



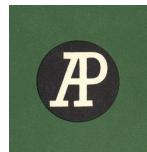
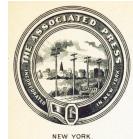
Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - June 16, 2017

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
 Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
 To: pjshane@gmail.com

Fri, Jun 16, 2017 at 9:00 AM

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

Did you know Ye Olde Connecting Editor is a Slacker?

That's one of the many favorite memories I have from my dad, **Walter B. Stevens**, who worked well into his 80s as editor and editor emeritus of The Messenger in Fort Dodge, Iowa. "Slacker" was the good-natured, I hope) term he had for me when I first told him I had accepted a buyout offer from the AP and was retiring at 62 after a 36-year career. Heck, at 62, "I was just in my prime," dad would tell me with a smile.

Dad loved being a newspaperman and he particularly enjoyed writing a weekly Spotlight column profiling someone in or from the community. He wrote thousands of them and they were so popular that The Messenger published some of the best ones in a book.

Dad has been gone for four years now. But maybe that "slacker" term he applied to me, and which we both laughed about, prompted me to start publishing this daily newsletter five years ago or to accept Messenger publisher Larry Bushman's offer a year ago to resume dad's Spotlight on a monthly basis. My 12th Spotlight is in the formative stage - I figure I will need to live to 200 years or more to match the number of Spotlights that dad produced.



At "my restaurant" in Page,
AZ

We lead today's issue with more Father's Day memories that follow Doug Daniel's remarkable piece in Thursday's Connecting.

Have a great weekend, and to my fellow dads and grandpas out there, Happy Father's Day!

Slacker Paul

Some of your thoughts on Father's Day

Tim Curran ([Email](#)) - Enjoyed the great story Doug Daniel submitted about his dad (in Thursday's Connecting).

In our recent downsizing, I came across this letter my dad sent to me on my 21st birthday and thought I would pass it along since you invited us to share memories of our dads.

I have included a picture of my dad, Frank E. Curran, taken when he was a Navy lieutenant during WWII. When I was three years old I went to California on the train with my mom to see him while his ship, the Tosari, was in port there. We got to go aboard and met the captain and a picture was taken showing me sitting on one of the guns.



Here is the letter:

9 November 1962

Dear Tim,

By the time you read this, you will have attained your majority, as becoming of age was termed in years gone by. First of all, congratulations on having reached this milestone. It represents a lot of living on your part, in preparation for what we hope will be a full, long and rewarding life for you. Secondly, we want you to know that you have brought into our lives a great deal of love and joy, of hope and happiness, of pride and satisfaction, that only faith in youth can bring.

Because you have given us this, with a bare minimum of disappointment, we thank you; and on this, your twenty-first birthday, it is with a profound feeling of love and sincerity, that we humbly say 'God bless you.' Along with this prayer go our wishes for the healthy anticipation of the pleasures ahead. We are certain that you seek much more than merely a succession of gratified impulses and desires, that you want the good life - the one which leads steadily to happiness. Components of the happy life, as someone has said, are health, work, interests, friendship and the pursuit of an ideal. Since happiness is entirely a spiritual product, it can be cultivated - a man of wisdom and common sense will develop it.

Now that you are a man we hope that you will not grow away from us. You will constantly assume many and new responsibilities. Some of those you will welcome, and some of them you will resent. Whatever they are, and whenever you meet them, confront them openly and with the purpose of coping with them. Seek advice when you need it (and you will); and keep in mind the difference between counsel and criticism, thin the distinguishing line may seem at times. Reason and good judgement are rare assets. Guard them well.

Remember that our country, whatever its shortcomings, is still the greatest in the world, and the last hope of free people everywhere.

And don't forget that our own Faith is the last hope of all. Keep it faithfully.

Love,

Mother and Dad.

-0-

Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - I can't tell you how much I enjoyed reading Doug Daniel's Father's Day story about the \$99 toilet seat.

Beyond being a great and very funny story from an old friend, it's a memory that will resonate with anyone who got in over their head trying to do a "simple" home repair.

I can think of a number of home projects that I started, only to wind up compounding the problem or having to call in reinforcements.

-0-

Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - I think of my father every day, especially when I am writing.

My dad encouraged my dream to write sports and when I got to New York University, I headed straight for the student newspaper. When I became an editor, the job included writing a column. All of my colleagues employed a play on words using Washington Square Park, which serves as NYU's urban campus. So we had ``Square Deal," ``On the Square" ``The Square Route" etc.

I wanted no part of that and talked it over with my dad. It took him no time to come up with a more personal play on words ``Bock's Score" using my name and my affection for sports.

The title served me at NYU, through my years of columnizing at The AP and still today for a local website NY Sportsday. Continuing its use is my tribute to my father.

-0-

Rex Huppke, Chicago Tribune, headline: 'Dad said when you're gone, you're gone. He was wrong.'

My father was never what you'd call a people person.

He preferred being on his own, putting around his workshop or relaxing in the recliner, pondering the world's mysteries and searching for ideas no one else had considered.

When I went home to visit, we would spend time together, but he would eventually drift off to be alone with his thoughts. I didn't take it personally. It was just Dad being Dad.

As I sat in a hospital room in Braselton, Ga., last week, holding his hand and knowing he was slipping away, I had a thought that made me laugh: Dad wasn't so much dying as he was committing the ultimate act of reclusiveness.

Read more [here](#).

My Take: Fake News



AP Photo/Bob Daugherty

Greg Nokes ([Email](#)) - Fake news is very much in the news lately, but my favorite fake news story dates to the Reagan administration in 1984.

President Reagan had gone to China to further improve warming relations between the two countries. But a subtext to the trip was to explore what the administration perceived as an opening to free enterprise at the village level.

As the-then State Department correspondent for The Associated Press, I was among the hundred or so reporters covering the trip.

The highlight for me was Reagan's side trip to Xian to view the spectacular exhibit of the 2,000-year-old terra cotta warriors, unearthed near the city of Xian in Shaanxi Province in Central China.

At Xian, we press followed Reagan and his wife, Nancy, into the exhibit hall where the terra cotta warriors were displayed. Seeing the hundred or so terra cotta warriors lined up in the earthen pits where they had been uncovered was a remarkable sight . . . but I digress.

We left the exhibit hall ahead of the presidential party, and were escorted to a small bluff overlooking a little village market, only it wasn't a real market, it was a staged market.

We had already understood that the China's Communist government was refusing a White House request for Reagan to visit a village market to witness some free enterprise buying and selling.

However, the White House had advertised to reporters that Reagan was going to visit a market while in China, and by golly, he was going to visit a market, even if the White House had to build it. Of course, they received the cooperation of the Chinese, who no doubt engaged in some puzzled head-scratching over this absurdity.

As we arrived, colorfully dressed "merchants" were busy "selling" their goods to "customers" who wandered among the dozen or so tables piled high with foodstuffs, clothing and toys, including colorful cloth dolls. I stood with other reporters and the television crews from CBS, ABC, NBC and CNN, which were filming the scene from the small bluff.

The performance seemed to get off to a smooth start. However, a glitch occurred when Reagan was delayed in the terra cotta exhibit and didn't appear as scheduled. After fifteen minutes or so the merchants and their customers were obviously growing tired of the charade--it was hot; the sun was intense. They soon stopped and rested in small groups, while those of us on the bluff were more than a little amused.

After another ten minutes or so, someone gave a signal because the merchants and their customers hopped to, and resumed their buying and selling. Moments later, Reagan and Nancy entered the market. They wandered among the tables, warmly greeting the merchants and seemingly awed by the wide selection of goods.

Nancy Reagan approached the table of colorful cloth dolls, conveniently located immediately below the television cameras. She admiringly picked up a doll, told the President at her side how much she liked it. He said he would buy it for her, and asked a nearby aid for the money to pay for it. The aid handed Reagan some currency, presumably Chinese currency, and the President paid the merchant, who bowed and profusely thanked him.

Then, with smiles and waves, the Reagans left, followed by the press. As we walked toward our awaiting press buses, I looked back to see the merchants and their customers already dismantling the market.

Ah yes, that was it. I can't recall exactly what I wrote about the event. I wrote that it was staged, of course. But the words of what I or anyone else wrote didn't matter. What mattered was the television footage on the evening news that night: Nancy admiring the cloth doll, and the president buying it for her. Mission accomplished.

(R. Gregory Nokes was with The Associated Press for 25 years, from 1961 to 1986. He was with bureaus in Salt Lake City; New York World Desk; San Juan; Buenos Aires, and Washington, D.C. He served as Chief State Department Correspondent from 1980 to 1985, after which he joined The Oregonian in his hometown of Portland. Since retiring from journalism in 2003, he has embarked on a new career as a author and lecturer on Northwest history. He is author of two books, "Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon" (2009) and "Breaking Chains: Slavery on Trial in the Oregon Territory" (2013), both published by Oregon State University Press. He is waiting to hear whether Oregon State will publish his new book, a biography of Peter Burnett, Oregon pioneer and the first governor of California.)

He's the most-read golf writer in the world. He just wants a little more company.



Doug Ferguson at 2015 Masters. AP Photo/Charlie Riedel

By ED SHERMAN

Poynter.org

Doug Ferguson arguably is the most-read golf writer in the world. He doesn't necessarily think that it is a good thing.

Ferguson is at his usual perch this week for the U.S. Open at Erin Hills, located just outside of Milwaukee. The veteran Associated Press golf writer will file a seemingly endless number of daily accounts about the tournament that will run in newspapers and digital platforms everywhere and anywhere.

Ferguson is grinding away in his 19th year on the beat, with a premium on the word "grind." He maintains a grueling schedule, covering in the neighborhood of 28 tournaments per year. Days off are few and far between. What should have been a quiet Memorial Day holiday saw him in overdrive reporting on Tiger Woods' DUI arrest.

While Ferguson hardly will be alone in the vast press room at Erin Hills, he no longer is joined by many prominent golf writers from years past. Now he is one of a handful of full-time golf reporters.

Read more [here](#).

Interviewing White Russian emigres in Maine after Stalin's death

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - All the recent news out of Washington about Russia recalled the time when, as a newly-minted Associated Press reporter, I interviewed a bunch of White Russian emigres in a tiny Maine town the day after Stalin's death.

By NORMAN ABELSON

It was a Friday. How can I know that 64 years later? Because I still recall my frustration at having to miss a romantic weekend in my first serious relationship. And it was all the fault of Joseph Stalin and those White Russian expatriates living in the Maine countryside.

My friend, Don Barry, and I were away from home on our first professional assignments for The Associated Press - he as a teletype operator, me as a reporter - covering the 1953 session of the legislature in Augusta, the capital.

TGIF had special resonance for two young guys who each Friday afternoon would head south in Don's beat-up car for weekends of wondrous intimacy with our girlfriends, mine in Massachusetts, his in Rhode Island.

Looking back, it seems, at age 22, I had the best of both worlds - a dream job at a famous wire service for an aspiring writer, and a lovely, acquiescent woman for a young man in the middle of his first real romance.

Of course I was aware that Stalin, the long-time repressive leader of the Soviet Union, had died the day before - March 5. But I had no idea that world-shaking event thousands of miles away would affect me personally, and doom my much-anticipated weekend.

At least not until Bob Crocker, who led The AP team in Augusta, told me something to this effect: "Norm, there's a bunch of White Russians living in Gardner. Go over there and get their reactions to Stalin's death. They all hated his guts. I know you don't have a car, but you can drive there with the photographer. You can dictate the story to me from the site."

To tell the truth, I experienced another reaction beyond frustration: nervousness. It was still very early in my journalism career, and I was quite uncertain about covering important stories. But before I knew it, I was traveling with the photographer (I can't recall his name) to Gardiner, about ten miles southwest of Augusta. We drove onto a large farm, parking in front of a huge red barn. There was small a crowd of 20 to 25 people milling around outside; they had been called together in anticipation of our arrival.

The leader came and introduced himself to me. I didn't quite get his name, so he handed me his business card which, being a guy who never throws anything away, I still have. It reads:

V. Kuhn v. Poushental

President

Kennebec Realty, Inc.

R.F.D 2

Gardiner, Maine

I didn't have any trouble getting some great quotes from these folks, for whom Stalin was the devil incarnate. They were Czarists, and detested the Communist Revolution that had brought an end to their comfortable lives, forcing them to flee their homeland. Most of them spoke little English, so Mr. von Poushental translated.

Figuring out a good picture to go with the story was a bit more problematic. The photographer and I finally thought to ask if they had a picture of Stalin. Someone came out with a copy of the Boston Globe, which had a large photo of the dictator on the front page. We got a great group shot of the White Russians setting the Globe afire and shaking their fists at the flaming picture.

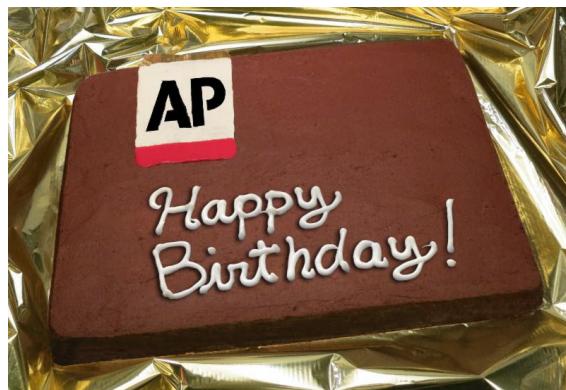
All in all, it was an exciting experience for a young reporter, but still it didn't quite measure up to a memorable weekend with a lovely young woman who had a quite nice habit of saying "Yes."

On her way to Phoenix



Anita Snow with Paul Haven, left, who followed her as bureau chief in Havana, and Peter Orsi, who was acting bureau chief after Paul left, were among the people who gathered at a Mexico City restaurant on Wednesday to bid farewell to Anita, who will be taking a senior reporting job in AP's Phoenix bureau, effective July 1. She will be covering immigration, demographics and urban affairs.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Mike Harris - hapauto@aol.com

Ron Edmonds - redmonds3@cox.net

On Saturday...

Daniel Haney - dqhaney@earthlink.net

Stories of interest

CNN's chief Zucker lays blame on Trump for threats

By DAVID BAUDER

The Associated Press

CNN chief Jeff Zucker says the level of threats faced by his journalists is more serious than people realize and he lays the blame squarely at the feet of President Donald Trump and other politicians he says try to delegitimize the press.

Zucker called it "unconscionable and dangerous and they should know better."

CNN has frequently been the target of Trump's complaints about "fake news." Anti-CNN chants were heard from the audience at some of Trump's campaign rallies last year. It didn't involve CNN, but recently elected Montana congressman Greg Gianforte pleaded guilty to body-slamming a newspaper reporter who had asked him a question the night before his special election victory.

"This is what happens when you try to delegitimize an institution that is trying to do its job," Zucker said on Thursday. "It is shameful on the part of the administration and other politicians to cause a frenzy against something that is guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States. It does a disservice to this country and its position in the world and allows a heightened sense of rhetoric against journalists and media organizations."

Read more [here](#).

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One month after the death of Javier Valdez Cárdenas, a new campaign pushes for journalist protection (Nieman)

A month ago today, Javier Valdez Cárdenas, a prominent Mexican journalist known for his work on drug trafficking and organized crime in Mexico, was shot to death in broad daylight in the Mexican state of Sinaloa.

Cárdenas' murder, the sixth one of a Mexican journalist this year, was yet another reminder of the dangers facing reporters who cover the country's drug trade. To draw attention to these risks, a handful of groups and publications, including our sibling publications Nieman Storyboard and Nieman Reports, are supporting a campaign today that encourages journalists in Mexico and around the world to write and share articles, editorials, videos, cartoons and other works that discuss Cárdenas' murder, the dangers of reporting in Mexico, or journalist protection overall. The groups are asking that people tag their contributions with the hashtags #ourvoiceisourstrength or #nuestravozesnuestrafuerza.

Read more [here](#).

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NYT Issues Correction for Revisiting Gabby Giffords Conspiracy (Townhall)

Social media users were incensed when The New York Times editors published an editorial Wednesday night in which they surmised what led to the shooting that morning at a congressional baseball practice. The gunman, 66-year-old James T. Hodgkinson, fired about 50 shots, sending five people to the hospital, including Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), who remains in critical condition. In their analysis, the Times editors suggest that political incitement had something to do with the attack, considering the assailant was a known Bernie Sanders supporter and a loud GOP critic.

In one passage, the editors revisit a debunked conspiracy theory regarding the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) in 2011, suggesting that the shooting was inspired by a map published by former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

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

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Fox News Is Dropping Its 'Fair & Balanced' Slogan (New York Magazine)

As Fox News moves further into the post-Roger Ailes era, the network is shedding one of its most iconic elements. According to network executives, Fox News has abandoned the marketing slogan "Fair & Balanced." The decision was made last August after Ailes's ouster by Fox News co-president Jack Abernethy, because the phrase had "been mocked," one insider said. Another executive explained that the tagline was "too closely associated with Roger." Fox executives have been instructed by management to market the network by its other tagline: "Most Watched. Most Trusted."

It is hard to overstate the significance of what shedding "Fair & Balanced" means for Fox News. (It would be like the New York Times giving up "All the News That's Fit to Print.") Ailes invented the slogan when he launched the network in 1996, and over the years it became a quasi-religious doctrine among Fox's anchors and viewers. The effectiveness of Fox News as a vehicle for conservative ideology depended on

it. "If you come out and you try to do right-wing news, you're gonna die. You can't get away with it," Ailes once told a reporter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

The Final Word



Cy Cyr, via LinkedIn - Many thanks to the Golf Channel for requesting updated and original headshot photography of the top 70+ golfers in the world in early 2017. Golf Channel wanted updated headshots for their Dell Match Play telecast from Austin, Texas.

I worked closely with the graphics department at Golf Channel to determine what was possible to accomplish. I had 6 weeks to photograph the top golfers in the world. Here were our challenges. Not all golfers play in all tournaments. Not all golfers have time for a photo. The location of my photography studio can help or hurt my chances of success. Golfers are only likely to pose on practice days. I'll have to set up a studio in Mexico City, Orlando and Austin. And to top it off, a Golf Channel employee suggested it wasn't possible.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - June 16, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 16, the 167th day of 2017. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 16, 1967, the three-day Monterey International Pop Music Festival, a major event of the "Summer of Love," opened in northern California; among the featured acts were Jefferson Airplane, The Who, the Grateful Dead, the Jimi Hendrix Experience, Janis Joplin, Otis Redding and Ravi Shankar.

On this date:

In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle in Scotland. (She escaped almost a year later but ended up imprisoned again.)

In 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

In 1942, a second four-man team of Nazi saboteurs landed in Florida, three days after another group arrived on Long Island, New York. (The plot was foiled when two members of the first team agreed to betray their comrades.)

In 1944, George Stinney, a 14-year-old black youth, was electrocuted by the state of South Carolina for the murders of two white girls, Betty June Binnicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 7.

In 1956, poets Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes were married in London.

In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova (teh-ruhsh-KOH'-vuh), 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; she spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

In 1977, Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev was named president, becoming the first person to hold both posts simultaneously. Business software maker Oracle Corp. had its beginnings as Larry Ellison, Bob Miner and Ed Oates founded Oracle's precursor, Software Development Laboratories.

In 1987, a jury in New York acquitted Bernhard Goetz of attempted murder in the subway shooting of four youths he said were going to rob him; however, Goetz was convicted of illegal weapons possession. (In 1996, a civil jury ordered Goetz to pay \$43 million to one of the persons he had shot.)

In 1996, Russian voters went to the polls in their first independent presidential election; the result was a runoff between President Boris Yeltsin (the eventual winner) and Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov. Sportscaster Mel Allen died in Greenwich, Connecticut, at age 83.

In 2015, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign to become President of the United States with a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

Ten years ago: A North Carolina State Bar disciplinary committee said disgraced prosecutor Mike Nifong would be disbarred for his disastrous prosecution of three Duke University lacrosse players falsely accused of rape. Six people were killed when a car driven by Australian-born professional drag racer Troy Critchley went out

of control and plowed into a parade crowd in Selmer, Tennessee. (Critchley later pleaded guilty to reckless assault, thereby avoiding jail time.) U.S. astronaut Sunita "Suni" Williams set a then-record aboard the international space station for the longest single spaceflight by any woman, surpassing the record of 188 days set by astronaut Shannon Lucid at the Mir space station in 1996. (Williams spent a total of 195 days aboard the station; her record was eclipsed in 2015 by Samantha Cristoforetti of the European Space Agency, who spent 199 days in spaceflight.)

Five years ago: Egyptians began going to the polls for a two-day runoff to choose their first freely elected president; Islamist candidate Mohammed Morsi emerged the winner. China launched its most ambitious space mission to date, carrying its first female astronaut, Liu Yang, and two male colleagues on a 13-day mission to an orbiting module that ended safely.

One year ago: President Barack Obama traveled to Orlando, Florida, the scene of a deadly nightclub shooting that claimed 49 victims; the president embraced grieving families and cheered on Democrats' push for new gun control measures. Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, in a livestream to his supporters from Vermont, said he would work with Hillary Clinton to transform the Democratic Party, adding that his "political revolution" had to continue and ensure the defeat of Republican Donald Trump. Walt Disney Co. opened Shanghai Disneyland, its first theme park in mainland China.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Eileen Atkins (TV: "The Crown"; "Doc Martin") is 83. Actor Bill Cobbs is 83. Author Joyce Carol Oates is 79. Country singer Billy "Crash" Craddock is 79. Songwriter Lamont Dozier is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eddie Levert is 75. Actress Joan Van Ark is 74. Actor Geoff Pierson is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer James Smith (The Stylistics) is 67. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Duran is 66. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 65. Actress Laurie Metcalf is 62. Actor Arnold Vosloo is 55. Actor Danny Burstein is 53. Model-actress Jenny Shimizu is 50. Actor James Patrick Stuart is 49. Rapper MC Ren is 48. Actor Clifton Collins Jr. is 47. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 47. Actor John Cho is 45. Actor Eddie Cibrian is 44. Actor Fred Koehler is 42. Actress China (chee-nah) Shavers is 40. Actor Daniel Bruhl is 39. Bluegrass musician Caleb Smith (Balsam Range) is 39. Actress Sibel Kekilli is 37. Actress Missy Peregrym (PEH'-rih-grihm) is 35. Actress Olivia Hack is 34. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: "American Idol") is 30. Pop-rock musician Ian Keaggy (Hot Chelle (SHEL)) is 30.

Thought for Today: "Not to know is bad. Not to want to know is worse. Not to hope is unthinkable. Not to care is unforgivable." - Nigerian saying.

Got a story or photos to share?



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:

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

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