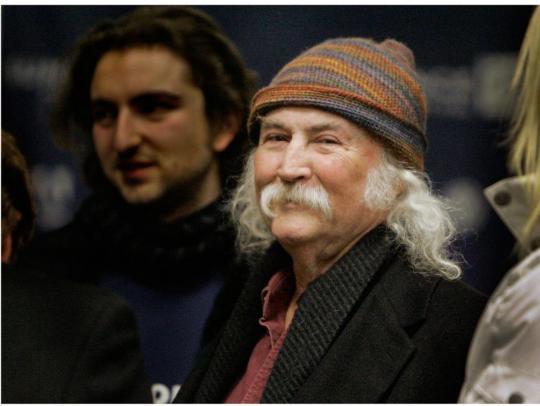
\*\* FILE \*\* Civil rights leader Hosea Williams, left, and former Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox, right, talk during a joint interview at the Atlanta eatery, the Varsity, in the early 1990's. Maddox, the restaurateur who became a symbol of segregationist defiance and then Georgia governor in a fluke election, died Wednesday, June 25, 2003, family members said. He was 87. (AP Photo/Ric Feld)

Ric Feld - In case inquiring minds still want to know here's the original pix that went with the Maddox - Williams story (Wednesday's Connecting). When I got the assignment, I knew both gentlemen (Lester lived down the road from me) so I called them both and asked if they could meet me at the iconic hot dog restaurant, The Varsity, in downtown Atlanta. Of course, I forgot to mention that there would be three of us for lunch. Both took the omission well and I got the photo.

### **Honoring David Crosby**







Amy Sancetta - I'm a little late in honoring David Crosby who passed away on Jan. 18. I was lucky enough to photograph him a few times over the years: At Live Aid in Philadelphia in 1983 with Graham Nash and Stephen Stills (top right), at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008 with CSNY and by himself, and at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductions in 1996 (not pictured here). At Sundance, when Graham Nash sort of scolded me for the way I originally wanted to pose the group, Crosby patted my shoulder and told me not to worry about Graham - that he was often grumpy. Thank you, David, for that small kindness which I remember well to this day

### **Great Blue Heron at rest**



<u>Hank Ackerman</u> - Resting aside Avondale Estates Lake near Atlanta in 48F weather during January stopover. Range of this wading bird is most of Canada, the lower 48 U.S., much of Mexico and the Caribbean.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



### **David Royse**

### Stories of interest

## WHO'S REALLY IN THIS ICONIC VIETNAM WAR PHOTO? (HistoryNet)



Several bloody and bandaged soldiers ride on top of a tank used as a make-shift ambulance after the Battle of Hue in the Vietnam War, Hue, Vietnam, February 15, 1968. (John Olson/Getty Images)

#### By CLAIRE BARRETT

It has become one of the most enduring photographs of the Vietnam War: Several wounded, dead or dying American troops ride atop a tank being used as a makeshift ambulance. In the foreground, a corpsman is holding up an IV drip for a fellow Marine, clinging to life with a chest wound.

It is this very photo that has sparked a heartfelt reunion — and a controversy of mistaken identity.

In 2017, author Mark Bowden released his critically acclaimed book, "Hué 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam." Under the iconic photograph, Bowden's caption identified the injured Marine as Pfc. Alvin Grantham.

The following year, Mayer Katz, who had been a U.S. Army surgeon with a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital unit near Hué, was reading Bowden's book when he came across that image.

The name in the caption froze him.

Read more **here**. Shared by Paul Albright.

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# Donald Trump to be allowed back on Facebook after 2-year ban (AP)

#### By BARBARA ORTUTAY and JILL COLVIN

Facebook parent Meta said Wednesday it will restore former President Donald Trump 's personal account in the coming weeks, ending a two-year suspension it imposed in the wake of the Jan. 6 insurrection.

The company said in a blog post it is adding "new guardrails" to ensure there are no "repeat offenders" who violate its rules, even if they are political candidates or world leaders.

"The public should be able to hear what their politicians are saying — the good, the bad and the ugly — so that they can make informed choices at the ballot box," wrote Nick Clegg, Meta's vice president of global affairs.

Clegg added that when there is a "clear risk" to real-world harm, Meta will intervene.

"In the event that Mr. Trump posts further violating content, the content will be removed and he will be suspended for between one month and two years, depending on the severity of the violation," he wrote. Facebook suspended Trump on Jan. 7, 2021, for praising people engaged in violent acts at the Capitol a day earlier. But the company had resisted earlier calls — including from its own employees — to remove Trump's account.

Read more **here**.

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## Journalist deaths jumped 50% in 2022, led by Ukraine, Mexico (Los Angeles Times)

#### By EVENS SANON

Killings of journalists around the world jumped by 50% in 2022 compared with the previous year, driven largely by attacks in Ukraine, Mexico and Haiti.

According to a report this week by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 67 news media workers were killed worldwide in 2022, the highest number since 2018. Journalists in the three countries say the increased danger has forced them to work under extreme stress.

The effect is particularly notable in Haiti, where seven journalists were killed in 2022, a huge number for a small island country of about 12 million people. Some were killed by violent street gangs that have basically taken over the capital, Port au Prince, but at least two were shot by police.

Radio Caraibes reporter Mackenson Remy, who still covers news on the street, said journalists no longer know whom to trust.

Read more **here**. Shared by Peg Coughlin.

-0-

# The first newspaper strike of the digital age stretches into a new year (Nieman Lab)

#### By SARAH SCIRE

PITTSBURGH — Scabby was wearing a bridal veil.

The blow-up rat — a staple at union protests — was joined by dozens of Pittsburgh Post-Gazette employees outside the Duquesne Club, a "premiere private club," where Post-Gazette publisher John Robinson Block was celebrating his wedding.

The mid-November rally was one of dozens of protests the Post-Gazette workers have held since walking off the job on October 18, 100 days ago — and becoming the first American newspaper to strike since journalism entered the digital age.

Even as newspaper profits have plummeted and job losses have piled up, newsroom employees in the U.S. have stopped short of open-ended strikes for more than 20 years. But the Post-Gazette is ending that streak. Strike actions have included picketing the newsroom, running radio ads in Pittsburgh, calling for C-SPAN to remove a Post-Gazette owner from its board of directors, encouraging sources to sign a solidarity pledge, and asking subscribers to cancel their Post-Gazette subscriptions until the strike ends.

Read more **here.** Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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## A photographer visited more than 100 newspapers in rural Kansas (Poynter)

#### By: Kristen Hare

Leading up to the 2020 presidential election, photographer Jeremiah Ariaz wanted to make images that showed what democracy looked like in rural America. So he traveled across the country, from swing state to swing state. He visited campaign offices, main streets, protest sites and sometimes, newspapers.

Just as the COVID-19 lockdown was spreading, Ariaz went to Sublette, Kansas, where the Spanish flu was thought to have begun in 1918.

He stood on Main Street with his camera and tripod when a man approached him, asked what he was doing, and invited the photographer to stop by his office. The man thought he had something Ariaz might be interested in.

"It ended up being the local newspaper office."

Kenneth Bell showed Ariaz the newspaper's archives and the newsroom's abandoned darkroom. Immediately, he realized how what he was seeing in the Haskell County Monitor-Chief tied in with the bigger questions he had about democracy and rural America.

Read more <u>here.</u> Shared by Robert Meyers, Mike Holmes.

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# Nonprofit collaborations provide the resources for deep work (Editor and Publisher)

#### Alyssa Choiniere | for Editor & Publisher

Nonprofit news collaborations deepen investigative work, amplify quality journalism and connect for-profit news organizations to new funding streams.

Mission-based collaborations include both local and national organizations, focusing on regional issues, highlighting problems disproportionately affecting minorities and taking a deeper look at a national issue through a local lens.

Lisa Yanick Litwiller, director of audience at the Center for Public Integrity, said collaborations give journalists the resources for the deep work that drew many journalists to the industry in the first place.

"I think the most altruistic reason that we go into journalism is to do public good, to support the vulnerable, to make the powerful accountable to whatever damage is being done, to make changes that are positive for everyone, and by collaborating, our powers are tenfold or more to be able to do that deep work and also to amplify it," she said.

Read more here.

### The Final Word





Shared by Len Iwanski

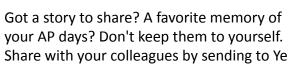
### Today in History - Jan. 26, 2023



<u>Today in History</u> from the History Channel. (AP version unavailable)

## 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.

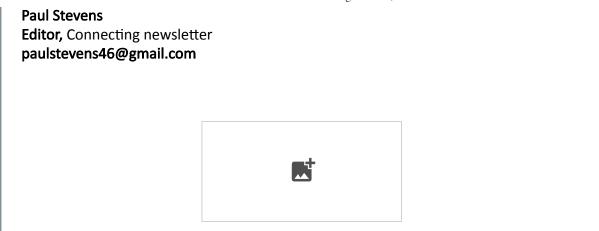


Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



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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