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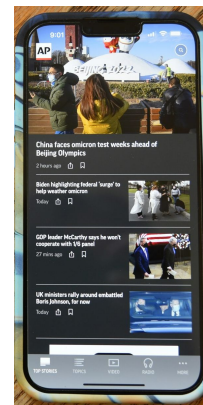
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Connecting

Aug. 29, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Aug. 29, 2023,

We lead today's Connecting with a profile of one of our newest members, **Frank Hawkins**, and his work with The Associated Press and then Knight Ridder.

REMEMBERING LARRY HEINZERLING: A note to Connecting from colleague **Rick Cooper**: "You left one name off the list of birthdays for August 28th. Even though he's no longer with us, August 28th was Larry Heinzerling's birthday too. For many years he and I co-celebrated our birthdays on the seventh floor at 50 Rock. (Click [here](#) for Larry's 2021 wire obituary, written by colleague **John Daniszewski**.)

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live the day to your fullest.

Paul

Connecting profile:

Frank Hawkins



Taken in 1965 at the Berlin Wall during Frank Hawkins' time as a clandestine intelligence officer in Germany prior to joining the AP.



Frank Hawkins Interviewing the Dalai Lama in New Delhi in 1969. And at right, current photo of Frank Hawkins.

Frank Hawkins - I joined AP in the New York bureau in 1969 under Doug Lovelace who approached me when I was interviewing and said he wanted me in his bureau. The previous four years were primarily spent at Bremerhaven Station as a clandestine intelligence agent (case officer) working for the DIA running agents into East Germany to keep track of the Soviet order of Battle. I left service as an Army captain in Army Intelligence.



I spent a year in the New York/Albany bureau before being transferred to the Foreign Desk under Ben Bassett. A year later after nearly 12 months on the graveyard shift, I was off to India, initially working for Myron Belkind. Toward the end of one year tour, Myron took a two-month home leave/honeymoon and so I was acting COB during that time.

In the summer of 1970, Ed Blanche, who was chief of bureau in Jakarta, ran into some problems with the cops who determined he was trying to bring marijuana into Bali. Gallagher sent me to Indonesia as a replacement as chief of bureau. I enjoyed a year and a half until Gallagher dispatched me to Manila to replace John Nance who voluntarily stepped away. That was the era of Marcos' declaration of martial law and the return of the American POWs from Hanoi. I was also part of the AP team at the Munich Olympics.

In 1973, Roy Essoyan was transferred to Tokyo and Gallagher sent me to Beirut as Chief of Middle East Services in charge of operations in all the Arab countries plus Iran and Cyprus. It was two years of live fire and other activity including the 1973 mini-civil war in Beirut, the 1973 Middle East War, the Israeli raid into Beirut to kill off the guys who organized the Palestinian assassination of the Israeli athletes in Munich and the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus where my family and I just happened to be vacationing when the Turks came ashore. The violence finally became too much for my wife and Gallagher transferred me to London where I became head of the joint venture AP-Dow Jones.

AP-Dow Jones was an enormous financial success for both companies.

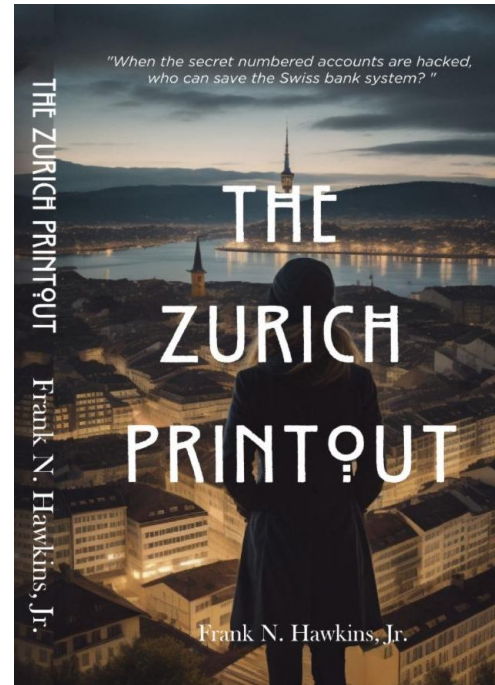
In 1980, I moved to Knight-Ridder where I became a vice president of the corporation. I loved the AP, but I had gone about as far as I could go without moving to New York. As it turned out, Claude Erbsen was ahead of me and only a year or two older so I was blocked from being anything but his assistant. Also, I had no interest in living in New York as I had no extra sources of wealth that would subsidize living in New York.

In any case, I had a great run as head of strategic planning and corporate communications at Knight-Ridder, which was a first-class operation. In 1994 I went to Hong Kong for a brief spell as president of a small conglomerate there. I returned to the Florida Keys and started my own marketing companies. I am now living in Naples, FL and currently working as an author.

In 1980, the New American Library published my novel "Ritter's Gold" in several languages. I also worked on another manuscript about a couple of guys who figured out how to hack a Swiss bank and were able to gain access to the numbered account. After all these years, I am about to publish "The Zurich Printout," which will shortly be available on Amazon on Kindle and in both soft cover and hard cover editions. A copy of the book jacket is at right.

Also, my daughter and I are writing a humorous novel about life in the Florida Keys in the early 1980s. We hope to have it ready to publish by the end of the year.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.



Saddened by death of Pinky Vidacovich

Carl P. Leubsdorf - I was very sorry to read in "Connecting" on Monday of the death of Pinky (Aka Irvine) Vidacovich, a longtime UPI executive from New Orleans. Pinky—yes, people called him that—was a great guy and a pure New Orleanian, whose father was a well-known local jazz musician. When I first met Pinky, he was running the news operation for radio station WWL in New Orleans.

More to the point, he was one of the officers in a most unusual U.S. Army reserve unit, in which I was fortunate to find a place when Uncle Sam summoned me for a physical prior to being drafted.

It was a public information unit, certainly one of the least possible military outfits in the Reserves. Its commander was a local advertising executive, a Major Guillory, and its personnel included a bunch of local press types like me and the PR guy for the City Parks Dept. I was working for the AP bureau in New Orleans. The most interesting was a young man named Edward Scannell Butler, who ran a right-wing PR operation called the Information Council of the Americas. Butler later achieved some brief notoriety after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, when the intensive reporting into the activities of his alleged assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, uncovered an incident in New Orleans where Oswald and Butler got into a sidewalk debate that turned into a Street scuffle.

During more than a year in that unit, I never saw a weapon and never had to drill. Our monthly Sunday meetings included big breakfasts and watching pro football games. I

missed their two weeks summer “training” at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, where they made a TV movie and generally had fun, because I was serving my six months active duty in a Missouri hell hole called Fort Leonard Wood.

Unfortunately, Maj. Guillory decided to retire, and our unit was disbanded. We were assigned to a port unit that included many prominent local pols and took training more seriously. By then, Pinky had become head of the local UPI bureau, and I was headed back north to NYC and then Washington. Years later, I ran into Pinky in DC but had lost track until I read of his death. A great guy and a reminder of one of the more unusual experiences of my younger days.

March on Washington: What a first story for AP’s Linda Deutsch

EDITOR’S NOTE: [Linda Deutsch](#) wrote the following story for The San Diego Tribune on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. On this Aug. 29, the day after the 60th anniversary of the march, we bring you her story.

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
For The San Diego Union Tribune
August 28, 2013

Through the years, when I tell people that I covered the 1963 civil rights march on Washington, they often ask, “Did you know?”

They mean: Did I know I was present at the making of history? Did I know I was hearing one of history’s greatest moments of oratory—Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech? Did I know that the nation would change because of this day?

The answer seems to be yes.

I was lucky enough this week to obtain a copy of something I wrote on Aug. 29, 1963, and the fuzzy microfilm shows that I knew something monumental had taken place.

Reporting on a delegation of marchers from New Jersey, I wrote, “Weary and footsore, some 1,500 area residents returned last night from the Washington March for Freedom and Jobs exhilarated with the knowledge that they had participated in what one woman described as ‘the most dynamic demonstration in the history of the Civil Rights struggle.’”

I know now that that hot August day in Washington changed my life and that the massive demonstration by more than 200,000 people was just the beginning of a march toward equality among races. It’s a march that continues today.

Everyone who was there has a special memory. Mine is of a career-changing decision to talk my way into covering the march.

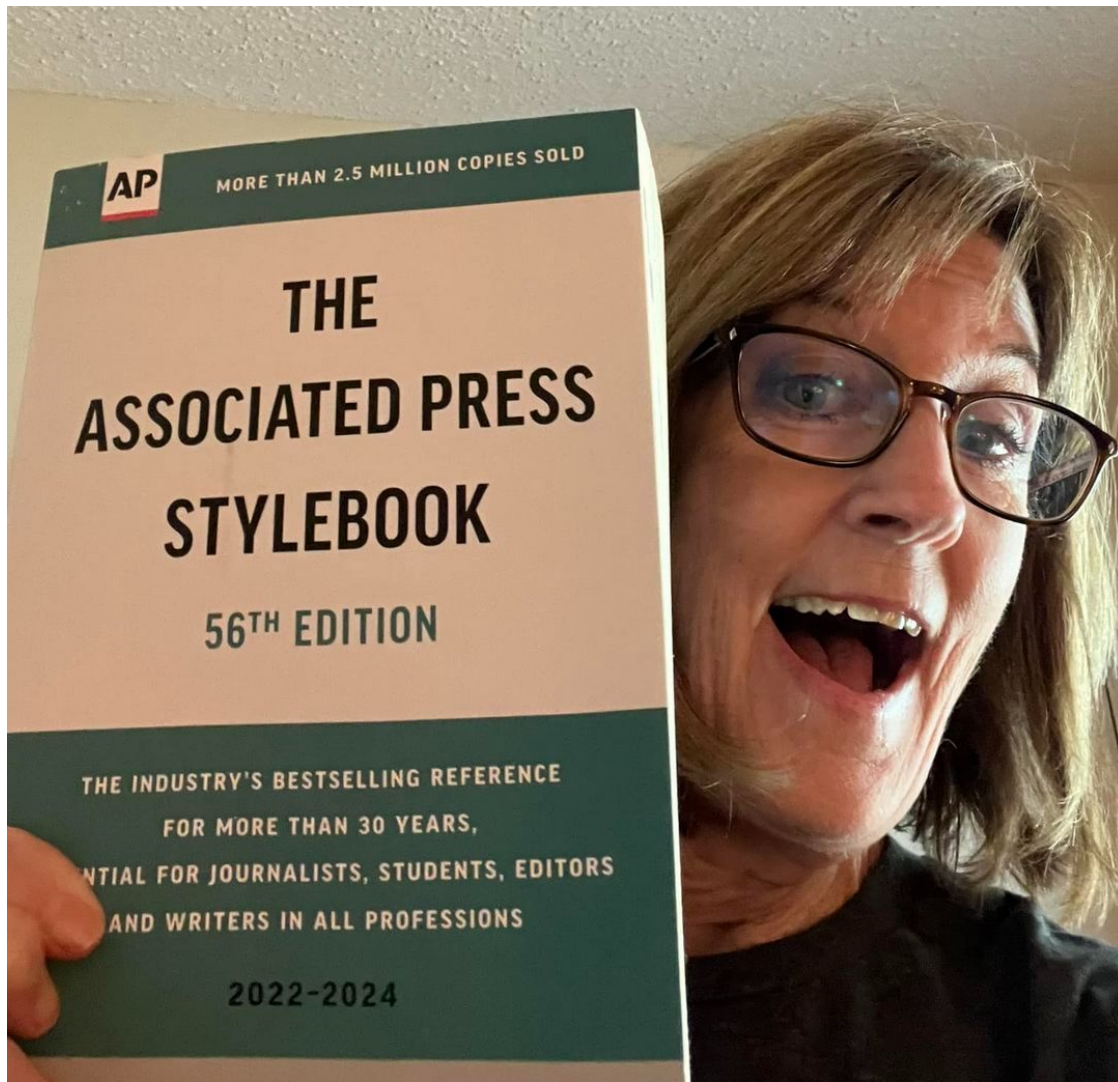
Read more [here](#).

Reunion of Business News staffers



At a time during the 1990s when business news increasingly became front page news, AP's Business News staff in New York developed into an extremely tight-knit team. Members of that group gathered recently for a reunion in New York to share memories and revive old friendships. Left to right are Farrell Kramer, Eileen Loftus, Eric Quinones, Rachel Beck, Seth Sutel, Joyce Rosenberg, Maggie Jackson, Steve Sakson, and Bruce Meyerson. (Shared by [Steve Sakson](#))

Best Day Ever!



Kathleen O'Dell - You know you're a news geek when the Best Day Ever is when the new AP Stylebook arrives! (Kathleen is a freelance journalist in Springfield, Mo., and earlier was a reporter for 32 years at the Springfield News-Leader.)

1st Baenen Scholarship Awarded

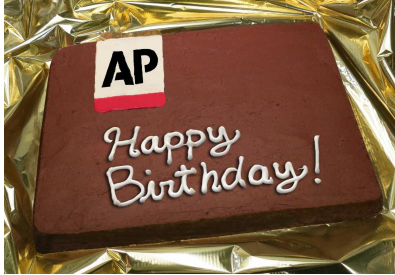
Jeff Baenen - Halle Sanders of Langdon, North Dakota - a small town in the northeastern corner of the state near Canada - is the first recipient of my new Jeffrey Baenen Broadcast Scholarship (<https://www.mnstate.edu/academics/majors/broadcast-journalism/scholarships/>) at my alma mater, Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Here is a video Halle recently made after her first official week as an MSUM Dragon, explaining what my scholarship means to her and other students entering multimedia journalism:

I am conducting a GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/b13f2a5d>) to raise money for the second year of my scholarship. I am nearing the halfway mark of raising \$3,000 to fund scholarships for two freshmen or transfer students in the 2024-25 school year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jeff retired from the AP in Minneapolis in 2020 after 42 years as a newsman. He began his AP career in the Bismarck bureau.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Barry Bedlan](#)

[Jeff Rowe](#)

Stories of interest

Dispatch pauses AI sports writing program (Axios Columbus)

By Tyler Buchanan

The Columbus Dispatch paused use of an artificial intelligence sports writing tool after a Westerville football recap faced criticism on social media that went viral last week.

Why it matters: Newsrooms are increasingly experimenting with generative AI tools, but must grapple with ethical challenges while still maintaining public trust, Axios' Sara Fischer and Ryan Heath write.

State of play: For several days this month, the Dispatch and other Gannett-owned newspapers published dozens of LedeAI game recaps based on simple box score data.

One such Dispatch article from Aug. 18 was blasted on social media for its robotic style, lack of player names and use of awkward phrases like "close encounter of the athletic kind."

"I feel like I was there!" The Athletic senior columnist Jon Greenberg posted sarcastically.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

Opinion: Journalism fails miserably at explaining what is really happening to America (Philadelphia Inquirer)

by Will Bunch | Columnist

They stood on an arena stage in Milwaukee under a massive sign that read “Democracy” — the metaphorical 800-pound gorilla that loomed over this strange political event but was never really discussed. When the dust finally settled after two hours of the first televised debate of the 2024 GOP primaries, nothing — from the rude kids-table outbursts from the impertinent Vivek Ramaswamy to the doomed efforts by Nikki Haley or Mike Pence to be the grown-ups in the room — actually mattered inside the airy Fiserv Forum except for one thing.

All those not-so-wonderful people out there in the dark. A mob that raged, and ultimately ruled.

This audience seemed to only care about The Man Who Wasn’t There — Donald Trump, who was too busy refueling his private jet for his next arrest to bother attending. The restive crowd reached its peak when its bête noire, the anti-Trump turncoat Chris Christie, dared try to challenge Ramaswamy’s outburst that POTUS 45 “was the best president of the 21st century.” It filled the basketball arena with boos.

The pro-Trump ruckus was such that Fox News coanchors Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum dramatically turned around to face the audience. “So listen,” Baier said, “the more time we spend doing this, the less time they can talk about issues you want to talk about.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

-0-

William MacKaye, a Washington Post editor, dies at 89 (Washington Post)

Story by Adam

William R. MacKaye, a journalist who spent two decades at The Washington Post, initially as a reporter and editor of religious affairs and then as an editor on the paper’s now-defunct magazine, died Aug. 21 at a hospital in New Haven, Conn. He was 89.

The cause was complications from a fall, said his son Alec MacKaye, a hardcore punk singer and songwriter.

Early in his career, Mr. MacKaye (rhymes with sky) was a Washington correspondent filing stories for both the Houston Chronicle and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and he

covered the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963 from Dallas.

The next year, Mr. MacKaye was traveling with President Lyndon B. Johnson to a Miami hotel for a campaign stop when thousands of supporters grew so aggressively enthusiastic that policemen intervened to prevent the president from being injured. Mr. MacKaye said that about eight policemen grabbed him roughly and carried him from the hotel lobby to the street. He explained who he was and flashed his press credentials, only to be told they were the “wrong kind.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

Today in History - Aug. 29, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 29, the 241st day of 2023. There are 124 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast near Buras, Louisiana, bringing floods that devastated New Orleans. More than 1,800 people in the region died.

On this date:

In 1632, English philosopher John Locke was born in Somerset.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, Alexandria, Virginia, formally surrendered to British military forces, which occupied the city until September 3.

In 1862, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing began operations at the United States Treasury.

In 1944, 15,000 American troops of the 28th Infantry Division marched down the Champs Elysees in Paris as the French capital continued to celebrate its liberation from the Nazis.

In 1957, the Senate gave final congressional approval to a Civil Rights Act after South Carolina Sen. Strom Thurmond ended a filibuster that had lasted 24 hours.

In 1958, pop superstar Michael Jackson was born in Gary, Indiana.

In 1966, the Beatles concluded their fourth American tour with their last public concert, held at Candlestick Park in San Francisco.

In 2008, Republican presidential nominee John McCain picked Sarah Palin, a maverick conservative who had been governor of Alaska for less than two years, to be his running mate.

In 2009, funeral services were held in Boston for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who was eulogized by President Barack Obama. He was buried hours later at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington.

In 2019, President Donald Trump said the United States planned to withdraw more than 5,000 troops from Afghanistan, and would then determine future drawdowns.

Ten years ago: In a sweeping new policy statement, the Justice Department said it would not stand in the way of states that wanted to legalize, tax and regulate marijuana as long as there were effective controls to keep marijuana away from kids, the black market and federal property. The NFL agreed to pay \$765 million to settle lawsuits from thousands of former players who developed dementia or other concussion-related health problems they say were caused by the on-field clashes.

Five years ago: Sen. John McCain was remembered as a "true American hero" at a crowded service at the North Phoenix Baptist Church after a motorcade carried McCain's body from the state Capitol. Kanye West apologized on a Chicago radio station for calling slavery a "choice." The government reported that the economy had grown at a strong 4.2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter, the best showing in nearly four years. Paul Taylor, a towering figure in American modern dance, died at a New York hospital at the age of 88.

One year ago: A United Nations nuclear watchdog team set off on an urgent mission to safeguard the endangered Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia atomic power plant at the heart of fighting in Ukraine, with hopes of avoiding a nuclear catastrophe. At least 15 protesters were killed after an influential Shiite cleric announced that he would resign from Iraqi politics, prompting hundreds of his angry followers to storm the government palace and sparking clashes with security forces and between rival militias. NASA called off the debut launch of its powerful new moon rocket after a last-minute cascade of problems, including unexplained trouble related to an engine. (The rocket would not take flight until November.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Elliott Gould is 85. Actor Deborah Van Valkenburgh is 71. Former Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew is 68. Dancer-choreographer Mark Morris is 67. Country musician Dan Truman (Diamond Rio) is 67. Actor Rebecca DeMornay is 64. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch is 56. Singer Me'Shell NdegeOcello (n-DAY'-gay-OH'-chehl-oh) is 55. Actor Carla Gugino is 52. Rock musician Kyle Cook (Matchbox Twenty) is 48. Actor John Hensley is 46. Actor Kate Simses is 44. Actor Jennifer Landon

is 40. Actor Jeffrey Licon is 38. Actor-singer Lea Michele is 37. Actor Charlotte Ritchie is 34. Actor Nicole Gale Anderson is 33. MLB pitcher Noah Syndergaard (SIHN'-durgahrd) is 31. Rock singer Liam Payne (One Direction) is 30.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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 Central Region vice president based in Kansas City.



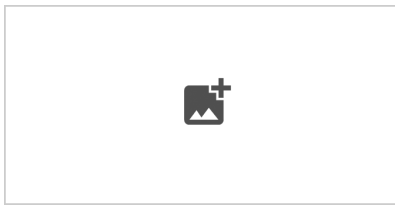
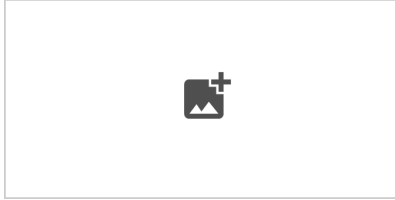
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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