

# AP Cleartime

A newsletter  
for retirees of  
The Associated Press

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## Boccardi Defends the First Amendment Rights of the Press

AP President and CEO Louis D. Boccardi told a congressional committee that the news media made errors in calling the U.S. presidential election in November. But, he cautioned, those mistakes should be fixed by journalists — not by the federal government.

Boccardi raised the First Amendment rights of the press in a joint appearance with five network news chief executives and the director of Voter News Service before the House Energy and Commerce Committee Feb. 14.

“AP has serious doubts that the committee and its staff, no matter how sensitive they may be, can avoid crossing the line between appropriate government concern with the electoral process itself and, on the other hand, inappropriate government involvement with the reporting on that process by a free press,” Boccardi said. “To put it more plainly, we believe that such an official government inquiry into essentially editorial matters is inconsistent with the First Amendment values that are fundamental to our society. That is said with conviction, but without disrespect to the important role — important but critically different from that of the



**President Boccardi makes a point at a congressional hearing on election coverage. (Photo: Joe Marquette)**

media — played by the branches of government.”

The House panel called the hearing to examine why the networks flip-flopped on the winner of the presidential race in Florida before declaring the race too close to call. The AP did not prematurely declare George W. Bush the president-elect.

Boccardi appeared at the nationally broadcast eight-hour hearing along with the heads of VNS, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, CNN and Fox News.

*See reaction to Boccardi's remarks on page 3. ■*

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## Flash! Exhibit: Photographs from The Associated Press

- Jan. 16 - May 6, 2001  
Morris Museum  
Morristown, NJ
- June 1 - Oct. 21, 2001  
Museum of Our National  
Heritage, Lexington, MA

## Mears to Speak at 25-Year Club Dinner

New retiree Walter Mears will be the guest speaker at AP's 25-Year Club dinner Friday, May 18 in New York. The annual fete will be held at the same venue as last year — The Manhattan Club at Rosie O'Grady's Restaurant in midtown Manhattan, a few blocks from AP's international headquarters. President Lou Boccardi will be the host. Retiree Charlie Monzella returns as the dinner's emcee. Invitation acceptances must be returned to Monzella. ■

# Walter the Journalist and Walter the Golfer

By Louis D. Boccardi  
AP President and CEO

To try to somehow capture Walter Mears in a few sentences, you have to cope with two very powerful forces: The Associated Press and golf.

They have provided twin themes in Walter's life, and have sometimes been parallel and sometimes not.

For example, Walter has been well-served, both as a journalist and as a golfer, by two deeply ingrained personal traits: a gift for colorful language and a disrespect for expensive equipment.

But when Walter the journalist uses words, readers by the millions gather. When Walter the golfer uses words, they hide the children and call Security.

Walter the journalist is not known to have ever tossed or hit a piece of AP equipment so far that it couldn't be retrieved. The same cannot be said for Walter the golfer.

We surrender Walter the golfer to his passion and we honor Walter the journalist for an unforgettable AP career — statehouse correspondent, Washington reporter, executive editor, bureau chief, vice president and special correspondent.

While we've been at this for 153 years, Walter belongs in a very select circle of AP people whose byline has become synonymous with what they did for us. Howard Benedict and space reporting. Esper and Arnett on Vietnam. Saul Pett and Hugh Mulligan for writing so powerful that you couldn't put it aside. And can you think of coverage of American politics over the last 40 years and not think of the byline of Walter R. Mears? I don't think so.

He's also served the AP with distinction through his contributions as Washington bureau chief and

executive editor. But in his soul, Walter is a reporter... and that's what has made him a model — I won't say icon, because Fran still has to put up with him — but a model to AP statehouse writers, and Washington staffers for many years, and no doubt for many more to come.

And he's made it all look so easy. A natural touch as a writer, a natural grace as a manager and motivator... coupled with the vision to help millions of readers grasp the complexities and subtleties of politics and government, and the wit to help us enjoy learning about it.

Walter was still a student at Middlebury College when he joined us in Boston 46 years ago. Within six years, he'd gotten his AP ticket to Washington, and three years after that, in 1964, he helped cover the election, the first of 10 national campaigns he's reported ... including the electile dysfunction of the year 2000.

I've learned some interesting things about Walter from people who've spent more time with him in saloons than I have.

But I will never forget the sheer pleasure of watching him fashion in the late night and early morning of Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Fall of 1976, watching him fashion the campaign coverage that won him the Pulitzer Prize.

Walter, from all of us, for all you've accomplished, congratulations and thank you. And from me personally, thank you for your work, your friendship and your help.

*(See Mike Feinsilber's account of Mears' Feb 2. retirement party in Washington on the next page.)* ■

Retirement Remarks  
By Walter Mears  
Vice President and Special  
Correspondent

I had hoped to have a farewell rally in the hangar at Andrews Air Force Base, but then I realized I would have been there alone. I thought about prying the W off my keyboard, but that's been done, too.

So I will confine myself to a word of thanks.

Enough people have kindly mentioned my Pulitzer prize so that I can do so without sounding pushy. Especially because it was 24 years ago and I haven't won anything since. The night I received it in 1977, when I had a moment alone, I remember feeling kind of shaky and saying to myself — but out loud so I'd hear it — you're not that good. Then I thought — I hope nobody finds out.

I thank you all for not finding out. I appreciate your being here and I treasure the kind words of my colleagues. Especially because my grandchildren and my daughters are here and may be persuaded. Stephanie and Susan have a special stake tonight because they paid dues they did not owe so that I could pursue a career that left them too often with an absentee father.

I got the only career I ever wanted. From the time I learned that people worked for a living and that some of them got to go places, see things and write about it for the newspapers, that is what I wanted to do. The AP let me do it, for 45 years. I have never forgotten the excitement I felt the first day I walked into the clatter of the Teletypes in the Boston bureau in 1955 and was shown to a typewriter and told to write news stories on it. Not only that, but they would pay me 55 dollars a week.



**President Boccardi with Mears**

The stories and the assignments changed — fortunately so did the pay — but that edge of excitement never went away. It was there every time I set about writing a story, right up to the last one on inauguration day. You always want to write the story in which you wouldn't change a word. You never can but you just keep trying. I'll do my writing in a different role now, but I will keep trying. I thank you for being my colleagues, my friends, my family and my professional family, The Associated Press.

All these years I have introduced myself by saying I'm Walter Mears and I work for The Associated Press. Now that will be edited to read I'm retired from The Associated Press. But those initials, A P, will always be part of my name. Thanks. ■

## Walter Mears Retires

By Mike Feinsilber  
Washington Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Walter R. Mears, an Associated Press reporter, editor, columnist and executive known to colleagues and competitors for his ability to get to the heart of an hour's political oratory in a few words and in an instant, has retired.

His half-century in journalism was celebrated Feb. 2 by Washington politicians and newsmen, joined by AP's top brass and its foot soldiers hoping to follow his footsteps.

President Bush praised Mears as "a byline synonymous with integrity, intellect and instantaneous news leads."

To political junkies familiar with Timothy Crouse's book, "The Boys on the Bus" — about the press corps that covered the 1972 presidential campaign between Richard M. Nixon and George S. McGovern — Mears was the "Walter" in the question from fellow reporters who'd rather be right than original, "What's the lead, Walter?"

Mears was famous for capturing

the sense of an event in crisp, clear precision.

With that skill, he won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the 1976 campaign between Jimmy Carter and Gerald R. Ford. When that happened, he once remarked, he was asked what he would do next.

"For a journalist, the answer is simple: exactly what I was doing when I was so pleasantly interrupted," he replied. "That's because there is always another story to discover and write."

A native of Lynn, Mass., Mears, 66, started with the AP while still a student at Middlebury College. Within six years, he was in Washington, covering Congress and politics.

In a letter, Bush wrote to Mears, "During more than four decades of covering the process and the people in American politics, you have not been jaded by your journey. You are a true gentleman — a model for aspiring journalists — a good and decent man who sees the people you cover as people."

He wrote 1,500 columns over 11 years. His work was so well-known that The AP simply labeled his columns: "Walter Mears." ■

## Boccardi's Defense of the First Amendment Receives Praise from Media Colleagues in the U.S.

Editorial writers, columnists and other journalists across the United States have congratulated AP's chief executive, Lou Boccardi, for telling a congressional committee that fixing media mistakes is the responsibility of the press — not the government. Boccardi raised the issue of journalism's First Amendment rights in a joint appearance with five network news chief executives and the director of Voter News Service before a House panel Feb. 14.

Broadcasting & Cable magazine said: "The AP's Louis Boccardi was the strongest dissenting voice ..."

E.J. Dionne wrote in the Washington Post: "Louis Boccardi, president of The Associated Press, showed real spine when he told the committee that 'an official government inquiry into what are essentially editorial matters is inconsistent with the First Amendment values that are fundamental to our society.'"

You can read Boccardi's testimony and related material on the corporate Web site at [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org) Read the transcript of his Feb. 14 Nightline appearance at [http://abcnews.go.com/sections/nightline/nightline/transcripts/nl010214\\_trans.html](http://abcnews.go.com/sections/nightline/nightline/transcripts/nl010214_trans.html) ■

## Miami's Phil Sandlin Retires

By Kevin Walsh  
Florida Chief of Bureau

Miami photo editor Phil Sandlin's Feb. 3 retirement party was attended by 125 AP staffers, their families and member and freelance photographers.

Sandlin, recuperating from foot surgery, appeared genuinely surprised by the size of the crowd as he made his way on crutches toward the deck where we were holding the party.

The Florida photo staff built a large display board that showed dozens of photos of Sandlin or shot by him during his 26-year AP career.

Friends and colleagues at the celebration and outdoor barbecue included Vice President and Executive Photo Editor Vin Alabiso; Jodie Steck, Sandlin's successor; Bob Daugherty, Bill Waugh and Toby Massey from the State Photo Center; Will Lester of the Washington national staff; photographers Steve Helber of Richmond, Ric Feld of Atlanta and Lynn Sladky of San Juan. Hans Deryk, Toronto Star director of photography and ex-AP Miami photographer, flew in from Canada.

I told the crowd: "few people have



Retired Florida photo editor Sandlin

worked as hard or as effectively as Phil Sandlin on behalf of the AP during the past 26 years."

Among the many gifts Phil received, the photo staff presented him with a 17-foot canoe to pursue his passion for the outdoors.

Vin Alabiso gave Sandlin a goldfish as a symbol of the fishing that he'd be able to do in retirement. He reeled off a list of the major stories that Sandlin has helped supervise for the AP — the Sunshine Skyway bridge collapse, the Mariel boatlift that brought 125,000 Cubans to Florida, the Miami riots, the

Challenger space shuttle explosion, Hurricane Andrew, Elian Gonzalez and the Florida recount.

"Phil's been there and done that," said Vin. "And been there and done that incredibly well."

Sandlin told the crowd he was overwhelmed and thanked them for their support over the years.

The strength of AP's photo report is its staff, members and freelancers, he said. "These guys deserve all the credit. I hope at some point you give them the same accolades for doing my job." ■

## Sandlin Profiled in Herald

*Phil Sandlin was profiled in the Miami Herald Feb. 15 following his retirement. Here's an excerpt from that daily newspaper interview summing up Sandlin's storied career:*

"I've always tried to put myself in a situation where I would not be a part of the problem."

That's classic Sandlin, said Vin Alabiso, vice president and executive photo editor, always humble and trying to stay in the background, yet accomplishing the impossible. ■

## Capitol Press Room in Montana Named for AP Correspondent

Montana's Legislature has re-named its media center the J.D. Holmes Press Room to honor the late AP statehouse correspondent who retired in 1978.

"In placing his name on a room in the building where he worked for 30 years, the Legislature not only honors an outstanding journalist, but recognizes the role of an energetic and responsible press in democratic government," wrote AP President Lou Boccardi in a letter read at the Dec. 16 dedication. It is the only room of the Capitol named for an individual. ■



Right: J. D. Holmes, who died in 1999. Left: The three children of the late J. D. Holmes, AP Montana government reporter, stand at door of the press room in the Montana statehouse that was named for their father and dedicated in special ceremonies on Dec. 16. Helena bureau chief John Kuglin emceed the dedication. Shown from left are Nancy Boone-Hill, Seattle; David Holmes, Spokane, Wash; and Vicki Pawlitschek, Snohomish, Wash.

# AP Media Mentions

United Features Syndicate columnist Tad Bartimus wrote about the retirement of AP music writer Mary Campbell in an article titled 'Farm girl says goodbye to 40 years of opera' that appeared in the Dec. 2, 2000 Smart Living section of the Arizona Republic.

The March/April issue of Columbia Journalism Review has published "The Shakers," a list of top people in print, television, publishing and magazines in New York. The first list of 20 people, called "Moguls (they run the companies and they have the power)," includes President Boccardi ("steering AP to new role in digital age") and AP's Chairman of the Board of Directors Donald Newhouse ("billionaire oversees family papers"). AP Managing Editor Mike Silverman is on the list "Newspapers, the agenda setters" and Vice President and Executive Editor Jon Wolman is listed in "On the rise."

The March edition of Washingtonian magazine lists White House chief correspondent Ron Fournier in its Top 50 journalists. Here's what it says: "Much of what people know in Washington is because of Ron Fournier. It's one of Washington's secrets that most of what the 'experts' opine on television shows they know because on their way to the studio they checked The Associated Press wire. The man who writes much of the copy for that wire, especially about who is coming and going in Washington, is Fournier, who himself is too busy working to be on TV. Political reporters for the top papers say it became a joke during the Florida election battle that, no matter where they went, Fournier had been there first."

Business News Editor Darrell Christian is listed as No. 17 on The Journalist and Financial Reporting (TJFR) list of top business journalists in 2001.

President Boccardi was interviewed on the ABC News program "Nightline" after a day of hearings on how to avoid election night miscalls in the media. Nightline anchor Ted Koppel asked Boccardi what, if anything, can be done the next time around if there's a close presidential election. Boccardi replied: "A fair question. But I think we ought to just remember that not everything was broken. In fact, very little was broken. There was a problem in one state where, as we talk tonight, the margin stands at a little over 500 votes in a race in which 6 million votes were cast, and there are still 180,000 or so ballots that are in some kind of a limbo. So it is fair to ask how do we prevent this. But I just wanted to resist the notion that everything was in pieces, and now we have to somehow again reassemble some giant construction that had just fallen apart."

The Rochester (N. Y.) Democrat and Chronicle interviewed Los Angeles photographer Nick Ut about his Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of a young girl fleeing from a napalm bombing during the Vietnam War. Ut and the now grown girl from the photo, Kim Phuc, spoke at the opening in Rochester of "Requiem," the photo exhibit by AP London photo editor Horst Faas. The exhibit of pictures taken in Vietnam by photographers who died in the war accompanies Faas' book by the same name and is at the George Eastman House Gallery until June.

Nick Ut pens a first-person account of his return visit last spring to Vietnam for the 25th anniversary of the war in the International Press Institute's fourth-quarter 2000 publication IPI Global Journalist.

New York bureau newsman Tom McElroy was featured in a New York Times article Jan. 6. McElroy edits the AP Daybook, the most widely-read listing of daily events in New York City. "The daybook was born in another era," wrote the Times. "It grew out of The Associated Press's city wire, which, back when New York had about a dozen newspapers, sent reporters to work school board meetings and police precincts and to stalk the halls of city agencies. But by the 1960's, such coverage was no longer in demand. The number of papers dwindled, and the remaining ones began to back away from covering the minutiae of official life in New York. And when the city wire folded in the 1970's only the daybook remained." New York bureau chief Sam Boyle told the Times "It has changed. Neither we nor our members are covering every tree in the forest. It is no longer viable. But everyone who wants people to know what is going on sends the event into the daybook. It is the one spot read by everyone involved in metro coverage."

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Joe Rosenthal is interviewed by a Vanity Fair magazine editor in an article on the Digital Journalist Web site at <http://digitaljournalist.org/issue0101/friend.htm> Rosenthal talks about his photo of U.S. Marines raising the flag at Iwo Jima during World War II and the book "Flag of Our Fathers" by James Bradley and Ron Powers. ■

## Celebrity Stuff: Ebsen, MacLaine, Taylor

Retired San Diego correspondent Dan Tedrick recalls the days when movie stars still called news people on their own. He received some of those calls when he was night editor in Los Angeles in the 1960s. Here's what Tedrick wrote about those days:

"Buddy Ebsen would call to try to get a worldwide story out on a missing car of his.

"John Wayne would call to relieve his anger at some actor he didn't like.

"There were dozens of such calls a year.

"Shirley MacLaine always brightened my work days, somehow calling every few nights at the precise moment when we weren't chasing news from three Western states, Baja California or Hawaii.

"Shirley — and I love her to this day — would ask how I was and if there's 'any news from Nigeria,' or the Sudan or Zambia. I'd check the A-wire, as time allowed, and she knew that.

"Some three decades later, I can still hear staffers yelling out: 'Dan, the phone, it's Shirley again.'

"In the summer of '69 I fielded a call from the New York General Desk asking to check a report that

movie star Robert Taylor, then one of Hollywood's big names, was dying.

"I phoned the Taylor residence a couple of counties north of LA. His wife, German actress Ursula Thiess, answered.

" 'What?' she exclaimed to the inquiry. 'I just called my mother in Germany. This is not known to anyone else.'

"I told her I had a worldwide friendship and someone must have said something to someone.

" 'We just need to know how he's doing,' I said.

" 'He's dying,' Thiess said, 'but how did AP know so quickly?'

"I made chitchat for a minute without revealing the General Desk inquiry, and filed a story on the grave illness of the star.

"Within a week — June 8, 1969 — Taylor died.

"I never learned how the General Desk got the tip."

*(Editor's note: "Celebrity Stuff" is a new feature. Share your encounters with celebrities — past and present — with Cleartime editor Joe McKnight.)* ■

## AP Sightings

Vice President and Director of World Services Claude Erbsen spotted an AP sighting in the Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Embracing Defeat," a history of the post-war occupation of Japan by historian John Dower. AP correspondent Russell Brines is quoted on his impressions of Emperor Hirohito's first personal appearances after having been stripped of the title "Son of Heaven," and transformed into a more public ruler.

Cairo-based Chief of Middle East Services Earleen Fisher spotted AP in the January issue of Smithsonian magazine. A photo of the front entrance of AP's international headquarters in New York is included in an article about sculptor Isamu Noguchi entitled "An Oasis of Art" about Noguchi's open-air museum in suburban Long Island. Noguchi's sculpture "News" is above the entrance to the AP building. ■



## Busy Gene, Busy Gerry, Busy John

Minnesota retirees Gerry Nelson, Gene Lahammer and John Lundquist have been meeting in the spring and fall for years. They plan to continue that tradition in 2001. Lundquist — oldest of the three at 80 — missed lunch last fall because he was working. He does office work for a temp agency. Lahammer has a part-time stint with the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper, helping interview legislative candidates seeking endorsement in election years, and also writing an occasional editorial on legislative matters. He also freelances an occasional magazine article on political subjects. Nelson occasionally contracts with an area college for part-time public relations work and also does volunteer work for a community college and church.

# London Chiefs of Bureau O'Regan, Mason and Belkind Reunite



Eileen Murray surrounded at her retirement by her three bureau chiefs since 1966. From left, David Mason, Myron Belkind and Richard O'Regan.

The retirement of Eileen Murray, AP London's administrative executive since 1976, provided a unique opportunity for a reunion of the three London bureau chiefs for whom she had worked.

Richard O'Regan, bureau chief from 1966 to 1977; David Mason, who headed the bureau from 1977 to 1980, and Myron Belkind, who has been bureau chief since 1980, honored Murray at a luncheon and thanked her for her service during each of their tenures.

O'Regan retired in 1984 after serving as AP general director for Europe, based in Geneva, where he and his wife Betty live. The O'Regans have remained active in desktop publishing ever since their "formal retirement" and are now concentrating on producing books on international law for various publishers and international organizations. Betty also plays the viola in chamber music groups. The rest of the time the O'Regans spend walking in the Geneva countryside.

O'Regan hired Murray to be the bureau's administrative assistant, and Belkind thanked him for leaving such

"a great legacy."

Mason retired in 1987 after seven years as AP's London-based European chief diplomatic correspondent. He now lives in Dunster, a medieval village in Somerset, in the west of England, where he shares a lovely residence with an English widow, Joyce Hill.

"We get up in the morning and say, 'There's nothing to do today, and we end up completely exhausted,'" Mason said in a profile recently published in the alumni magazine of his alma mater, Macalester College. Gardening, entertaining visitors and participating in local charities are among their many activities. Mason's wife, Andrée Paul, a former French diplomat who was known to many AP staffers, died in 1991.

Belkind reports that O'Regan and Mason were "very fit and alert" and obviously enjoying retirement while remaining active.

The AP London staff honored Murray with a reception on March 2, her last day at work. Belkind read a tribute from AP President Lou Boccardi, who wrote: "It is hard to imagine that after this week there will

be a London AP bureau without Eileen Murray. You have been a key part of the bureau since you joined us 25 years ago. It is an understatement to say that you will be missed. Whatever the task you performed, you made the name Eileen Murray synonymous with helpfulness and understanding, always with a smile." ■

## On the AP Author's Shelf: An Essay by Germany's Ulrich Renz on Jewish Refugees

Ulrich Renz, retired chief editor of AP's German language news service, has written an essay for a book in which he describes the so-called re-naturalization procedure Jewish refugees go through if they return to Germany.

His essay in "Jews in Germany after 1945," appears alongside contributions of noted German and Israeli publicists. The book is published by Tribuene, a foundation for German-Jewish reconciliation.

Renz is considered an expert on Germany's Nazi history and has written several books and essays.

His first book, "Lauter pflichtbewusste Leute" (All Diligent People), covered his experiences and impressions as a wire service reporter during the court proceedings against concentration camp guards in the late '60s. Renz reflects critically on the defendants' claim to have done "nothing but our duty" in murdering millions of Jews and other inmates.

*(Editor's note: Peter Uhrig, who succeeded Renz as chief editor of the German language news service, contributed this piece.)* ■

# Personally Yours

By Joe McKnight

Your editor erred big time in putting a photograph in the December Cleartime that noted “all are believed to be deceased.” Two of those in the picture of the Atlanta bureau are hale and hearty, and we learned about it through you, our readers.

First response came from Brad Martin of the Kansas City tech staff:

“I believe the guy in the picture Ronnie (Williams) sent you from Atlanta for December’s Cleartime is automatic operator Vernon (Vern) Irby. He is still alive, 85 years old and living in Kansas City, Mo., where he took automation in ‘78 or ‘79. He was here when I arrived on the scene in the late 60’s.”

Then Irby himself wrote:

“Hey! It’s me — Vernon Irby. I was in Atlanta 9/65 to 10/66 as automatic operator.

“I transferred to Kansas City where I remained until early retirement in 1979.

“I went to work for Daily Racing Form in 1980 as operator for 14 years.

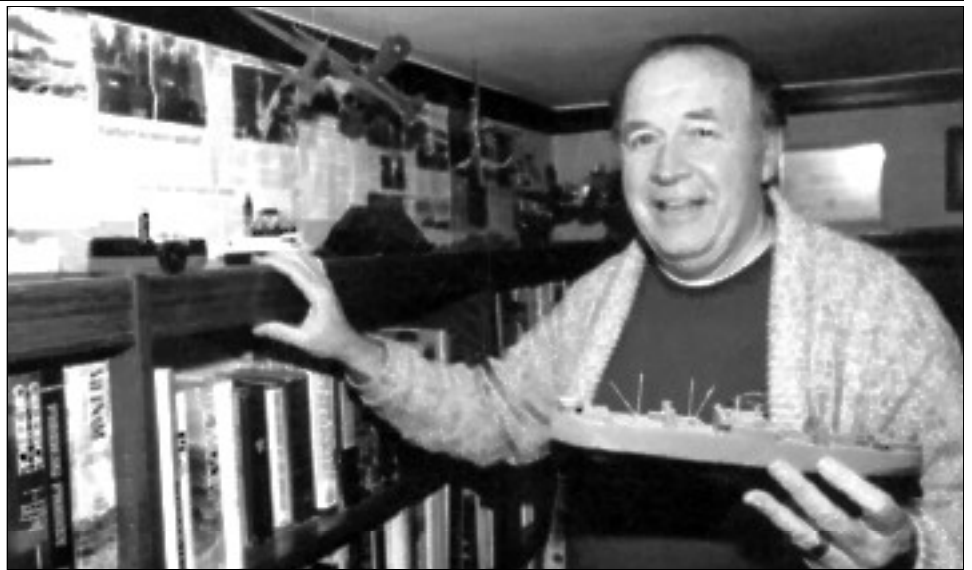
“I am 85 years old now, in good health except for a mild stroke a year ago.

“To say seeing my picture surprised me is putting it mildly. And to learn all are deceased except me is even more surprising. Wow!”

And Arlon Southall, retired assistant chief of Communications in Atlanta, dropped us a note giving Irby’s name and adding:

“There is one other in the picture who is still living. He is Clarence (Pat) Price, who resides in Stone Mountain, Ga.”

Jim Clifford, celebrating his first anniversary in retirement from the San Francisco bureau, is delving into



**Retired San Francisco newsman Jim Clifford builds models of ships and planes that he has written news stories about.**

a hobby big-time.

He builds models of ships and planes that he has written news stories about.

“So far, 26 models are displayed in the library in my home,” he says. “I have five more to go, including a four-masted tall ship that was part of a fleet that sailed into San Francisco Bay to recognize the 150th anniversary of the California Gold Rush.”

“Most are made from kits,” he continued, “but a few, such as the Liberty Ship Jeremiah O’Brien and Amelia Earhart’s airplane, had to be built from scratch.”

He said he resorted to original “scratch” work on the Jeremiah O’Brien after learning that a model kit would cost more than \$300.

Clifford signed on with AP in San Francisco in 1984 after 24 years with UPI. He retired in March, 2000.

“WOW! GOSH! What a surprise!” was Kansas City technical staffer Ralph Keibler’s reaction to a congratulatory e-mail from President Lou Boccardi about the unofficial AP Retiree Web site. The president first read about the site in September’s Cleartime. Boccardi wrote:

“Dear Ralph:

“I’ve just become aware (via my

Cleartime) of the retiree site you’ve set up on the web. What a great idea. And thank you for doing it. I can see that it’s already a source of information (and fun) for many of our folks.

“Sincerely,  
“LDB”

The Web site is: [www.rkeibler.net](http://www.rkeibler.net)

Don’t Open This Door If It Is Closed!

Oregon retiree Dwight Jones found that notice humorous when he visited his doctor.

“My doctor decided he wanted to check further into why I had laryngitis for six weeks, and sent me for a chest X-ray. The lady checking me in at the lab asks the usual questions, among them: Have you ever been here before? Yes. When? I can’t remember, but I recall there was a door down the hall with a sign that said “Don’t open this door if it is closed.”

“The paper work finished, she led me down a hall and there was the same door. It’s been repainted and has a classier looking sign that says: “Do not enter if door is closed.”

“I’m sorry, lady. If my X-ray is blurry, it’s because I’m still trying to suppress a chuckle.”

Jim Wessel’s wife, Bert, spent many years working with theatrical

groups. His retirement from the New York broadcast desk took them to Locust Grove, Va., where in 1982 she became a charter member of Lake Of the Woods Players.

That group honored Bert last fall at its production of a three-act comedy, "Never Too Late." "Her dedication, commitment and talent assisted the Players to develop and flourish since its inception," the group said.

Some readers may remember Hal Wood, a former AP and UPI staffer in San Francisco.

Rock Rothrock, a former staffer of the Honolulu Advertiser and now retired, reports that Wood, 91, recently suffered a stroke and is at the Hearthstone Nursing Home, 2901 East Barnett Road, Medford, OR 97504. He gives a personal phone number of (541) 282-9714 for Wood.

Rothrock said this information came from one of Wood's daughters, Ramona Wood of Vancouver, WA (Phone 360-750-7427).

Bob Johnson, the retired sports editor and AP assistant general manager, was inducted last fall into the New Mexico Press Hall of Fame. He retired in 1988 and is currently executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government. He lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

Special Correspondent George Esper, who retired last year, has a scholarship named after him. The New England Associated Press News Executives Association will award its \$1,000 George Esper Reporting Scholarship at its May 9 conference.

Your editor fondly remembers George Esper, who retired last year.

It was the spring of 1975 when the new Communist government in South Vietnam threw Esper out of Saigon.

After visiting the New York office, he landed in the Columbus bureau, filling the job of enterprise editor,

recently vacated by the late Ken Davis.

Later Esper would say that the Communists wouldn't even let him go to his Saigon apartment to pack a suitcase. He grabbed a few personal possessions from the abandoned AP bureau and was escorted to the Saigon airport.

That may explain something some on the Columbus staff thought to be an idiosyncrasy. In more than a year in Columbus, George often came to work toting two suitcases. He parked them in a corner of the office while he went about the day's chores.

We were too embarrassed to ask whether he checked out of a motel every day or whether he came to work prepared to move quickly to whatever new assignment needed his expertise.

George never had a desk to call his own in the bureau. He worked wherever he found a vacant desk and phone, and — in those days — a typewriter.

In the first weeks out of Saigon, his use of the telephone was startling. Accustomed to a Vietnamese phone system that was erratic at best, George shouted his phone conversations. Everyone in the office knew what he was calling about. One or two other staffers simply stopped working until George hung up and turned his volume down.

There were some jokes that he didn't really need a phone to dictate copy to New York; he could just shout out the window. ■



**NEW RETIREE:** Bruce Hodgman, center, longtime General Desk early supervisor, surrounded at his Dec. 21 retirement party by General Desk colleagues (from left to right) Pete Brown, Bob Tanner, Dave Zelio, Doug Rowe and Marty Steinberg. Hodgman spent 38 years with the AP, first in Hartford, then on the national AP Broadcast Desk when it was headquartered in New York, and finally on the General Desk. His wife, Marion, a switchboard operator at AP headquarters, attended the party along with other members of the Hodgman family. Bruce told the crowd: "So many people I've known, from the very early days, in 1962, to this very day. So many names. So many stories — so many stories about the people — but also of the people we work with, and one of the chief characteristics I've found among my journalistic 'warriors' is an attempt to be honest. We're willing to work with that as an objective. Believe me, you don't find that in every organization. A bit idealistic, I know, to speak in terms of honesty — a search for the truth. And so, I'd ask you to ... consider that there is much to be said for an organization — journalists and the AP, where the search is for truth, the facts. I am honored to have been with the AP and its people 38 years." (Photo: Christine Tash)

# Memorials

**Willy Brandt**, who joined the AP in Germany in 1936 and played a key role in building AP's German-language news service after World War II, died March 22. He was 90.

He became head of the AP's photo operations in Berlin in 1936. AP's operations in Germany were shut down by the Nazis when war was declared against the United States in 1941 and American employees interned.

Brandt, a German, was appointed by the AP to protect the company's assets as best he could during the war.

Despite air raids, one of which destroyed the AP's Berlin bureau, and other difficulties, Brandt was able to preserve AP records, photos, news files and equipment until the end of the war.

Soviet troops destroyed much of what he had saved, including some 70,000 glass photo negatives, when they reached the village southeast of Berlin where Brandt had hidden them. Most of the AP's film archives survived.

In 1950, Brandt rejoined the AP as sales manager in Frankfurt, which had become the headquarters of the AP's postwar operations. He played a crucial role in finding subscribers for the AP's newly-founded German-language news service.

AP's German Service is now the agency's largest overseas news operation, serving more than 200 media customers. It is Germany's second-largest news agency after the national agency Deutsche Presse Agentur.

He is survived by a daughter.

**William Ferris**, an AP newsman during the 1940s and 1950s, died Dec. 17 in Orange City, Fla. He was 89.

Ferris began his career working for newspapers in Michigan and Illinois. In 1941 he joined AP in Chicago and he covered agriculture and business. He became Chicago's market editor.

Ferris transferred to New York in

1957 where he worked as a business editor. He left AP in 1961 to become a public relations executive.

After retiring to Florida, Ferris wrote "The Grain Traders," a history of commodity futures trading that was published by Michigan State University Press in 1988.

Survivors include his wife, a son and two daughters.

**Frank Gilbreth**, best-selling author of "Cheaper by the Dozen," longtime columnist for The (Charleston) Post and Courier and a one-time AP staffer, died on Feb. 18 in Charleston, S.C. He was 89.

Gilbreth was well known in Charleston for his column, "Doing the Charleston," which he wrote from the late 1940s to 1993, and helped direct the newspaper's growth as an executive.

In 1949, Gilbreth and his sister, Ernestine Gilbreth Carey, collaborated in writing "Cheaper by the Dozen," the story of growing up in a family of 12 children with efficiency expert parents. It was a best seller, as was its sequel, "Belles on their Toes." Both were made into movies.

He worked as a reporter for the New York Herald Tribune before moving to The News and Courier in 1934. He also worked for the AP, first in Raleigh, N.C., then in New York.

Survivors include seven brothers and sisters.

**Edith Gaylord Harper** was a member of a well-known Oklahoma newspaper family and spent several years on the AP staff in Washington and New York.

She died Jan. 28 in Oklahoma City. She was 84.

She was a reporter and editor for The Oklahoman and Times. In 1942, before she joined the AP in New York and the next year transferred to

Washington. She covered a range of stories, including President Roosevelt's wife and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

She returned to Oklahoma City where she worked as a corporate secretary and member of the board of The Oklahoma Publishing Co. She was secretary emeritus at the time of her death. Her brother, Edward L. Gaylord, is editor and publisher of The Oklahoman and chairman of Oklahoma Publishing.

As an AP field technician, **George M. McCoy** worked in nine different offices during his 40-year career. He died in Owensboro, Ky., Feb. 25 at age 63.

Since 1976, McCoy had been based at the Messenger-Inquirer at Owensboro, maintaining AP equipment at newspapers and broadcast stations in western Kentucky and southern Indiana.

He began his career as an office assistant in the Louisville bureau in 1960. His AP work took him to New Orleans, Albuquerque, Columbus, Ohio and two stints each in New York and St. Louis. He retired in December. Survivors include his wife, five children and a sister.

**John T. Norman** was the AP's first Washington-based correspondent for AP-Dow Jones News Service when he joined AP in 1967. He retired in 1990 and died Dec. 29 at a hospice in Fort Myers, Fla. He was 82.

Norman previously worked for Fairchild Publications and for the U.S. Treasury Department.

**Jack O'Brian** joined the AP in 1943 and for many years was its drama and movie critic.

He later wrote about television and Broadway for several newspapers.

O'Brian died Nov. 5 in New York. He was 86.

In 1965, he took over the syndicated column Voice of Broadway after the death of columnist Dorothy Kilgallen. He also was host of a WOR-AM radio show.

His first name was Truman but **T. Stanley Smith** was known as Stan in his 39 years at the Baltimore AP Communications Department. He died Oct. 19 of cancer. He was 90.

Smith joined AP at Baltimore in 1934. He held several technical jobs before being named Traffic Bureau Chief in 1953. He took early retirement in 1973. In 1991 he and his wife, Doris, moved to North Fort Myers, Fla., from Maryland. Her sister Celeste Graf, retired administrative assistant in the Baltimore bureau, lives nearby.

At his retirement party, then AP President Wes Gallagher wrote Smith "it has been 20 years since you were put in charge of communications in Baltimore and I have always known that we could count on your expert administration in handling AP affairs."

Smith replied: "I had often wondered with the long hours and the seven days a week why I had picked AP. But now as I look back I would not have had it any other way ..."

Other survivors include two grandchildren; six great grandchildren, and three stepchildren.

**Edward Rush Young**, AP's Virginia news editor in the 1970s and early 1980s, died March 28 in Richmond, Va. He was 81.

Young joined the AP in 1946 after working briefly for The Daily Progress in Charlottesville and serving in the Navy during World War II. He became the Richmond bureau's sports editor in the 1950s. In 1970, he was promoted to news editor and held the job for 13 years.

Marshall Johnson, retired Richmond sports editor, said: "He was the greatest writer I've ever known under pressure, and I've been associated with some

## Tribute: Remembering Joe Holloway

Two AP retirees who worked with the late AP photographer Joe Holloway took time recently to recall what a great guy he was to work with.

"We learned, long before Joe joined AP, that he was a tough competitor," recalls Lamar Matthews, retired Atlanta assistant chief of bureau who worked with Holloway during much of his 30-year career. "When he applied to AP, Bureau Chief Ron Autry asked former photo editor Jim Laxson about Holloway's ability.

"Laxson replied 'All he can do is beat the hell out of you.' That basically summed it up. When we absolutely had to have a picture, regardless of the obstacles, Holloway got the assignment. He also got the picture no matter how tough.

"Other than his family, his two great loves were the Airborne Infantry and the University of Alabama (especially the football team and the late Coach Bear Bryant). His love of the infantry in which he had served made him a natural for assignment to Vietnam and later for the long My Lai massacre trial at Ft. Benning, Ga.

"He often returned to the University of Alabama, his alma mater, to lecture

truly good writers."

AP writer Bill Baskerville, who worked with Young for 14 years, said Young was "the heart and soul" of the Richmond bureau for many years. "He knew how to approach the story, what questions to ask and — mostly — how to write it with grace and style," said Washington news editor Merrill Hartson, who started his career working with Young in Richmond.

In 1999, Young helped AP and Virginia newspapers select the state's most significant stories of the 20th century. "He could remember so

to classes in photojournalism. He was especially close to Bryant, who gave him one of his famous checkered hats, one of Joe's prized possessions. He had a quick wit, was very sensitive and dedicated."

Bob Jarboe, retired Dallas photo editor, recalls an assignment in Kansas City with Holloway.

"Joe, Dean Lee from Washington and I were part of a photo staff covering a Democrat mini-convention in Kansas City in the early 1970s," Jarboe wrote. "We assembled in the lobby of the Hotel President to talk about where to eat supper.

"Joe, in his pronounced Southern drawl, spoke up with, 'Dean Lee and me are goin' where we can get some possum-chowmein.

"It was 16 degrees outside, so we elected to dine at our aging hotel. After we were seated, the waitress came over and whispered, 'don't eat here, it's terrible.'

"We piled into my car and drove to a Greek restaurant that featured a fine belly-dancer, and great food.

"Joe Holloway Jr. was always great to work with."

Holloway retired from the Atlanta staff in 1994 and died Aug. 16. ■

much that none of us could remember," said Richmond bureau chief Dorothy Abernathy.

**Pan Yueh-Kang**, former AP photographer and administrative director in Taiwan, died Jan. 3 in Qingdao, China, after a long illness. He was 63.

Pan joined AP as a photographer at Taipei in 1971 and became administrative director in 1982, in charge of both the news report and sales.

Survivors include his wife and three sons. ☺

# AP Cleartime

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**Dorothy and Bud Wylie**

## Bud and Dorothy Wylie, Wed in 1940, Celebrate Six Decades of Marital Bliss

NEW PORT RICHY, Fla. — Dorothy Wylie, retired journalist and teacher but still active as Bud's wife and mother of their children, has shown she can still produce a lively story.

She wrote an item on marital relationships, sub-titled "Sixty Years of Wedded Bliss... and other appropriate cliches," for the Bulletin of the Community Aging and Retirement Services, Inc., of Port Richey. It was published in the Winter 2000 issue, just in time for their 60th wedding anniversary.

Among other things, she disclosed that before she and Bud were married she told her sister she didn't want to get married but wanted to live with Bud "the rest of my life;" quite a risqué statement for a young lady in 1939.

But she and Bud agreed there were advantages to a wedding, "one of the first things we really agreed on," she wrote.

Then there was the question of babies — she wanted them; Bud didn't. But then he added, "I'll bet they'll sure be smart."

They had met while both were students at the University of Missouri and put off marriage until they graduated.

She went to work for the Independence, Mo., Examiner for \$18 per week and began paying off her \$800 college loan, while Bud went to work for The Associated Press "at the impressive salary of \$35 per week."

They decided two could live on Bud's salary and were married in 1940. In less than three years their first baby was born.

Again they agreed on something else — the baby was very smart.

World War II put a strain on everything, including babies and marriages.

"But ours survived ... I think ... Because Bud was so funny."

"It was fun watching his son develop the same sense of humor," she wrote. "When our daughter was born five years later, she quickly added to the entertainment."

When Bud joined the Navy, Dorothy moved back with her parents on a Wyoming ranch. From there she drove a pick-up daily several miles to a store which was the nearest drop for the Cody, Wyo., post office, always looking for letters from Bud. Some times there would be a stack of mail, some times none.

Then one day the lady mail carrier drove all the way to the ranch. In addition to letters, there sat Bud, jammed against mail bags. His ship had docked at Seattle and he had leave.

"And what did I do?" Dorothy wrote. "I cried — until Mrs. Mail carrier yelled at me.

"Hey," she shouted, "this guy found a taxi cab in Cody, Wyoming, to come 25 miles to see you." ■

What are you doing  
in retirement?  
Send stories and photos  
to Cleartime editor  
Joe McKnight