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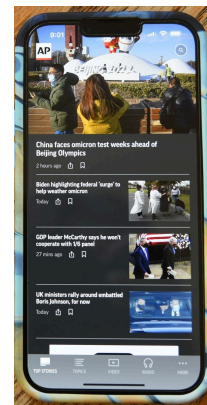
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Connecting

April 16, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this April 16, 2024,

Was our **Gene Herrick** the last Connecting colleague who covered the Korean War?

I pose the question in the wake of Gene’s death and a post that arrived Monday from our colleague **David Egner**, who wrote to say that after reading Gene’s contributions to Connecting, he had asked Gene to write an op-ed in 2020 for the Fox News website (where David was an editor) about his Korean War experiences, to mark the 70th anniversary of the start of the war.

Here's the piece, which, David noted, “turned out great. I’m sorry I never got to meet Gene, and like so many I was saddened to learn of his death.”

It begins:

The Korean War began exactly 70 years ago – on June 25, 1950 – and soon afterward I was there as an Associated Press photographer and war correspondent, under fire many times. There were times I thought my life was about to end – and I never dreamt I would still be writing about the war all these years later, at age 93.

“War is hell,” Union Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman said during the Civil War. He was right. Wars have been waged since before recorded history, but no matter how many people are killed and how much destruction takes place, wars keep breaking out and taking more lives.



The Korean War was nasty. The weather was terribly hot in summer, snowy and bitter cold in winter. I traveled with troops through rugged mountains, pouring rain and clouds of dust. And worst of all, of course, was the death all around me.

Was Gene indeed the last of our Connecting colleagues who covered the Korean War? If so, it is the end of an era – one further celebration of the life of **Gene Herrick**.

A decade ago, when Connecting began, we had several colleagues who had covered World War II. Now, apparently, the most recent war that our colleagues covered was Vietnam. Time marches on.

In Monday's Connecting and AP wire stories on Gene's death, there were a couple of errors that need to be set straight - including the date he retired and a caption in his photo of Rosa Parks.

SUMMARY: In the obituary of AP photographer Gene Herrick published April 14, 2024, The Associated Press erroneously reported the year he retired. He officially retired in 1972, not 1970, according to personnel records. Also, the story said Herrick photographed Rosa Parks being fingerprinted after refusing to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. It should have clarified that the image shows Parks during her second arrest, for participating in the boycott against segregated busing that followed her refusal.

Click [here](#) for the corrected story on the wire. And click [here](#) for a link to the video published yesterday. (Gene was consistent through the years in saying he retired in 1970, including in the preparedness obituary he provided years ago.)

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

Paul

Meeting up with Norm



Norm Abelson (left) and Bruce Lowitt. Photo by Magdalene Came

Bruce Lowitt - I was visiting a cousin in South Berwick, Maine, and decided to detour to visit a CONNECTING colleague and former AP writer, someone for whom I have long had the greatest admiration.

Here I am with Norm Abelson in his home in Moody, Maine. We spent hours recounting our careers and blaming our parents for decades of guilt and neuroses.

More memories of OJ Simpson

Ken Herman - My rather random memory of OJ trial: There was coverage by news and sports reporters. News reporters referred to Simpson's lawyers as the deFENSE team. Sports reporters called them the DEEdefense team.

Creatures of habit.

-0-

Doug Pizac - Here's a PetaPixel story about a video the LA Times put out about its photographer getting "the only image that exists" of OJ celebrating his not-guilty verdict. FYI, he was the only pool still photographer allowed to shoot in the courtroom and that was via remote camera which was triggered from the outside.

In the video he retrieves his film and gives it to the motorcycle courier instructing him to "...make sure you make it to the AP with the film...."



Reed Saxon - I was the AP Pool courtroom robocam operator in the hallway on Fridays, one of five from major agencies. Here's the crew, in a Rick Meyer (L.A. Times) photo . From left, Myung J. Chun (L.A. Daily News), Nikon rep Ronal Taniwaki demonstrating the remote, blimped camera, Reed Saxon (AP), Eric Draper (AP), and Vince Bucci (AFP).

This was during the film era, and the camera was mounted on the wall behind the jury box. It had a lipstick cam in the viewfinder connected to a video screen in the hallway outside the courtroom, with very slow pan, tilt and zoom controls. We had to make a 36-exposure roll of color film last through each of four sessions, changing film only during breaks. We had to be very careful how we chose what images to make.



The verdict came down on the L.A. Daily News' day with Myung J. Chun at the controls, so I was with the press crowd outside the courthouse. After the verdict, we determined he would be sprung early, so I raced out to Rockingham. Fortunately, I had a 6-foot stepladder and could see over the hedge, but was partly blocked by trees. Here Al Cowlings, left, welcomes O.J. home. At right is the security person who accompanied O.J. throughout the trial.



I've also included one of my favorite shots, Ito and witness Mark Fuhrman turning sideways to view a projected image over them.

The AP writing test – more memories

Jerry Ackerman – *in a note to Mike Harris re the AP writing test* - One name in your account, that of Rick Talley, triggered a long-ago memory that is really tangential.... I knew his name from my brief first full-time news job as reporter for the DeKalb Daily Chronicle in 1961. Three months into the job I was sent packing and til I was “too much a city person,” and that Brent Musburger, the sports editor who until the previous week had sat next to me, would have gotten the same had he not been only a short-term hire filling in for a fellow who’d been out for six months’ Army Reserve active duty. Brent and I shared an apartment for most of my time in DeKalb.

I moved on to a suburban Chicago group (DuPage County), then Chicago's [cq] American, where Brent also landed briefly. My career wrapup was 30 years with the Boston Globe. Somewhere in the early years, maybe while still in college, I walked in to the AP at 50 Rock to seek work and was given the test by Sam Blackman. He pronounced me fit and told me to go back to Chicago and tell them so. I never did, for better or worse.

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Cynthia Rawitch - I took the AP writing test at the LA bureau in November or December 1968. Included were three fact sheets to make into stories. The one I remember was about a fire burning in the Los Padres National Forest. Buried in the facts about acreage, watershed and firefighters was a mention of the area being the "last known refuge" of the great California condor.

I'm no dummy, so I noted the condor sanctuary in the lead.

That night I told my husband, Bob, a native Angeleno and an LA Times reporter, about the snake I put in the lead on my AP test. "What snake?" he asked. "The great condor," I replied. After he stopped laughing and picked himself off the floor, he explained the condor is a bird, not what I apparently confused it with, an anaconda.



(Hell, I was a New York City girl. I didn't know nuthin' about birds or snakes.)

Two things stick out for me in this story: 1) I was smart enough to know that the "last known refuge" of anything belonged in the lead and 2) I never described what a condor was—a glaring hole in my story, which the AP/LA bureau apparently forgave. I was hired.

I taught the moral of the story for decades after, both at The Times and at Cal State Northridge.

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Jerry Schwartz - I don't remember a whole lot about the test – I took it 48 years ago, after all. I believe I got the definition of "corvine" wrong, and I can only imagine how badly I botched the section on broadcast style. I do recall Jo Castanga, the New York City bureau's administrative assistant, sitting me down at a typewriter in the middle of the newsroom and explaining that most people finished the test in less than two hours. (I did. Barely.)

But this isn't a story about me.

Over the years, we watched as many unfortunates took the test in our midst. One of them -- a beefy guy in a black leather jacket -- arrived around 3:30 p.m. on a weekday. He told us he was a cop, and was thinking about getting into journalism. He was sweating profusely as he got down to work. At 5:30, the day shift checked out, leaving our industrious applicant behind.

He was still there, still typing, when I arrived at 9:30 the next morning. Nobody, it seems, had told him that the test was timed, or that two hours was a good time limit to keep in mind.

Around 10 a.m., he turned in his work, put on his jacket and left -- like so many others, never to be seen again.

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Dave Skidmore - As a staff writer for the now-defunct Globe-Times of Bethlehem, Pa., I took the AP test twice in 1983. The first time, in Philadelphia, under the watchful eye of News Editor Herb Pelkey, I flunked because failed to turn over one of the pages and, thus, did not complete the test. Jerry Schwartz, once my editor at the Penn State Daily Collegian, and then a staff writer in the New York City bureau persuaded his news editor, Jim Donna, to let me take the test again. This time I passed and not long after I received a call from Milwaukee Bureau Chief Dion Henderson asking if I wanted to move to Wisconsin. Why yes. Yes, I did! (Forever grateful to Jerry for facilitating my 16-year trick at the AP - in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C.)

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Jeffrey Ulbrich - The only thing I remember about the AP employment test I took in Dallas in 1972 is the part where I was asked to write my own obituary. I assumed it was meant to judge the degree of self-importance held by an unknown reporter working at the Daily Bugle in West Cowpie, Texas, so I did a modest three paragraphs and moved on to editing, etc. I received no feedback but a few weeks later I found myself working for AP in Cheyenne.

AP sightings

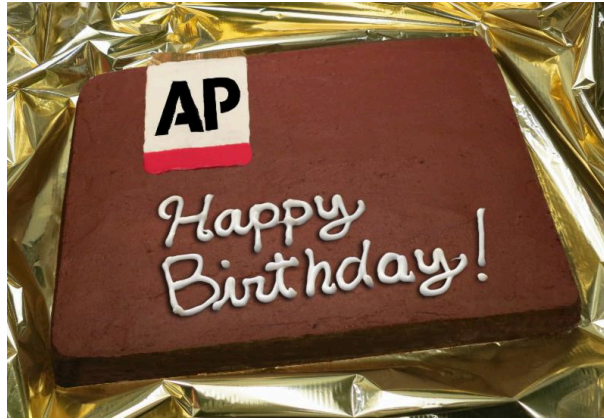


In a building in the heart of Barcelona. Spotted by Claude Erbsen.



The car in front of Lizzy and me this morning in the drop-off line at Ruidoso (NM) Middle School, where Lizzy is an 8th grader. Spotted by Dave Tomlin.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Ted Anthony](#)

[Janet McConnaughey](#)

[Ron Mulnix](#)

Stories of interest

Trump 'Glared' At Maggie Haberman for 'Several Seconds' After She Reported He Fell Asleep In Court

(MEDIAite)

Alex Griffing

Former President Donald Trump reportedly spent “several seconds” glaring at New York Times political reporter Maggie Haberman as he exited his criminal trial in New York City on Monday. Trump is charged with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to hide hush money payments to cover up extramarital affairs. Jury selection began on Monday, marking the first time a former U.S. president has stood trial on criminal charges. He has pleaded not guilty.

Haberman apparently raised the former president’s ire by reporting from inside the courthouse that he fell asleep during the lengthy proceedings. “Former President Donald J. Trump seemed alternately irritated and exhausted Monday morning,” Haberman wrote on the Times liveblog, adding, “Mr. Trump appeared to nod off a few times, his mouth going slack and his head drooping onto his chest.”

“Trump has apparently jolted back awake, noticing the notes his lawyer passed him several minutes ago,” Haberman added a few minutes later.

Law360 court reporter Frank Runyeon detailed Trump’s exit from the courtroom, “After the thirty-some jurors remaining file out of the room for a brief afternoon

break, Trump rises. After the jurors leave the courtroom, he stares over at DA Alvin Bragg. Then Trump turns his eyes to the press pool. As he exits, he glares at New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman for several seconds as he walks out.”

Read more [here](#).

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Trump Media stock slides again to bring it more than 66% below its peak as euphoria fades (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock price for Donald Trump’s social media company slid again Monday, pushing it more than 66% below its peak set late last month.

Trump Media & Technology Group closed down 18.4% at \$26.61 as more of the euphoria that surrounded the stock fades. It’s a sharp comedown since nearing \$80 after the owner of Truth Social merged with a shell company to get its stock trading on the Nasdaq under the symbol “DJT,” for Trump’s initials.

Part of the decline may be due to criticism that the stock price had zoomed way past what skeptics said the money-losing company is worth, particularly one with tough odds for success. But another part is also likely because of action Trump Media took Monday.

The company filed documents with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that open the door for the future potential sale of millions of shares. The document, called an S-1, relates to warrants held by investors that can be transformed into shares of stock, as well as shares held by company insiders.

Read more [here](#).

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Katie Couric Breaks Down ‘Old Boys Network’ Days of ‘Inter-Office Schtupping,’ ‘Sexist’ Attitudes From Today Show (MEDIAite)

Zachary Leeman

Katie Couric opened up to Bill Maher about some of the sexism she’s faced throughout her career, calling her past in media a “different environment” for women than now.

During a discussion about Couric’s 15 years on the Today show on Maher’s Club Random podcast, Couric recalled for Today co-anchor Bryant Gumbel giving her a hard time during her first pregnancy.

“He got mad at me because I was doing something on maternity leave, and he was giving me endless shit for taking a month or two off. I was having my first baby,” she told Maher.

Couric added, “He was like, ‘Why don’t you just drop it in the field and come back to work right away?’”

After Maher argued Gumbel was “joking,” Couric acknowledged he was, but said it was “emblematic” of a larger culture.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Lloyd Omdahl, a former North Dakota lieutenant governor and newspaper columnist, dies at 93 (AP)

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Former North Dakota lieutenant governor and newspaper columnist Lloyd Omdahl has died at 93.

Omdahl was the last Democrat to serve as lieutenant governor in North Dakota, the Bismarck Tribune reported. He was appointed to that position by former North Dakota Democratic Gov. George Sinner in 1987 and served as lieutenant governor through 1992.

The state’s current Republican Gov. Doug Burgum said in a Monday statement: “From his dedicated service as North Dakota’s lieutenant governor and tax commissioner to his decades as a UND (University of North Dakota) educator and newspaper columnist, Lloyd Omdahl was a constant presence and passionate voice in North Dakota government and politics for over 60 years.”

Burgum added, “We are deeply grateful for his service and commitment to the citizens of North Dakota, as well as his many contributions to our state’s Scandinavian heritage, in which he took great pride.”

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - April 16, 2024



Today is Tuesday, April 16, the 107th day of 2024. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 16, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which the civil rights activist responded to a group of local clergymen who had criticized him for leading street protests; King defended his tactics, writing, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

On this date:

In 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Virginia, for his inauguration in New York.

In 1889, comedian and movie director Charles Chaplin was born in London.

In 1945, a Soviet submarine in the Baltic Sea torpedoed and sank the ship the MV Goya, which Germany was using to transport civilian refugees and wounded soldiers; it's estimated that up to 7,000 people died.

In 1947, the cargo ship Grandcamp, carrying ammonium nitrate, blew up in the harbor in Texas City, Texas; a nearby ship, the High Flyer, which was carrying ammonium nitrate and sulfur, caught fire and exploded the following day; the blasts and fires killed nearly 600 people.

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon with astronauts John W. Young, Charles M. Duke Jr. and Ken Mattingly on board.

In 1977, Alex Haley, author of the best-seller "Roots," visited the Gambian village of Juffure, where, he believed, his ancestor Kunte Kinte was captured as a slave in 1767.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of divorcing.

In 2003, Michael Jordan played his last NBA game with the Washington Wizards, who lost to the Philadelphia 76ers, 107-87.

In 2007, in one of America's worst school attacks, a college senior killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

In 2010, the U.S government accused Wall Street's most powerful firm of fraud, saying Goldman Sachs & Co. had sold mortgage investments without telling buyers the securities were crafted with input from a client who was betting on them to fail. (In July 2010, Goldman agreed to pay \$550 million in a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but did not admit wrongdoing.)

In 2012, a trial began in Oslo, Norway, for Anders Breivik (AHN'-durs BRAY'-vihk), charged with killing 77 people in a bomb and gun rampage in July 2011. (Breivik was found guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder and given a 21-year prison sentence.)

In 2013, NFL player-turned-broadcaster Pat Summerall, died in Dallas at age 82.

In 2018, the New York Times and The New Yorker won the Pulitzer Prize for public service for breaking the Harvey Weinstein scandal with reporting that galvanized the #MeToo movement.

In 2020, the Trump administration gutted an Obama-era rule that compelled the country's coal plants to cut back emissions of mercury and other human health hazards.

In 2021, Jon Ryan Schaffer, a member of the far-right Oath Keepers militia group and a heavy metal guitarist, became the first defendant to plead guilty to federal charges in connection with the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

In 2022, Russian forces accelerated scattered attacks on Kyiv, western Ukraine and beyond, a sign that the entire country was still under assault despite Russia's pivot toward mounting a new offensive in the east.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Bobby Vinton is 89. Denmark's Queen Margrethe II is 84. Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is 77. Former Massachusetts first lady Ann Romney is 75. NFL coach Bill Belichick is 72. Rock singer (Midnight Oil) and former politician Peter Garrett is 71. Actor Ellen Barkin is 70. Actor Michel Gill is 64. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is 62. Rock musician Jason Scheff (Chicago) is 62. Singer Jimmy Osmond is 61. Rock singer David Pirner (Soul Asylum) is 60. Actor-comedian Martin Lawrence is 59. Actor Jon Cryer is 59. Actor Peter Billingsley is 53. Actor Lukas Haas is 48. Actor-singer Kelli O'Hara is 48. Actor Claire Foy (TV: "The Crown") is 40. Figure skater Mirai Nagasu is 31. Actor Sadie Sink is 22.

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.

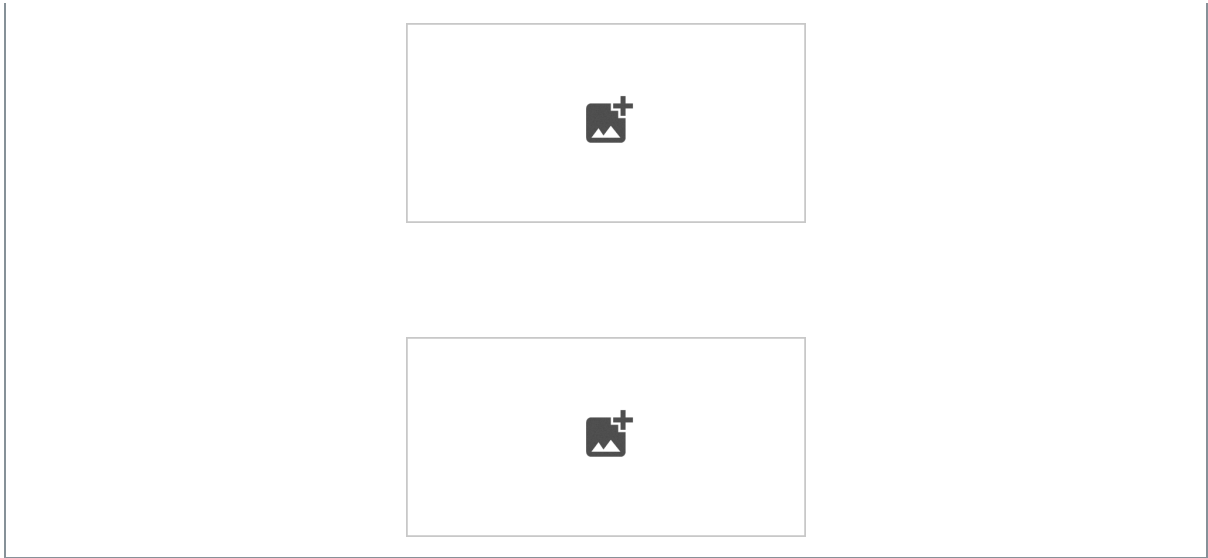
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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