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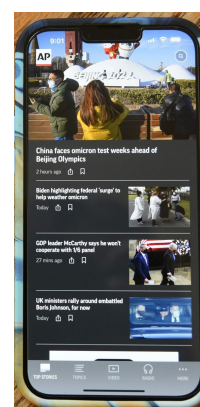
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Connecting

Dec. 5, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Dec. 5, 2023,

The Associated Press launched on Monday a new weekly politics newsletter, "Ground Game," that features top politics and elections news from Washington and across the United States ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

The newsletter, written by National Politics Reporter **Meg Kinnard** and edited by U.S. Politics Editor **Nomaan Merchant**, features AP journalism from the campaign trail, the White House, Capitol Hill and beyond. (Both are Connecting colleagues.)

It will also regularly include a selection of AP photos capturing key stories from the world of politics.

Ground Game will be delivered to inboxes every Monday. Click [here](#) to subscribe.

AUTHORS! AUTHORS! – This is to announce the annual Connecting issue featuring books published in the past year that were written by Connecting colleagues. I will be

aiming to publish the listing during the second week of the month. Thanks to a half dozen of you who have already submitted material on your book.

So...if you have written a book in the past year, please send me: 350-word summary of the book and a jpg image of the cover, and a jpg headshot image of you. **DEADLINE is Friday, Dec. 8.**

And in today's Final Word, **Slacker Paul** (aka, Ye Olde Connecting Editor) shares his latest column for The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa. Proves the adage: you can take the boy out of Fort Dodge, but you can't take Fort Dodge out of the boy.

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

Paul

Happy 80th to Bill Winter



The newest member of Connecting's 80s Club is [Bill Winter](#). He's shown in this photo taken Monday on his 80th trip around the sun with his granddaughter Georgia eyeing the cupcakes and grandson Michael looking on.

Sandra Day O'Connor, husband John showed up for protest party



FILE PHOTO: Sandra Day O'Connor and John J. O'Connor III in 2004. Photo by Zack Seckler/Associated Press

News of Sandra Day O'Connor's death evoked this little-told memory from Dick Carelli, who covered the U.S. Supreme Court for AP from 1976 to 2000:

Dick Carelli - These days, each new member of the U.S. Supreme Court is the guest of honor at a catered reception sponsored by the court's relatively small resident press corps. Fellow justices and their staffs often accept invitations to attend. But the tradition's origin was a protest party that offered only potato chips and champagne as refreshments, and its only guests were Sandra Day O'Connor and her husband, John.

Prompted by the enormous interest generated by O'Connor's 1981 confirmation, then-Chief Justice Warren E. Burger threw an unprecedented gala in one of the building's elegant conference rooms, inviting all the court's hundreds of employees to meet and greet history's first female justice. Reporters who often had been invited to court-holiday and retirement parties were told to stay away this time.

We didn't take kindly to the snub and got word to O'Connor that she and her husband were welcome to leave the first-floor affair and come down to the ground-floor press room to say hello and share a toast. Word got back to us that the chief justice was not pleased with the plan for a rump gathering but that the O'Connors had not ruled out accepting our invite. On that possibility, the chips and bubbly were obtained. We hoped they would come and stay long enough to meet the dozen or so of us working at the building that afternoon.

The O'Connors showed up about an hour into the upstairs festivities, and visited with us for nearly an hour. The new justice was friendly but formal. John O'Connor was anything but formal, eliciting roars of laughter with a series of stories, delivered in a spot-on Irish accent, that today would be deemed by some as politically incorrect. Similar press room parties held for Justice Antonin Scalia and the elevated Chief

Justice William H. Rehnquist in 1986 featured more food, better champagne, and more guests. By the early 1990s, the parties were catered and featured real silverware.

A singular experience at New York buro

[Hilmi Toros](#) - Even after some 60 years, I can't forget one a singular experience at the New York Bureau. It was a stroke of luck that probably played a role in changing my status from a numerical temporary relief to an accepted entity as an Associated Press Writer.

I was assigned to the New York Bureau in 1964 by Personnel Director Keith Fuller as a temporary during the absence of Religion Writer George Cornell who took time off to write a book.

The assignment came about after two interviews with Keith.

In the first, fresh after graduation from Journalism School at Columbia University in 1963, he told me I had the potential to become an AP staffer but needed practical experience in "the real world" and move beyond theories obtained at the graduate school. "We don't want you to make mistakes at our expense," I recall him saying and suggesting I get the "on the ground experience" and make the mistakes at a suburban NY daily. This led to a stint of a few months as reporter at The Morning Call in Patterson New Jersey. By-lines were aplenty with staff short in a small daily, emboldening me to seek another interview and pester Keith again.

This time, he assigned me to NY Buro temporarily after I assured him that I had more than complied with his request to make the required mistakes. They may have been a few more than anticipated.

I was awestruck at the NY Buro, an enthusiastic but still a beginner aspiring for a career at The AP by sitting next to icons like Art Everett, Charlie West, Pappy Stephenson among others, with Pierce Lehmbeck marshalling the report as News Editor.

At that time, NY Bureau did more editing and rewriting than writing. The City's five boroughs were mainly covered by a separate entity called the City Desk with its own staff covering and filing independently to NYC outlets. At the Bureau we received City's carbons and edited or rewrote for state, regional and national wires. Bureau was responsible mainly for nearby Westchester and Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

But the big event of the year in 1964 was the World Fair in the City and it was covered by the Buro, Francis Stilley on the beat on a daily basis.

While noting Francis' daily play winning stories on happenings at the Fair and since ideas were always welcome at the Bureau, mine was to suggest a story on something that did not happen. An off-beat piece on countries that were not present at the Fair and why. Accepted, the piece was delivered to editors after interviews with representatives of absent countries.

It turned out that on a day the national column by Hal Boyle was not available, the Bureau proposed my story as a substitute during the morning conference.

Accepted and transmitted, it appeared in hundreds of editorial pages with the byline of a novice not yet on the staff.

As memorable as it was, it still didn't make me permanent at the Bureau.

A third interview with Keith followed, this time called by him to tell me that I had the qualifications to be an AP staffer --but couldn't be made permanent at the New York Bureau because it would be unfair to others in other bureaus aspiring to a NY post.

He said I needed to be farmed out.

As the CV, with a byline splashed across editorial pages, was sent to Bureaus, Paul Hansell in Miami offered a post. This time News Editor Reid Miller, my patient mentor, fixed my mistakes, enabling me to become "permanent" and then move on to the World Desk in New York after three years and, after another three years at APW to Rome Bureau for 10.

While the Sub Boyle Column at the NY Bureau was my launching pad to a memorable AP career, a last name indicating Spanish background that would be handy in helping cover the increasing Cuban community in Miami would not have hurt.

However, this bull had no Spanish.

Language dogged me once again. Upon arriving at the Rome bureau in 1970, the expectation that my Italian went far beyond just Buon Giorno, cappuccino, pasta, pizza, vino, Grazie... was not met.

The Berlitz School of Languages made good money from one customer.

Remembering Carol Nunnelley

EDITOR'S NOTE: Carol Nunnelley died Dec. 3. See lead story in Stories of Interest

Mark Mittelstadt - Carol Nunnelley was a joy to work with during her time as projects director for the Associated Press Managing Editors. She managed to broaden APME's footprint in world of journalism while bringing needed projects and guidance.

A succession of APME leaders brought Carol on in 2001 as a consultant and contractor to expand the editors group -- founded in 1933 -- through journalism betterment projects funded by grants from large foundations.

Her work led to creation of the National Credibility Roundtables Project which was designed to help local newspapers address controversial or touchy issues with their communities. APME NewsTrain brought high-quality, low-cost training to thousands of local journalists around the country and was continued by the successor group

created with the 2019 merger of APME (renamed Associated Press Media Editors) and American Society of News Editors.

Carol divided her time between working at her Birmingham, Ala., home and at APME offices in AP headquarters in New York City. It was at the APME office, then located across Rockefeller Center Plaza from 50 Rockefeller Plaza, that Carol hit a button on an AP-provided desktop computer and suddenly all the lights and power out. Carol figured she had done something wrong and tripped a circuit breaker. It turned out power had gone out in virtually all of New York City and much of the Northeast as the result of a blackout on Aug. 14, 2003.

Sharing coincidences with Rose Ann Robertson

Bill Kaczor - I did not know and never to my knowledge met Rose Ann Robertson, but I know where she came from. The Caring Bridge link in Connecting took me to her obituary where I learned we had many things in common. She graduated from Rantoul High School in 1969. I spent most of 1969 and a couple months of 1970 in Rantoul, Illinois, as a flight simulator trainee at now-closed Chanute Air Force Base. She then graduated from my alma mater, Eastern Illinois University four years after I did. Rose Ann and I both worked at the Mattoon Journal-Gazette and the Charleston Times-Courier (I was with what then was the Coles County Daily Times before they merged. The Times-Courier has since merged with the Journal-Gazette). I joined the AP in 1980 in Tallahassee and she joined the AP in Chicago, my hometown, in 1983. One of my sisters is named Rosane, spelled differently but pronounced the same. So, I feel a kinship to Rose Ann and share the sadness of those who did know her and wish that I had been among them.

Cara Rubinsky named global business editor

In a memo to staff on Friday, Deputy Head of Newsgathering Michael Giarrusso announced that Cara Rubinsky will lead AP's business news coverage:

I'm very excited to announce that Cara Rubinsky is the AP's new Global Business Editor.

Every team that Cara has led or worked with immediately became more collaborative and more responsive to breaking news. She knows how to juggle multiple breaking stories, guide reporters on bigger-picture coverage and plan for long-running stories. And she is a master collaborator, who knows how to



communicate well across oceans and formats.

Cara has worked as an editor for AP since 2005, starting as a supervisor in Hartford. She moved to Atlanta as assistant editor on the South Desk, then to Boston as news editor and to Chicago as assistant editor for the Central Region. In 2015, she moved to London as Associate Europe Editor. She became Deputy Business Editor in April 2018. And earlier this year, she volunteered to help lead U.K. coverage on an interim basis.

She has been a key leader as the business news department has focused on stories that readers want to click and share. She has pushed the department to give voice to subjects that traditional business journalism has ignored. And she has pushed reporters to look for ways to show how economic ripples can move across the world based on war, disaster and political change.

In 2022, she launched the grant-funded financial wellness initiative, which uses innovative storytelling techniques to bring important information about budgeting, debt and other topics to underserved audiences.

Cara and the other leaders in Business News will continue building on the momentum that they have, and the AP will look to the department to help broaden and diversify the report with more alternative storytelling formats and visuals.

Cara starts immediately. She will remain in London.

We have a great management team in Business news, a growing grants operation and a staff of aggressive reporters who have experience and deep knowledge of their beats. We can't wait to see how the department evolves in 2024 and beyond.

Congratulations to Cara.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

AP sightings

Dick Lipsey - Vincent Starrett was a newspaper reporter with the Chicago Daily News for 10 years, where he was a colleague of Ben Hecht, later of "The Front Page" fame; wrote a weekly books column for the Chicago Tribune for 25 years; and was a mystery and fantasy writer, perhaps best know for *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*.

In his memoir, "Born in a Bookshop" (1965), Starrett writes of his journalistic beginnings in 1906 as a reporter with the Chicago Inter-Ocean newspaper, where "Among my colleagues of the time who went on to further distinction were ... Chris Hagerly of the Associated Press."

One of his first assignments with the Daily News was to cover a flood in Logansport, Indiana, where "The story was being covered adequately enough by the Associated Press." Starrett was sent there primarily to find the missing wife of the paper's telegraph editor, who had been trapped by the flood waters and had not been heard from for several days. (He found her.)

James Gunn was a professor of English at the University of Kansas and perhaps the last of the “Golden Age” science-fiction writers.

In his autobiography, “Star-Begotten: A Life Lived in Science Fiction” (2017), Gunn recalls an awards ceremony for the Daily Kansan student newspaper at the end of the 1942-43 school year.

“The final memory was when Mary Miller (who would later become women’s editor for the Associated Press and then a freelance writer)” invited him to take part in a discussion on the university’s public radio station.

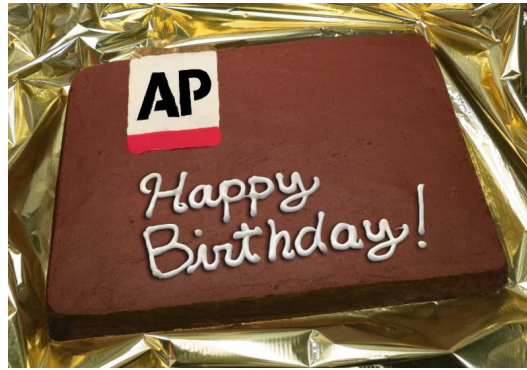
“I told her that I’d really like that, but I had been called up for duty. I left at the end of the month for my first Navy duty at Cornell College, in Mount Vernon, Iowa.”

LA Lawyers Philharmonic and Legal Voices



[Linda Deutsch](#) (left) and [Rachel Ambrose](#), the retired longest-serving women in the AP/LA bureau, are fans of the LA Lawyers Philharmonic and Legal Voices. They attended this season’s holiday concert Saturday along with friends at the historic Wilshire Ebell Theater. Maestro Gary Greene, a former lawyer, founded the unique orchestra in 2009. Some 50 musicians and vocalists, all members of the legal profession, perform several times a year in various city venues. Some members are composers and a few of the singers have appeared on Broadway. Linda has seen a few judges onstage who starred in her stories on court cases.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Paul Stevens

Stories of interest

Lifelong Journalist and BirminghamWatch Founder Carol Nunnelley Dies

BirminghamWatch

Carol Nunnelley, founding executive director of the Alabama Initiative for Independent Journalism, died Dec. 3 after a long illness.

Her more than 50-year career as a journalist led to many important initiatives, both locally and nationally.

Nunnelley began her career as a reporter at The Birmingham News in 1966, when women were still something of an oddity in newsrooms. She covered Birmingham's evolving race relations, a subject historically neglected by the newspaper; exposed neglect and abuse in Alabama's segregated juvenile corrections system; and uncovered misuse of federal dollars intended to alleviate poverty.

As managing editor of The News from 1992 through 2000, she oversaw and was an active voice in projects on failures in state child protection services and in the oversight of facilities for the elderly; investigations into the application of the death penalty in Alabama and the poor performance of state schools; and reporting on health problems of Gulf War veterans.

She joined Associated Press Media Editors in 2001 to develop programs that worked with newsrooms, nonprofits and universities across the country, including National Credibility Roundtables Project and NewsTrain. In 2008, Nunnelley received APME's top award for working for the betterment of journalism.

In 2015, she founded AIJ and launched the BirminghamWatch nonprofit news website.

Click [here](#) to read more. Shared by Kendal Weaver, who said, "Carol Nunnelley was a terrific journalist and path-setter in the news industry in Alabama, with a far-reaching impact. A good friend of the AP, she made many trips to 50 Rock to serve AP-supported projects to improve our craft nationally."

-0-

Global journalist group says Israel-Hamas conflict is a war beyond compare for media deaths (AP)

BY RAF CASERT

BRUSSELS (AP) — With a journalist or media worker killed every day on average in the Israel-Hamas war, the head of the global organization representing the profession said Monday that it has become a conflict beyond compare.

About 60 have been killed since the Oct. 7 start of the war, already close to the same number of journalists killed during the entire Vietnam War half a century ago. Other brutal wars in the Middle East have not come close to the intensity of the current one.

"In a war, you know, a classical war, I can say that in Syria, in Iraq, in ex-Yugoslavia, we didn't see this kind of massacre," Anthony Bellanger, the general secretary of the International Federation of Journalists, told The Associated Press.

And since the end of the weeklong cease-fire in Gaza on Friday, the misery has continued, he said: "Unfortunately, we received the bad news this weekend — after the end of this cease-fire — and at least three or four were killed."

Read more [here](#).

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US Lawmakers Urge State Dept. to Designate Journalist 'Wrongfully Detained' (VOA)

Voice of America

Eight U.S. lawmakers have called on the State Department to designate American Russian journalist Alsu Kurmasheva as "wrongfully detained."

In a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the lawmakers, led by Democrats Eleanor Holmes Norton and Adam Schiff, requested updates on Kurmasheva, who has been detained in Russia since October 18.

The Prague-based editor for the Tatar-Bashkir service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, or RFE/RL, was detained while in Russia handling a family emergency.

Russian authorities accuse Kurmasheva of failing to register as a foreign agent, which she rejects. A court Friday ordered her held until February. If convicted, Kurmasheva could be jailed for up to five years.

The U.S. lawmakers requested information on the State Department's efforts to secure consular access. Russia has so far denied such requests.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Editor who led Denver paper to a Pulitzer Prize for series on missing children dies (The Gazette)

Anthony Campbell, the former executive editor and managing editor of The Denver Post who led the paper to a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1986 for a series on missing children, has died, according to former associates at the Post. He was 82.

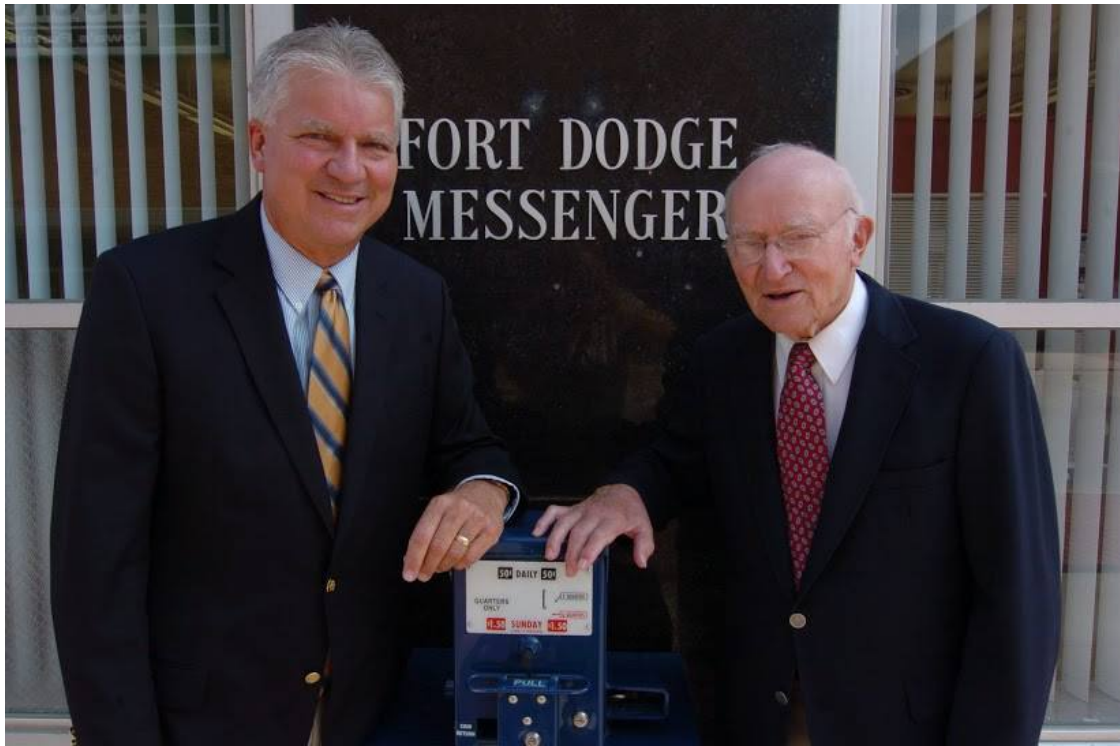
"There is no higher accolade than this: He was a helluva newspaperman," said David Hall, former editor of the Post who hired Campbell in 1984. "When I became editor of The Denver Post in the spring of 1984, I knew one thing. Tony Campbell should be our managing editor."

Before coming to Denver, Hall and Campbell had worked together at the Chicago Daily News and briefly together at The Chicago Sun-Times when Rupert Murdoch owned the feisty tabloid in another highly competitive two-newspaper town.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Your son a slacker? He begs to differ



Paul and Walt Stevens outside The Messenger building.

EDITOR'S NOTE: 10 years have passed since the originator of this Messenger Spotlight column, Editor Walter B. Stevens, passed away. His Spotlight legacy has been continued by his son, who salutes the legacy of his dad.)

By PAUL STEVENS
The Messenger, Fort Dodge, Iowa
Dec. 2, 2023

When I told my Dad that I was taking a buyout from The Associated Press at the age of 62, he paused and said, "You're a slacker."

It mattered not that I had logged 36 years with the news agency. I should have known. This was a guy who worked at The Messenger into his 80s and wrote more than 1,000 Spotlight columns that no doubt impacted many who are reading this column. Heck, he was just getting into fourth gear at age 62 – my age when I retired in 2009.

If I were to get a phone call today from Walter B. Stevens, editor of The Heavenly Messenger since leaving our world 10 years ago, I would tell him, "Dad, I'm not really slacking off. Really!"

I've been publishing a daily newsletter for some 1,800 AP retirees and news industry friends for the past 10 years. I started it not long after you died in your room at Friendship Haven at the age of 96, just after your best buddy and fellow World War II veteran Al Habhab had visited you, and two years after Mom (Ruth Stevens) passed away.

And eight years ago, I was invited by Larry Bushman, your friend and former Messenger publisher (yep, The Messenger here on Earth), to resurrect the Spotlight column you wrote for 27 years. I know, I know, you wrote your Spotlight on a weekly basis and penned more than 1,000 columns. Mine appears monthly – and to date, I’ve done almost 100. Did I hear you whisper “slacker”???

And Dad, I’m also getting my exercise by playing tennis several times a week, continuing with a sport that you played Saturday mornings at the Dodger Courts and wowed your opponents with your wicked slice serve. All three of your kids took up the sport – Jan (retired second-grade teacher of 45 years in Cherokee and a longtime girls high school tennis coach) and Dave (retired senior associate dean at the University of North Carolina business school) and me.

You know, tennis, the sport that helped get you your first newspaper job in Hartington, Nebraska, when you hit around with the editor of the Cedar County News in the middle of the Great Depression. I never did ask you if you let him win in order to get a reporter’s job. Dad, you still there?

Me, you’ll recall that I got into the newspaper business at the ripe old age of 10, delivering the afternoon Messenger door to door on my bike and on foot. (And perhaps unbeknownst to you and Mom, spending my earnings Saturday mornings at the Hobby Shop, at the top of Central Avenue.) I passed on Route 46 to brother Dave and then at age 15 started working in the sports department for Bob Brown, coming in to the second-floor newsroom at 713 Central Ave. on Friday nights to take football and basketball scores from the Messengerland area and write brief stories – on a typewriter! – for Saturday’s edition. Dave did the same thing – as did many other graduates of the Bob Brown School of Sports Writing, including Julie Moser Thorson, CEO of your home for your last 10 years of life, Friendship Haven.

Oh yeah, I worked three summers as the replacement for vacationing news staff. So did Jan, a proofreader one summer. From that era of the ’60s, two survive today: Fred Larson, staff photographer who’s one of the most popular people at Friendship Haven (and subject of a past Spotlight), and Marty McCarty, a reporter and editor then, from Emmetsburg, who’s a friend here in Kansas City and coaches aspiring book authors.

My first Messenger byline was at age 16 – and I still get the same high 60 years later when I see my byline in print (and online). Slacker? Really?

Newspapering coursed through my veins, thanks to you, Dad, and I worked for the Tri-Crown at St. Edmond High School (with the O’Leary twins Bill and Jim, Bill Hood, Maureen Micus, Michaelleen Deaner, Larry Underburg) and the Panther Prowl at Fort Dodge Community College (with editors and twins Sally and Sheri Jackowell). It was at community college where I had the good fortune to meet a nursing student named Linda Saul. Our first date was Homecoming 1965 and she was elected homecoming queen. I wish you and Mom had been around this past June 15 when we celebrated the 55th anniversary of our wedding at Corpus Christi Church (where you were a member and usher for 60 years).

Those news genes I inherited from you continued strong when I left Fort Dodge for the University of Iowa, where my schedule adviser, Professor John Bremner, told me he knew and respected longtime Messenger City Editor Karl Haugen. I wrote sports

stories on the Hawkeyes (including Ed Podolak in football, Fort Dodge's own Tom Chapman in basketball) for Bob Brown, the Daily Iowan and the AP, and covered Regina High School for the Press-Citizen. When I joined the Air Force after graduation. I was editor of newspapers at bases in Little Rock, Arkansas., and Langley, Virginia,, during four years of service. You have me there, Dad, with your 33 months of combat in World War II.

Post-USAF, you'll recall my Fort Dodge ties continued at the University of Kansas, where my master's thesis was a history of The Messenger. I did much of my research at the old Public Library on First Avenue North. Years later, in 2006, when the newspaper celebrated its 150th anniversary, you and I collaborated to publish a book on its history that included some of that research. And Bob Brown wrote a chapter on sports – including what he called his favorite luncheon-speech story, on how I pitched for the FDCC baseball team and also covered its games for The Messenger and in one road game threw a no-hitter. He recalled that I called him to ask how I should handle it and he told me, "Write it like you'd write about me throwing a no-hitter." And he added, "I have often considered Bob Feller or Sandy Koufax were never afforded that honor of throwing a no-hitter and savored having their byline over the story the next morning."

I still remember when I was first named an Associated Press chief of bureau, in Albuquerque, Dad, and how you wrote me a letter with thoughts from an editor's perspective on how a bureau chief should conduct himself. It was more a lesson of life. Your Number One Rule: be a good listener. It has served me well in writing my own Spotlights. And I still have that letter.

You recall the story behind why I began calling you a Grumpy Old Editor? Let me refresh you. I was AP's Kansas City bureau chief when I interviewed for a reporter's opening someone who had worked for AP's competition, UPI, when it served The Messenger. To break the ice, I asked him about his job in Iowa and whether he knew anyone at The Messenger. "Oh yes," he replied, "they had a grumpy old editor there who never liked anything we did." Call me too nice, but I never told the applicant he'd just insulted my father. He didn't get the job.

You know how I enjoyed my Associated Press journey that took Linda and me – and our children Jenny, Molly and Jon – to assignments and new adventures in Albany, St. Louis, Wichita, Albuquerque, Indianapolis and, in 1984, Kansas City. Maybe that's why I'm still doing a newsletter that reaches those AP friends all over the globe.

And I am proud to say I came from Fort Dodge, the city where I grew up, got my start in journalism and met the woman who's my life partner. My hope is to continue to tell the story of the people and places of Fort Dodge and Webster County, past and present, through the Spotlight column for years to come. As I learned from you, everyone has a story.

I've felt privileged to look into the lives of my Spotlight subjects and tell their stories. Lots of unforgettable people in those interviews. Jane Burseson, the first Black to serve on the Fort Dodge City Council. Tom Goodman, a friend growing up, so bravely telling about the life of his son Tommy John weeks after his sudden death. Judge Al Habhab, Mr. Fort Dodge. Doug Slotten, a blind amputee injured in the Vietnam War who became a successful attorney. Members of the Maggio family telling about their

remarkable late sister Rosalie. And even some subjects that couldn't talk – Dodger Stadium and its storied history (my favorite lead, if these bricks could talk). The Blanden Memorial Art Museum. The High Bridge. Tom Thumb Drive-In.

One other Spotlight I did besides this one that was very personal: This past fall was the 24th anniversary of my annual pilgrimage to Iowa City to watch the Hawkeyes – one started with Iowa roommates Greg Sells and Paul Wright but which has grown to encompass others from St. Edmond – John Anderson, Steve Dapper, Mick Flaherty, Doug Goodrich, Jim Konvalinka, Frank Kopish, Denny Lawler, Mark McCarville, Pat O'Brien and Mike Tracy. Yes, I did a Spotlight on that tradition, too.

When I finish each Spotlight and hit the Send computer key to dispatch it to Messenger Editor Bill Shea, I raise a hand of thanks to the heavens with hope I told the story fairly and accurately and that it would have passed your muster.

Will I write this Spotlight column as long as you, Dad? I've got a lot of years to go. Slacking off, though? I think not. Hope you agree.

Today in History - Dec. 5, 2023



Today is Tuesday, Dec. 5, the 339th day of 2023. There are 26 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 5, 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first Black president, died at age 95.

On this date:

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was reelected president; John Adams was reelected vice president.

In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1952, the Great Smog of London descended on the British capital; the unusually thick fog, which contained toxic pollutants, lasted five days and was blamed for causing thousands of deaths.

In 1955, the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merged to form the AFL-CIO under its first president, George Meany.

In 1994, Republicans chose Newt Gingrich to be the first GOP speaker of the House in four decades.

In 2009, a jury in Perugia, Italy convicted American student Amanda Knox and her former Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, of murdering Knox's British roommate, Meredith Kercher, and sentenced them to long prison terms. (After a series of back-and-forth rulings, Knox and Sollecito were definitively acquitted in 2015 by Italy's highest court.)

In 2012, Jazz composer and pianist Dave Brubeck died in Norwalk, Connecticut, a day before he would have turned 92.

In 2017, Democratic congressman John Conyers of Michigan resigned from Congress after a nearly 53-year career, becoming the first Capitol Hill politician to lose his job amid the sexual misconduct allegations sweeping through the nation's workplaces.

In 2018, former President George H.W. Bush was mourned at a memorial service at Washington National Cathedral attended by President Donald Trump and former Presidents Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter along with their spouses; former president George W. Bush was among the speakers.

In 2019, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she had asked the relevant House committee chairs to begin drawing up articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump, saying his actions left them "no choice" but to act swiftly; in response. (Trump would be impeached by the House on charges of obstruction and abuse of power, but the Senate voted to acquit in the first of two Trump impeachment trials.)

In 2020, at a Georgia rally where he urged supporters to turn out for a pair of Republican Senate candidates in a January runoff election, President Donald Trump spread baseless allegations of misconduct in the November voting in Georgia and beyond.

In 2021, Bob Dole, who overcame disabling war wounds to become a Senate leader from Kansas, a Republican presidential candidate and then a symbol of his dwindling generation of World War II veterans, died at age 98.

In 2022, Moscow unleashed a massive missile barrage in Ukraine, striking homes and buildings and killing civilians just hours after the Kremlin claimed Ukrainian drones struck two air bases deep inside Russian territory.

Today's Birthdays: Author Calvin Trillin is 88. Actor Jeroen Krabbe (yeh-ROHN' krah-BAY') is 79. Opera singer Jose Carreras is 77. Musician and singer Jim Messina is 76. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL quarterback Jim Plunkett is 76. World Golf Hall of Famer Lanny Wadkins is 74. Actor Morgan Brittany is 72. Actor Brian Backer is 67. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Art Monk is 66. Country singer Ty England is 60. Rock singer-musician John Rzeznik (REZ'-nihk) (The Goo Goo Dolls) is 58. Country singer Gary Allan is 56. Comedian-actor Margaret Cho is 55. Writer-director Morgan J. Freeman is 54. Actor Alex Kapp Horner is 54. Actor Kali Rocha is 52. Rock musician Regina Zernay (Cowboy Mouth) is 51. Actor Paula Patton is 48. Actor Amy Acker is 47. Actor Nick Stahl is 44. Actor Adan Canto is 42. R&B singer Keri Hilson is 41. Actor Gabriel Luna is 41. Actor Frankie Muniz is 38. Actor Ross Bagley is 35. MLB outfielder Christian Yelich is 32.

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.

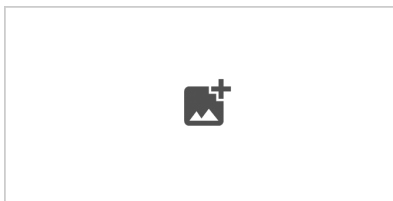
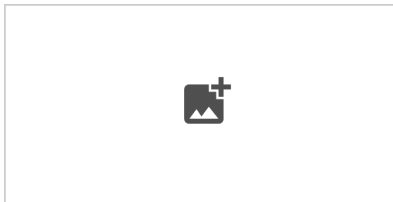
- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **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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