

AP Cleartime

A newsletter for retirees of The Associated Press

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Louisville's George Hackett Dies at 82

George Hackett, an AP newsman who wrote about Kentucky for almost six decades, died Nov. 6 in Louisville following a brief illness. He was 82. He was still on the Louisville staff when he underwent major abdominal surgery in September.

Hackett started his AP career in 1944 as a Wirephoto operator, and later held a number of supervisory positions including news editor. He most recently was bureau enterprise editor. "George Hackett arguably wrote more stories read by more people than any other journalist in Kentucky," said Ed Staats, Hackett's 13th bureau chief during his years as a news service reporter. "Hackett, as he was known by everyone, also was



George Hackett

of the AP news organization in Kentucky for longer than I have been in the craft," said David Hawpe, editorial director of The Courier-Journal in Louisville. Hawpe said **see Memorials on page 8**

One Sailor's Account of a Pivotal Pacific Battle in WWII

Editor's Note — For Veterans Day in the United States, national writer Jerry Schwartz wrote a story about a World War II letter authored by AP's Chuck Welsh that was returned a half century later by a neighbor. This is the gist of the edited letter, dated July 4, 1945:

By Charles A. Welsh
Associated Press Writer

Probably because it was my first full picture of invasion, Okinawa was fascinating to me. Of course, it was a fearsome sort of fascination, something like a bird must feel under the eyes of a snake, but that part slides

into the background with time and the other picture stays sharp and clear.

Always before we had operated with the big, sleek, new battleships, carriers, cruisers that were only somebody's dream put down on paper when the Japs struck Pearl Harbor. This time we joined the pre-war fleet, much of it that the same Japs thought they smashed forever at the same Pearl Harbor.

The island itself was fresh and green; a rim of sandy beach giving way to gentle hills rising toward the middle where the higher ridges lay. It was interlaced with roads that looked surprisingly smooth and wide as they

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Flash! Exhibit: Photographs from The Associated Press

- Jan. 16 - May 6, 2001
Morris Museum
Morristown, NJ
- Jan. 10 - Feb. 11, 2001
Freedom Forum
Hong Kong
- June 1 - Oct. 21, 2001
Museum of Our National
Heritage, Lexington, MA

George Esper Retires After 42 AP Years to Teach Journalism

By Jon Wolman

Editor's note: Vice President and Executive Editor Jon Wolman wrote the following note to the staff on the eve of Special Correspondent George Esper's retirement.

George Esper has never been one for writing -30- to an assignment.

After all, he is just back from Vietnam where he covered anniversary events 25 years after the end of the war.

But George is writing -30- to his AP career and moving into academia after a tour of duty that put his byline on top of some of the world's most dramatic and demanding stories in a 42-year AP career.

A mentor and friend to hundreds of AP staffers and alumni, George is known to readers and editors throughout the world for top-flight reporting, often under difficult and dangerous circumstances.

He personifies the mission of AP to tell its stories accurately, fairly and fearlessly.

George is best known as our Saigon bureau chief at the end of the war, an assignment that highlights but hardly defines his career. Based in Boston after he returned, he created the assignment of New England regional reporter. He'll be returning to his alma mater, West Virginia University, to train future journalists



George Esper speaks at his Oct. 6 retirement party in New York. (Photo: Stuart Ramson)

who will follow in his footsteps.

George is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at WVU and taught there last spring as first recipient of the Schott Chair in Journalism. He received an honorary doctorate in May.

WVU students will meet a tireless teacher of unparalleled dedication, skill and character. George is one of a few in the history of our organization to hold the title of Special Correspondent. His friend and colleague Hugh Mulligan retired the same title this month and so we are seeing a passing of the best guards in journalism.

Esper covered the war in Vietnam from 1965 to 1975 and was an eyewitness to the fall of the U.S.-backed

government of South Vietnam to Communist North Vietnam. The Communists forced Esper to leave Saigon five weeks after they took control of the country. It wasn't a -30-. Esper was back in 1993 to reopen the AP bureau in Hanoi.

Earlier this year Esper returned to Vietnam to cover the 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. He is the author of "The Eyewitness History of the Vietnam War," a book focusing on the human side of the war.

Esper reported from Somalia and Bosnia on U.S. military missions and he practically dispatched himself to Saudi Arabia to cover the war with Iraq — doing battle there with military managers who sought to restrict war coverage. Let me say parenthetically that George Esper in full voice is a force to be reckoned with.

In the United States, Esper wrote from Florida's Hurricane Andrew, the great Midwest floods of 1993, the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City and the airplane crashes of JFK Jr. and EgyptAir last year.

I remember when George won the inaugural Gramling Award for Reporting, we all said, simply, "of course."

He'll be sorely missed, but George will remain in close contact with his many AP friends. ■



On Top of the World and Ready to Golf

Roanoke, Va., technician Don Foster showcases his favorite memento at his retirement party in Richmond, Va., — an AP paperweight shaped as a globe. His passion is golf and the day after the party he left for a golfing vacation in Florida. Foster, who received a golf shirt as one of his retirement gifts, vowed to play golf every day of his retirement. (AP Photo)

Curtain Call for an AP Arts Maven

Mary Campbell, an AP Newsfeatures writer who has written about culture from her New York base for decades, has brought down the curtain on her AP career. She is retiring to Indiana. Campbell was born on a farm six miles north of Mt. Sterling, Ill., a town of 2,000, in the west central part of the state. She's a graduate of the Journalism School at the University of Illinois, where she also took courses in the music school and ushered at all plays. Her first job was the Progress-Bulletin in Pomona, Calif. She joined the AP in Chicago in 1960 and transferred to New York headquarters the same year. Campbell has been writing about the icons in American culture for 40 years and was well known for her coverage of music, opera, dance and drama. She often helped bureau writers around the country with coverage of celebrities and counts as personal friends performers in all fields. The late Duke Ellington, a close personal friend, once told a White House gathering "there is only one Mary Campbell." On Nov. 17, Campbell's colleagues threw her a retirement party where she was given gifts, paid tributes and presented with flowers. (Photo: Ed Bailey)



Chuck Welsh's Recovered World War II Letter Describes a Pivotal Pacific Battle for the U.S.

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wandered among the fields and over the hills. And everywhere you looked closely were little hamlets of a half-dozen clustered-together houses. In those days we saw no people. Later there were a few but I never was quite sure whether they were civilians or Jap troops.

All that week we bombarded, patrolling slowly up and down our sector by day, fighting off air attacks morning, noon and night.

Bombarding soon becomes a boresome task. You stand long watches, get little sleep; the roar of the big guns rings in your ears day and night and often, when you must stand too close, the concussion of the guns is like a physical blow. Sometimes it felt as though I were being struck sharply on the throat.

Where the shells land you see only grey-brown blobs of smoke and shattered earth. Curiously, the snapping crackle of the five-inch guns I found more annoying than the deeper rumble of the eights.

Sometimes from a distance we felt the jarring thud of the 12-14 and even 16-inch battleship guns, heard the ghostly rustle of the shells overhead.

But there are, sometimes, little incidents. One was the day we wrecked the lighthouse.

The lighthouse stood on a promontory of rock at the entrance to Naha Bay ... an excellent observatory from which Jap binoculars could chart our moves, and eventually it might be an easily defended fort. So the eight-inch guns went to work.

The first salvo was over; we could see the brown dust and rocks fly from the hillside beyond the target. The second was a little short and a corner of the rock crumpled into the sea. The third was to right and a portion of the house caved in.

Fourth salvo — all this in five minutes — was "on target."

We went on to other targets. On the airdrome were the gaunt steel skeletons of two hangars, either never finished or else burned out. We left

them alone. And we left alone, too, some realistic-looking dummy planes the Japs had left on the airstrip. But we blew the hell out of some underground hangars and neatly demolished a couple of real planes the Japs thought they had hidden.

All that week we bombarded methodically. ... Saturday night we steamed away from the deserted island. Sunday morning before dawn hundreds of ships were there. Then began the real bombardment and for an hour shells of all sizes rained on the beach and the adjoining hills.

Slowly and deliberately, while we shelled, the little landing craft circled, loaded, circled again and then in lines moved toward the beach. With them went the rocket ships and as the warships fell quiet the little fellows went to work. It's awesome to watch flight after flight of rockets spring upward from the little ships; first an arrow with a tail of fire, then nothing until the shattering showers of death and destruction on the beach. ■

Max Desfor Sees His Pulitzer Photograph Four Stories High

By Max Desfor
Retired Photographer

An aging group of former Korean War correspondents was warmly greeted by honor guards and government officials during a week-long reunion in South Korea in Spring 2000.

Nineteen former reporters and photographers were guests of the South Korean government to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. Included were 11 from the United States, two from France, three from Australia and one each from Colombia, Turkey, and Greece. That conflict began June 25, 1950 and lasted just over three years.

Participants made nostalgic visits to monuments and historic sites of battles and events they had witnessed, including the site of the Inchon landing in September, 1950, and Panmunjom where protracted peace talks were carried out as armed conflict ended.

The main event was at the War Memorial stadium where South Korean President Kim Dae-jung spoke to a gathering of national war veterans, war correspondents and representatives of the United Nations Forces that fought there.

Two events were memorable for me — an enormous enlargement of my Pulitzer Prize-winning picture of refugees fleeing across broken girders of a bombed bridge on the Taedong River at Pyongyang, capital of North Korea; and an introduction to Mr. S. Ahn, a 95-year-old refugee from North Korea who was among thousands who fled North Korea across the bridge that I photographed.

There was no way to determine if he was among those pictured but he confirmed that he crossed the river by climbing on the broken girders. He was the only member of his family to escape in this manner, but said three sons escaped across the river by other means.

One son, Kie Y. Ahn, later wrote me verifying that his father was

indeed among the thousands of fleeing refugees who climbed through the broken bridge girders to freedom. Kie Ahn said he and a younger brother crossed the Taedong River on a raft made by lashing two 50-gallon oil drums together and rowing through the currents.

At the War Memorial stadium, the enlargement of my picture was displayed as a giant diorama four stories high.

I was overwhelmed by the size and prominence of this part of the exhibit. ■

More No Gun Ri Related Awards

AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning stories about U.S. military forces killing refugees in the Korean War have won two more awards. "Bridge at No Gun Ri" captured the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists' top award and AP Digital won an Online Journalism Award for its multimedia presentation of No Gun Ri.

Angove's Plea: My Kingdom For a Working Telephone Line

By Rodney Angove
Retired Newsman

You never appreciate good communications until you're working the story of your life and can't push any more than tiny bits of it through bad circuits for publication.

It was July 5, 1962, when native Algerians of Oran were celebrating their independence from France that shooting broke out — little puffs of smoke amid the crowd. Screams. Panic. Gunmen running everywhere. Bullets whistling up and down streets.

The European employees of the post office were being marched away at gunpoint. Also at gunpoint, AP

photographer Spartaco Bodini (see obituary in Memorials on p. 9) was being held incommunicado for the rest of the day. A hotel switchboard operator was the victim of a shot fired through a window.

Teen-aged Algerian gunmen burst into the hotel lobby and, totally lacking in team work gave orders to the dozen reporters present. "Hands up!" "Hands Down!" "Stand up!" "Sit Down." Such were the highlights of the day. And they were not funny.

There had not been telephone service to Paris for months. I relied on relays by AP staffers in Algiers. Now, reporters in Oran were reduced to plugging the switchboard at random. The rare live line lasted only seconds.

The only nugget I got out to Paris was a hospital report of "about a hundred dead and wounded." But this brought a reproach: "The French army says only two dead."

I exploded: "I can see both of those in front of the hotel. Besides, the army PIO is holed up here with the rest of us."

The next day, after slobbering "PRESSE" in white paint all over my rented Peugeot, I drove to the hospital. The new Algerian administrator confirmed there was 96 dead and over 200 wounded.

"Want to visit the morgue?" he invited.

No thanks! I already had my scoop. ■

Staff and Board of Directors Pay Tribute to Gramling Winners

Winners of the Year 2000 Gramling awards, their families and friends were congratulated by the staff and the AP board of directors Oct. 18 in New York. The nine winners attended a cake-and-cider party with several hundred staffers at New York headquarters in the afternoon. In the evening, they were honored at the annual Gramling dinner by chairman of the AP board Donald E. Newhouse and the rest of the directors. President and CEO Lou Boccardi presented cash prizes to the winners. Gramlings were presented to Journalism winners Niko Price of Mexico City and Tony Winton of Miami; Achievement winners Tony Rentschler of News Development and Brian Horton of NewsPhotos; and Spirit winners Rachel Ambrose of Los Angeles, Phil Emanuel of Communications, Elna Kammler of New Orleans, Elis Salim of Jakarta, Indonesia and Satish Sharma of New Delhi, India.



Gramling winners, left to right, first row: Elis Salim, Elna Kammler, Rachel Ambrose, Brian Horton, Satish Sharma. Second row: Phil Emanuel, Tony Winton, Niko Price, Tony Rentschler (Photo: Stuart Ramson)

On the AP Author's Shelf

Retired sports writer Ken Rappaport and New York sports writer Barry Wilner are promoting "Girls Rule! The Glory and Spirit of Women in Sports." The 160-page paperback book is the second of three books they've written together in the past year. "They Changed The Game" was published last November and upcoming is "Sports Villains."

Paris-based Special Correspondent Mort Rosenblum has added to his collection of books with "A Goose in Toulouse and Other Culinary Adventures in France." In the book's description on amazon.com it says Rosenblum "applies his superb nose for news and fine fare to the food-drenched culture of a country that takes its cuisine as seriously as its politics."

In "Wild East: Travels in the New Mongolia," London staffer Jill Lawless writes about Mongolia where she was editor of the UB Post, a fledgling independent newspaper in Ulan Bator. "Wild

East" depicts a country waking from centuries of isolation.

Director of AP Telecommunications Larry Blasko has a new book called "Vamp." Blasko is author of "ABCs of Computing, A Plain-English Guide" and has been writing a personal computing column for the AP for the last 18 years. You can find a synopsis of "Vamp," a novel, on the site of Web-based publisher xlibris.com at http://www.xlibris.com/XL/product_list.asp?viewby=title&jump-to=V#V

Dorman Cordell, bureau chief in several states before his early retirement, has co-authored a book and a study on entitlements that AP retirees could use.

Both pertain to entitlements for seniors, a subject more-or-less set in stone for most Cleartime readers, but of major interest to those still in the work force.

Cordell retired from AP in 1982 after 23 years, now lives in Dallas, and wears at least two hats. He is a senior scholar at the National Center for Policy Analysis as well

as having a newspaper brokerage.

He is coauthor of an NCPA study, "The Nightmare in Our Future: Elderly Entitlements," which was released in Washington by Reps. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., and Nick Smith, R-Mich.

He also coauthored a book, "Social Security: Your Taxes, Your Benefits, Some Alternatives," which was published by the NCPA in September.

"It's really a neat book, even if I did write it," said Cordell. The other coauthor did the numbers-crunching. Cleartime readers may not be interested in the book themselves because their Social Security benefits aren't going to be affected no matter what happens, but they might want to tell their children and grandchildren about it while there's still time to save the system for them and future generations."

Ask your local book store where you can buy a copy, or copies, for your grandchildren. ■



An AP Election Night in the 1950s

It was an election night in the AP's San Francisco office in the 1950s when this picture was taken. AP alumnus Skip Leabo, in far upper left corner, provided it for Cleartime. Others shown include Clyde Bartel, Jack Stevenson, Paul Kern Lee, and Ernie Bennett. Leabo spent 10 years with AP in San Francisco and New York before leaving. Nowadays, Skip and wife Kathy spend much of their time living aboard a 38-foot sloop and sailing it around the Caribbean Sea.

AP Media Mentions

Retired Washington newsman Harry Rosenthal spent six months as a copy editor and language coach for a daily newspaper in Shanghai. In September, Rosenthal related his experience as a "polisher" at the Freedom Forum Asian Center & Library in Hong Kong. In October, he held a brown-bag lunch with his former colleagues at the Washington bureau about being an American in Shanghai. You can read about the challenges he faced at <http://www.freedomforum.org/news/2000/09/2000-09-26-03.htm>. ■

A Transition From Wirephoto Operator To Politician

DAWSON SPRINGS, KY — Ray Bochert says he's living proof that there can be a life in politics after an AP career.

Bochert, who worked many years in the Columbus, Ohio, bureau, took early retirement from his Wirephoto operator's job in Philadelphia in 1976 when the AP moved into the electronic age.

Now he lives in the house where he was born on 6 1/2 acres at the edge of this western Kentucky village and is working to put it on the world map as a health spa.

Since moving back "home," Bochert served nine years as county zoning commissioner and is in his 12th year as a city councilman. He also is involved with the local Chamber of Commerce.

"I also write a weekly column for the Madisonville Messenger, a daily newspaper, titled 'Doings in Dawson Springs,'" he informs Cleartime.

"Our little community (population about 3,000) is really growing since we began capitalizing on our historical background as the Health Spa of the South," he added. "We are attracting tourists from all over the United States." ■

A Going Away Party in San Francisco in 1954

Former news and photo editor Skip Leabo sends this picture made in the San Francisco bureau after the end of the Korean War in 1954. "The staff was saying goodbye to Don Baldwin who was transferring." From left: Cable desk newsman Skip Leabo (arms folded); newsman Leonard Malkin (arms folded), east editor Charlie McMurtry behind Malkin, unidentified check staffer (copy boy), newsman Leonard Milliman (making presentation of gift), newsman Ray Cronin (balding, beside Milliman), automatics operator Howard Wherry (behind Milliman and Cronin), automatics operator Arlon Southall in eyeshade, automatics operator Red Pollard (behind Southall, also in eyeshade), cable desk newsman Don Baldwin, unidentified check staffer, and west coast science editor Rennie Taylor, behind check staffer.



Personally Yours

By Joe McKnight

Cleartime welcomes several staffers from a variety of posts to the ranks of retirees this fall.

Among them are Special Correspondents George Esper (see p. 2) and Hugh Mulligan; AP Newsfeatures writer Mary Campbell (see p. 3); Roanoke, Va., technician Don Foster (see p. 2); Tokyo photo darkroom staffer Fujio Yokoyama; New York communications programmer Herbert Leiner; Richard Fleming, technical services manager in Washington; Milwaukee newsman Peter Seymour and Albuquerque Chief of Communications Vernon (Cliff) Little.

Little officially retired Dec. 1 after 35 AP years. Ralph Keibler of the Kansas City tech center collected congratulatory messages from retirees and others via the AP retiree Web page and printed them for Little's November retirement party.

Yokoyama served many years as chief of darkroom services in Tokyo and later in Japan's Wide World Photo department. He joined AP June 9, 1959 and retired Sept. 3.

All get a free life-time subscription to Cleartime.

Congratulations to retired Wirephoto Editor Joe Jamieson and his wife, Judith, who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary Sept. 2.

Joe, the voice of the Washington bureau on the Wirephoto network for many years, celebrated his 94th birthday on June 23.

The new retiree directory is out. The cover is light green and dated November 2000. Several retirees report new or changed e-mail addresses. For example, Frank Turner has a revised address: fturner@ecrr.com while Frank

Russell is new to e-mail at mail218744@pop.net

Skip Leabo, long-time west and east coast staffer, wants friends to know his new addresses. He's at:

P. O. Box 754
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
Phone: 361-552-9431
Fax: 520-569-3417
Email: ksleabo@leabo.net

AP alumnus Robin Adorna, also new to e-mail, can be reached at: adornr@aol.com

From a home base in Brazil, retiree Bruce Handler lives life on golf courses all over the Western Hemisphere. While freelancing for International Gaming & Wagering Business magazine, Bruce has covered stories in Argentina, Paraguay and Colombia.

"I played golf in all three countries," he writes. "In Buenos Aires I found a local pro-am best-ball tournament, asked if I could play and was told, 'Come on out. There's always a no-show.' I went, and my group came in second. I won a trophy and a bottle of wine.

"In Bogota I missed an eagle on the par-4 fourth at El Rincon by — I swear — an inch. One more turn of the ball.

"In Argentina I saw fellow retired South America COB Bill Heath. He and Marta divide their time between Argentina and New Mexico. Bill has a four-wheel drive vehicle and has taken it, literally, to the ends of the continent. I spoke by phone with current COB Bill Cormier. In Colombia, I saw COB Andrew Selsky, back there for his second tour."

Editor & Publisher magazine's 50 Years Ago flashback in its Aug. 7 issue noted:

"The Korean War, in a little more than a month, exacted a greater toll of casualties, 12, among news correspondents than were claimed in the entire first year of World War II. The shocking sacrifices made by the correspondents' corps included six dead."

The item didn't name casualties, but they included AP newsman William R. Moore, killed by mortar fire in Korea July 31, 1950, after dropping his pencil and notebook to care for a wounded U. S. Army lieutenant.

Moore, 40, joined AP at Denver in 1937, took military leave for Army service in 1942-46, and returned to AP at New York in 1946. He was named correspondent in Korea in 1948, shifted to Hong Kong, then returned to Korea two days before he was killed.

A funny thing happened to retired photographer Max Desfor as he rode a train from Florida back to his Maryland home for the summer, once again proving that it's a small world.

At dinner on the train, Max was assigned a table occupied by Tony and Beatrice Krupa, parents of Boston-based AP photographer Charles Krupa, who was covering spring baseball training camps in central Florida.

Desfor and the Krupas didn't know each other until this encounter but the connection came to light during small talk at dinner.

The couple said they had gone to a Mets-Astros exhibition baseball game the day before. Max said he also had attended the game. The man said he and his wife went mainly because their son was covering the game.

"Covering," caused Max's ears to perk up and he quickly learned who he was sharing a dinner table with.

"During the meal, Max mentioned he was a photographer," the younger

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Personally Yours

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Krupa said. “My dad said so was his son. Max said he had worked for the Associated Press; my dad said again so was his son.

“Max said he was a Pulitzer prize winner; my dad — for the third time — said so was his son.

Max told of the experience of his Korean bridge photograph, which won the Pulitzer.

“Mom and dad told them about my image of President Clinton appearing exhausted the day after he testified in the Monica Lewinsky hearings,” Krupa continued. “My image was part of a selection from a team of photographers who won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography for coverage of the Impeachment of President Clinton.”

Tony Krupa formerly worked as a deliveryman for the Boston Globe and his son said the father would bring home sports photographs when he was a child.

“That sparked my interest in being a newspaper photographer,” the younger Krupa said, adding that “my mom is a retired graphic artist and photographer.”

Charles Krupa worked at the Philadelphia bureau before moving to Boston in 1989.

AP combat photographer Oliver (Ollie) Noonan was remembered at the annual Committee to Protect Journalists dinner in New York Nov. 21. Paul Critchlow, now a senior vice president at Merrill Lynch & Co., said Noonan’s death inspired him to become a journalist. Noonan was shot down in a helicopter and killed Aug. 19, 1969, while covering the war in Vietnam. ■



Who Is This?

Can someone supply a name for the dark-haired guy in the rear, just left of center, in this 1960s picture of Atlanta staffers? It shows Teletype and Wirephoto operators celebrating with seniority pins. Wording on the cake states this group represented a collective 190 years of AP service. Left to right: Bennie Edwards, automatic operator; recently retired Eddie Hall, Wirephoto operator; Bill Todd and Lacy Bryant, automatic operators; the unknown face; Bill Sandifer, automatic operator; Pat Price (rear) of Wirephoto; Ray Hill, assistant TBC; Ed Sharp, Traffic Bureau Chief; Ralph Carson, automatic operator, and bureau chief Ron Autry, who appears to be putting a service pin on Sharp’s coat lapel. All are believed to be deceased. Current Atlanta Chief of Communications Ronnie Williams found the picture in his files and Lamar Matthews, retired Atlanta assistant bureau chief, helped match names to faces.

Memorials

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Hackett was his first real boss in journalism, when Hawpe started his career at AP after graduating from the University of Kentucky. “Besides all that,” said Hawpe, “he was a gentle, kind, thoughtful, funny human being. And a superb, spare writer.”

Hackett had many other admirers among the editors and publishers at the newspapers served by the AP in Kentucky. Walter Dear, former owner and publisher of The Gleaner at Henderson, wrote in a column in 1997 about Hackett’s greatest scoop. It came in the aftermath of the 1968 Kentucky Derby, when officials disqualified Dancer’s Image, the apparent winner.

Hackett was quoted as saying: “We always checked the condition of the winner on the Monday following the Derby. A Churchill Downs public relations man gave me a piece of paper saying that Dancer’s Image had some forbidden medicine in his system, and Forward Pass, who ran second, had been declared the winner. I got to the phone in a hurry and beat the competition by 15 minutes.”

In 1981 Hackett was presented the Distinguished Service of Journalism award by Western Kentucky University. His highest award came in 1988 when he was inducted into the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame at the University of Kentucky. Hackett was a native of Louisville and attended St. Xavier High School. He then

went to business school, served 18 months in the Army and while working nights attended the University of Louisville for three and one-half years.

In 1998, Hackett attended the inaugural gathering in New York of the Half Century Club for active and retired staffers with at least 50 years of AP service.

He is survived by his wife, Mickey, a renowned artist whose watercolor paintings have been popular sellers in much of the Midwest.

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Alfonso Anzueto, a correspondent for the AP during the difficult years of the civil war in Guatemala, died Oct. 28 in Guatemala City. He was 70.

On several occasions, Anzueto was threatened by various groups involved in the 36-year conflict, which ended in 1994. Anzueto also worked for the Prensa Libre newspaper in Guatemala. He was a member of the Association of Journalists of Guatemala for 45 years and served as president of the organization at least four times. Anzueto retired at the beginning of this year.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and a son.

⊙

Bill Bebout, a former AP newsman in Idaho, died Oct. 22 in Tillamook, Ore. He was 64.

Bebout was respected for his resourcefulness. In 1961, while working for the AP in Boise, Idaho, Bebout was dispatched to Ketchum to cover funeral services for Ernest Hemingway, who had committed suicide. John Terry, a friend and former colleague, said Bebout arranged with the local telephone company to string a phone line out to the cemetery.

“While other reporters were standing back taking notes, Bill was dictating copy to the AP in Salt Lake City,” Terry said. “Bill was proud of that accomplishment.”

Bebout spent 25 years as a journalist in Oregon. As the editorial page editor for the Statesman Journal in Salem, he won five first-place awards for writing and editing from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association.

Besides the Statesman Journal, he worked at the Capital Journal in Salem, The Register-Guard of Eugene, The Bulletin of Bend and the LaGrande Observer.

He retired in 1987 after working in Washington, D.C., for a U.S. Senate committee and then in Oregon as an assistant public utility commissioner.

Survivors include a foster son and seven stepchildren.

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Spartaco Bodini carried his cameras into wars and combat situations for AP for 26 years in such disparate sites as Vietnam, Algeria (see p. 4), Congo and Cyprus.

He died in Mont-de-Marsan in southwest France July 25 near his 74th birthday. He had been ill for some time.

Bodini, born in Italy, joined AP as a messenger in Paris in 1952. He became a photographer in 1961 at the height of the war in Algeria and his first assignment was at Oran, then the most dangerous city in that country.

He also handled coverage of numerous Tour de France cycling races. Bodini left the AP in 1978 for other work.

⊙

Ted Hampson spent more than 10 years as an AP broadcast reporter in Washington, Chicago and as midwest correspondent for the AP national radio network.

He later worked as managing editor for WBBM-AM in Chicago.

Hampson died in Chicago July 13 of colon cancer. He was 44.

With AP, he covered several presidential campaigns including George

Bush, Michael Dukakis and Richard Gephardt.

He received reporting awards from the Chicago Headline Club and the AP Broadcasters Association for his coverage of the Mississippi River flood in 1993.

Survivors include his wife and a son.

⊙

Gordon J. Hanson worked for AP 13 years in Des Moines, Fargo and Bismarck, N.D., and later worked for the Rapid City Journal in South Dakota.

Hanson died Sept. 16 in an automobile accident near Rapid City. He was 71.

A state patrol trooper saw Hanson's vehicle go off a road and said he may have had a heart attack at the wheel. The vehicle left no skid marks, and Hanson was wearing a seat belt. He had two prior heart attacks.

Hanson joined AP in 1971 at Des Moines, and was named correspondent at Fargo in 1976. In 1978, he transferred to Bismarck. He retired in 1991 from the Rapid City Journal.

Survivors include his wife, two sons and two daughters.

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Paul Harvey III, a former AP newsman and a longtime sportswriter and wire editor at The (Eugene, Ore.) Register-Guard, died Oct. 14 in Eugene. He was 63.

Harvey, who joined the newspaper in 1955, left to work for the AP in Salem, Portland and Los Angeles. He returned to The Register-Guard sports department in 1960 and moved to the copy desk in 1976. He retired in 1996.

His father, Paul Harvey Jr., was the AP correspondent in Salem for 38 years. Survivors include a wife and three children.

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⊙
Lawrence G. Hauck was one of the early AP reporters assigned to cover the United Nations when it was organized at the end of World War II.

He then spent nearly 30 years with the New York Times, where he supervised news coverage of such subjects as the UN and national political conventions. He retired from the Times in 1975.

Hauck died in Winston-Salem, N.C., Sept. 26. He was 88.

He began his career on Ohio newspapers, moved to the Detroit Free Press and then joined the AP.

⊙
William A. Hudson covered college sports while serving in Kentucky as AP correspondent in Lexington and spent his later working years as broadcast editor in the Louisville bureau.

Hudson joined AP in 1944 and retired in 1984. He died in Louisville Sept. 6 at age 79.

Survivors include his wife, a son and two daughters.

⊙
Edwin J. Kane, a broadcaster who spent the final 24 years of his career with the AP Radio Network in Washington, died Oct. 19 in Reston, Va. He was 76.

During a 39-year career, Kane interviewed Presidents Nixon and Johnson and covered the national political conventions. Kane was news director and anchorman at WNBC-TV, Binghamton, N.Y., from 1960 through 1963, and then moved to WPRO-TV in Providence, R.I., where as anchorman he won the Alfred P. Sloan Award for a yearlong series on automobile safety that he wrote and produced. He anchored newscasts on ABC Radio starting in 1967 before joining the AP network as anchorman for hourly newscasts

from 1974 to 1980. After retiring, Kane co-produced and announced "Home Front" for AP radio until 1998.

Survivors include three daughters.

⊙
James Whitcomb Reilly Lewis, a retired California technician who spent 46 years with the AP, died July 29. Lewis, a resident of South Lake Tahoe, California, was 95.

Lewis joined the AP in Indianapolis in 1924 and worked there until 1938 when he transferred to the San Francisco bureau. He retired in April 1970 from the San Francisco technical staff where he was night traffic supervisor.

Survivors include a daughter.

⊙
Thomas J. McCullough worked only a few years with AP but they gave him happy memories that he carried the rest of his life.

He was hired as a temporary copy boy in 1936 at \$15.00 per week and stayed about four years until the military beckoned.

In later years, he settled in Albuquerque, N.M., and that's where he died June 19, 2000.

McCullough was with AP when it moved from 383 Madison Ave., to 50 Rockefeller Plaza. He remembered the new office as "a lonely and desolate place compared with the hustle and bustle of Madison Ave."

In October, 1940 he joined New York's famed "Fighting 69th" Infantry Division and went to war. He returned to AP in October, 1945, working in the library for a year until deciding to make the Army his career.

In letters of recent years, McCullough recalled that The AP's Marty Lederhandler served in New York's 27th Infantry Division, and that President Lou Boccardi served in the 4th Armored Infantry Division.

⊙
Herbert O'Keef, who as a newspaper editor urged support for civil rights during the turbulent '50s and '60s, died Nov. 30 in Raleigh, N.C. He was 92.

O'Keef was editor of The Raleigh Times, a now-defunct afternoon newspaper, for 16 years, starting in 1957. He wrote almost daily editorials supporting equal rights for blacks and calling for calm during weeks of lunch counter sit-ins and demonstrations in Raleigh.

Later, O'Keef backed busing plans that brought thousands of white students into formerly all-black schools in North Carolina. A native of Wilmington, N.C., O'Keef was hired as a reporter for the Durham Sun in 1930.

He worked for the AP in North Carolina and Maryland and at The News & Observer as a reporter and editor until 1941. Following Army service, O'Keef returned to the News & Observer as a features editor. He retired from the Times in 1973.

Survivors include his wife, daughter and sister.

⊙
Woodrow Price, a former managing editor of The (Raleigh) News & Observer, died Dec. 2 in Carteret County, N.C., of cancer. He was 86.

Price took a job with The Raleigh Times in 1939 and two years later became managing editor of the Kannapolis Independent. During World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps. Later, he became a reporter for the AP in Raleigh then joined The News & Observer in 1946.

In 1948, he began his "In The Open," column, which ran for 28 years and won him a regional conservation award by the N.C. Wildlife Federation in 1963. The federation named him outdoor writer of the year in 1965. He became managing editor

in 1957, stepping down in 1972. He retired in 1976.

He also served as chairman of the State Ports Authority working to protect North Carolina's coastline and other natural areas.

Survivors include his wife, two sons, two daughters and a brother.

⊙

Mary Rutter, a retired editor for the AP in Kansas City, Mo., died Oct. 20 in Overland Park, Kan. She was 86.

Rutter joined the AP in 1942. She worked at bureaus in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, La., and Jackson, Miss., before transferring to Kansas City in 1944. She retired in 1978. She had worked as a reporter for the Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World and the Hattiesburg (Miss.) American before embarking on a 36-year career with the AP.

⊙

He was never an AP staffer but **Milt Sosin** made an indelible impression on the Florida AP news report.

A tenacious reporter from journalism's golden era, Sosin covered federal courts in South Florida as a free-lancer for AP for more than 20 years. That was after he retired at age 68, after 32 years at the old Miami News.

He reported his last story — retirement of a federal judge — for AP in June, a day after he received a pacemaker. Sosin died at Miami Aug. 20.

Last April, he gave AP a 20-minute beat on the first federal court ruling on Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban boy who was the subject of an international custody fight.

"Milt was a fiercely competitive, tenacious reporter who never lost his delight for getting it first and getting it right," said Kevin Walsh, AP Florida bureau chief.

His career spanned 75 years, and

he worked for newspapers in New Jersey and New York before World War II.

He was the only U.S. reporter to get a sit-down interview with Mafia financier Meyer Lansky — and Lansky called him. He got an exclusive with a vacationing Winston Churchill, after ferreting out his secret retreat.

He also interviewed a young Fidel Castro and had a photo of him holding Castro's submachine gun, while Castro held Sosin's typewriter.

⊙

Betty J. Utter, who worked for the AP in Kansas City as a Teletype operator for more than two decades, died Oct. 12 in Kansas City, Mo. She was 75.

A lifelong resident of Kansas City, she joined the regular staff of the AP as an automatic operator in 1968 and retired in 1990. She is survived by a son.

⊙

Bonnie Wiley was one of AP's female combat correspondents in the South Pacific during World War II.

She covered military action on Iwo Jima, mop-up operations on Okinawa and was the first woman war correspondent to reach Japan when that country capitulated.

She was among the AP staff on the USS Missouri when the Japanese signed surrender documents in Tokyo Bay Sept. 2, 1945.

Wiley died in Honolulu Sept. 23. She was 90.

She was working for AP in San Francisco in January 1945 when she asked to become a war correspondent. She was assigned to the Navy and received a Navy commendation and battle stars for combat.

In 1989 she was awarded the UNESCO Award for outstanding contributions to international journalism and education. ■

Craig Horst Dies at 46 After a Brief Illness

Craig Horst, who covered everything for the AP from the Kansas City Royals' quest for the World Series to Bill Clinton's pursuit of the presidency, died Nov. 24 in Kansas City following a brief illness. He was 46.

Horst's final AP assignment came on Nov. 7, when he was part of the bureau's election coverage team. He entered the hospital that evening.

Horst joined AP as a temporary legislative staffer in Jefferson City, Mo., in 1979, shortly after getting his master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri.

Following a two-year stint as a newsman in the St. Louis bureau, he transferred to Kansas City and became a favorite of newsmakers and news reporters alike.

"Beyond his talent, Craig was a friendly, caring man, someone you instantly liked," said Kansas City bureau chief Paul Stevens. "That quality was present in his reporting."

Survivors include his parents and a sister.

⊙

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VISIONS OF YULETIDE The top picture, taken by Manny Joseph, now 88, shows a 1943 war-time Rockefeller Center Christmas tree was neither decorated nor illuminated because of World War II blackout restrictions. The bottom photograph was taken by Harry Harris in 1947. Harry's picture was tapped to grace the cover of President Boccardi's year 2000 greeting card.



AP Happenings

International television executive Ian Ritchie has been appointed chief executive of Associated Press Television News. Ritchie joins APTN from Middle East Broadcasting where he was chief executive officer responsible for television, radio and digital and cable operations.

AP correspondent Ian Stewart accepted the top APME award for feature writing for a moving account of his recovery from being shot while covering the civil war in Sierra Leone. He received standing

ovations at the Oct. 19 convention in San Antonio from some 350 editors from across the United States. Stewart dedicated his award to Myles Tierney, an APTN producer who died in the same attack in January 1999, and Miguel Gil Moreno de Mora, an APTN cameraman killed in Sierra Leone last May. Stewart said he wants to return to his job overseas. "I want to make the world a little bit better, a little more peaceful."

New correspondencies in Savannah, Ga., and Lanham, Md., bring to 147 the number of AP offices in the United States. ■