



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - September 14, 2017

1 message

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

Thu, Sep 14, 2017 at 8:59 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Connecting

September 14, 2017

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



- [Top AP News](#)
- [Top AP photos](#)
- [AP World](#)

- [AP books](#)
- [Connecting Archive](#)
- [The AP Store](#)
- [The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

During the second day (Wednesday) of the Midwest AP Reunion, our group toured the National World War I Museum and Memorial - and some of us went to the top of Liberty Memorial Tower (290 feet up) for spectacular views of downtown Kansas City.

I took the above pictures with my iPhone that include two of my favorite buildings. Union Station - the most significant landmark of Kansas City - is decked out for the Kansas City Chiefs (unbeaten after one game). And the building with satellite dishes has housed the AP's Kansas City bureau and technical center (both on the second floor) since 1984. I worked in the building for 25 of my 36 AP years. The building was built 100 years ago as an auto and aircraft repair training school, once was home to KC's first radio station (WHB) and today has been converted to loft apartments.

We lead today's issue with a wonderfully written story by AP's **Mary Rajkumar** and her family's flight from Miami in the face of Hurricane Irma.

Paul

4 motels in 5 nights: Our life on the run from Irma



Police officers plow through floodwater on Hendricks Avenue in San Marco as Hurricane Irma passes by Monday, Sept. 11, 2017, in Jacksonville, Fla. (Will Dickey/The Florida Times-Union via AP)

By MARY RAJKUMAR

MIAMI (AP) - It was a scene you would never expect to find in the United States, the land of hot dog eating contests and supersized Slurpees -- hundreds of people wandering around forlorn, looking for food, against a backdrop of downed tree branches and a flattened gas station with no gas.

We were all refugees from Irma, which was at one point the most powerful storm ever recorded in the open Atlantic. Her devastation touched much of Florida, including Jacksonville, the very place we'd escaped to from our home in Miami. Now we were hiding out in a hotel, and it looked like the only open restaurant was a Waffle House where about 200 people were waiting in line.

Then my husband and daughter spotted a small Thai restaurant with a few people in it. They pulled up quickly and asked for food. The owner said they were closed, and that he had come just to check on damage. We'll take anything, my husband pleaded. The owner relented and they left with enough food to feed the five of us -- three adults and two always-hungry teenagers. The 20 or so other people who knocked on the door behind us were turned away.

As Irma grew in the Atlantic, feeding voraciously on the warm water until it became a category 5 hurricane, the eye of the storm looked like it was headed directly for us. Miami had seen hurricanes before, of course, but this one would be different, the meteorologists warned. It could be the storm of the century, the likes of which nobody had seen in their lifetimes. You could die by wind, with speeds of up to 180 miles per hour. Or you could die by water, with storm surge predicted to be up to 15 feet in a flat, low-lying region.



Mary Rajkumar

Get out, the governor of Florida warned. In some zones, including ours, evacuation was mandatory, and the police went door to door urging everyone to leave. If you stay, they cautioned, we can't be responsible for your lives.

So we became part of what may be the biggest evacuation in U.S. history. We boarded up the house with hurricane shutters, and said a prayer for the 20-year-old roof. We emptied the refrigerator and grabbed our valuables. We tucked the cat away in the safest room in the house with plenty of food, water and litter, because she was too feral to get into the car, let alone a motel. And then we left, at 3 a.m. on Friday morning, hoping to beat at least some of the traffic.

We didn't. It seemed all of Florida was on the road. The traffic inched along, held up by long lines at every gas station, usually for very little gas, certainly not enough for the huge SUVs around us. It was tight in our small Prius, with the five of us, our bags and our food, but we were thankful that it didn't eat much gas.

People passed us with their lives in their cars or towed along behind - their dogs, their horses, even their bedding lashed to the back of trucks. We were headed to Ocala, but what was usually a 4-hour trip took more than 13 hours in bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Our friends fanned out all over the state, to Tampa, Orlando or the Georgia border, all of us taking bets on the still-unclear path of Irma. Other friends chose to stay, in some cases in defiance of mandatory evacuations. They hunkered down with candles, battery-powered lanterns, food and lots of water. To us it seemed like they were gambling with their lives.

On the road, we played musical chairs with motels. Everything was booked, so we moved from motel to motel looking for instances in which people's plans changed and they didn't show up. We slept in four motels over five nights.

From Friday night into Saturday morning, the forecast for the gigantic storm shifted. Irma turned west, with its fiercest part aimed toward Tampa instead of Miami. But we knew that our good luck meant misfortune for many others who'd had virtually no warning.

Irma was going west, so we went east. We drove across the state to Jacksonville. But Irma was so wide she reached across the whole state, hitting us where we had run.

We were huddling in a motel in Jacksonville when Irma hit early in the morning. She had weakened by then, but the winds were still howling outside our windows at 80 miles per hour. We heard the window in another room shatter, leaving glass all over the hallway. The wind pried a sheet of metal loose, and it flapped insanely before hurtling to the ground. The ground outside was flooded with about a foot in storm surge, lapping up the sides of cars in the parking lot. Tree branches went flying. And this was just in Jacksonville, 80 miles from Irma's eye.

Long before the worst of the storm had abated, the power went out. It groaned and flickered back to life a few times before giving up entirely. We were in darkness listening to Irma's rage.

The storm finally died down by Monday afternoon. That's when my husband and daughter went out to scavenge for food amid the wreckage. With the tide coming in, the water surged into downtown Jacksonville, and local officials spent the day rescuing people.

On Tuesday we began the journey home. We were among the earliest to return, and this time there was little traffic. Miami was deserted. In our neighborhood, Irma had ripped up huge trees with their roots everywhere, sometimes attached to slabs of concrete, and they were blocking the roads to our house.

When we finally got there, it was a huge relief to see the roof still on top. Several trees had fallen, but not one had damaged the building itself. The floor was wet, but the flooding was minimal. And the cat was terrified, hiding in the bathtub, but otherwise fine.

Now begins the next stage. Hurricane veterans tell us that like surgery, the recovery is almost as bad as the thing itself, as you try to patch back together a semblance of normality without power in broken neighborhoods. The power is likely to be out for weeks -- and in the 90-degree heat of a Miami summer, that is a sweaty proposition. School is out indefinitely, in part because some schools are serving as shelters and people have nowhere to go.

But we feel grateful and incredibly lucky. The pictures of the utter havoc wrought by Irma in the Caribbean are a sobering reminder of what might have been. The Big One didn't hit us directly, and, most importantly, we are all alive and safe. The same can't be said for many others in Irma's path, who will be dealing with the death and destruction she brought for a long time to come.

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

Connecting series:

My first day with The Associated Press

Here's a pen, Reporter's Notebook, head to Jesup

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - I reported for work in the Des Moines bureau Monday morning Jan. 19, 1981.

Bureau chief John Lumpkin had wanted me a couple weeks earlier. But as editor of a 5,000-circulation morning daily in Cedar Falls, Iowa, I had to put him off while we finished our Progress edition. The multi-section annual advertising vehicle chock full of photos, stories and, of course, ads was always a huge undertaking for a seven-person staff. It was all hands on deck until the presses rolled.

Walking through the bureau door on an upper floor of a downtown Des Moines bank building, I expected to meet and to receive orientation with the people I would be working with. Instead, news editor Don Beman greeted me in a rushed tone, handed me a pen and reporter's notebook and told me to head back up to Northeast Iowa to Jesup. Kathryn Koob was one of 52 American hostages who had been held hostage in Iran for then 443 days and who news reports said were about to be released.

Koob was from Jesup. Don needed reaction from relatives and people in her hometown.

I made the two-and-a-half hour drive to Jesup, located just east of Waterloo on Highway 20, and spoke with several folks who knew her. I also spoke with her sister Jane Engquist, then called the bureau with quotes and color. One quote was included in a national roundup on the hostages by Louise Cook. I thought that was pretty cool.

Mary and our two young boys hadn't moved to Des Moines yet, so Don told me to stay at home the next couple days as the story unfolded while Ronald Reagan was being inaugurated as President. I returned to Jesup, then eventually drove back to Des Moines.

The next days with AP were a blur, with more news stories done by phone and out of the office, being shoved into bureau desk assignments, and venturing out to a

fatal 30-car pileup on Interstate 80 during a blizzard in early February.

About six weeks into my employment, Beman came up to me with a twinkle in his eye: "Well, ya ready for your orientation?" We both enjoyed a good laugh.

For better or worse, orientation for me came what then passed as the AP way -- get tossed into the daily grind and learn along the way.

-0-

An elephant with diarrhea put him on the AAA

Eric Quinones ([Email](#)) - I joined the AP as an intern in the Indianapolis bureau in June 1994, working for news editor John Strauss. I confess that I don't remember anything about my first day other than not being able to sleep the night before, in fear of waking up late. But I distinctly remember the next day: an elephant at the Indianapolis Zoo came down with a epic case of diarrhea and, thanks to John's skillful editing of my terrible attempt at a funny lede, I had an A-wire byline on Day 2. (Thanks, John!)

Connecting mailbox

Lynn Sherr learned well

Marc Humbert ([Email](#)) - Obviously, Lynn (Sherr) learned well from the great Jules Loh (see Wednesday's Connecting). This is a sentence he would have been proud to have written:

"I'd actually gone out on the street that night with APN writer Jules Loh, who taught me how to watch and listen and dictate poetry."

Nice work, Lynn.

-0-

Technology nightmares

Mike Doan (Email) - Looking back, I don't see how we got by without the technology news people have today.

In the mid-1970s the AAA wire poked along not much faster than the speed of a good typist. When I was (AMs) night editor at the Washington AP news desk, our night ledes were often delayed for hours while we waited for breaking PMs news to end.

We would regularly get congressional copy on a sort of fax machine, then edit it and give it to a teletype operator. The copy would turn up in a computer, and someone would have to edit it all over again before it was transmitted. You can imagine how frustrating this would be on a breaking story.

Copy from other beats was called in to a dictationist, and the same duplicative process took place. Finally, AP decided to bypass the teletype operators altogether, and the dictation was typed into a computer. Seeing their days numbered, the teletype operators didn't like this. When I had a dictationist take copy on a computer for the first time in Washington, a teletype operator rushed into the bureau chief's office with a long-prepared grievance form.

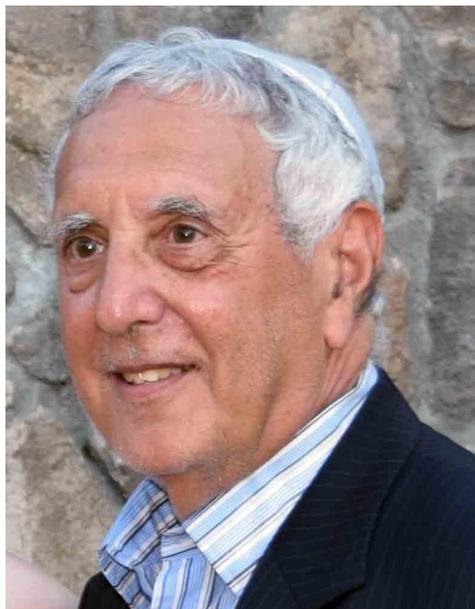
For a while, our computer network was attached to the one in New York. When NY had an outage, so did we. And lightning storms were murder.

It was not until I covered the Treasury in about 1977 that beat reporters had their own computers. There was no cut and paste that I can recall, so you typed new versions of the same story in full for maybe three cycles.

Connecting profile - Donald Harrison

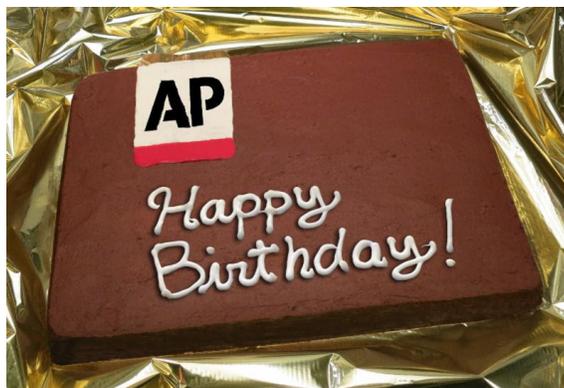
Donald Harrison (Email) - I started with AP Los Angeles in 1967 right out of UCLA, where I had been managing editor of the Daily Bruin. I was transferred to Sacramento to cover the Legislature (part-time session), then back to LA and then to the NY Foreign Desk, hoping to be a correspondent in Africa. But they were bringing home correspondents, not sending them out.

I accepted a job as a politics writer for the San Diego Union, alerted to the position by former AP writer, now deceased, John Philip Sousa, whose byline was all over the Charlie Manson murder story. After 8 years with San Diego Union (1980), I opened a public relations agency. After a while I found myself missing journalism, so I volunteered as a writer for the San Diego Jewish Press-Heritage. They paid me in titles, rising eventually up to editor-in-chief, and later, even, publisher. After that newspaper folded for insufficient revenue, I started San Diego Jewish World, www.sdjewishworld.com, which I still edit.



I recently added to my portfolio the editorship of Western States Jewish History, a 50-year-old quarterly. I have three published books to my credit: a biography, Louis Rose, San Diego's First Jewish Settler and Entrepreneur; a travel book, Schleppling Through the American West: There Is a Jewish Story Everywhere, and a corporate biography about Waxie (a large privately owned janitorial supply company). I have another book at the printers: 77 Miles of Jewish Stories and two others in progress. I am married to the former Nancy Zeiden and have lived in San Diego since 1972. We have two children (Sandi Masori, David Harrison) and four grandchildren: Shor Masori, 16; Sky Masori, 10; Brian Harrison, 8, and Sara Harrison, 6.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Michelle Morgante - michellemorgante@gmail.com

Richard Pienciak - rpienciak@ap.org

Niko Price - nprice@ap.org

Welcome to Connecting



Lisa McClendon - lisamclendon@ku.edu

Stories of interest

Judge approves sale of Alaska's largest newspaper

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) - A federal bankruptcy judge on Monday approved the sale of Alaska's largest newspaper for \$1 million, saving the paper from folding,

Judge Gary Spraker made his decision after hearing hours of testimony over the financial liabilities of the Alaska Dispatch News.

In approving the sale, Spraker said it was the best option available - better than liquidation - despite his concerns over the fast pace of the process.



The new owner of the Anchorage newspaper is the Binkley Co., a family owned firm in Fairbanks. Ryan Binkley and Alaska Media's Jason Evans are currently co-publishers of the newspaper and intend to keep it going.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Adding a "disputed" label to fake news seems to work, a little. But for some groups, it actually backfires (Nieman)

By SHAN WANG

Does labeling fake articles shared on social media as fake actually convince people who might otherwise read and share them to think twice? It's a fundamental question that Facebook itself isn't doing too much to help answer by declining to share more comprehensive data around the impact of the fact-checking initiatives it's running with organizations like the AP and Snopes.

The "disputed by third party fact-checkers" label on fake news articles circulated on Facebook has only a very modest impact on people's perceptions, according to a working paper shared Tuesday by two researchers at Yale University, Gordon Pennycook - a psychology professor - and David G. Rand - an economics professor (Politico got the first look, their story here). (The two are also authors of a recent paper on the "cognitive psychological profiles" of the people who fall for fake news and the role of people's "bullshit receptivity.") But Pennycook and Rand also found that these tags could backfire within certain groups of people: Donald Trump supporters and those ages 18 to 25.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Debunking Study Suggests Ways to Counter Misinformation and Correct 'Fake News'

(Annenberg Public Policy Center)

It's no use simply telling people they have their facts wrong. To be more effective at correcting misinformation in news accounts and intentionally misleading "fake news," you need to provide a detailed counter-message with new information - and get your audience to help develop a new narrative.

Those are some takeaways from an extensive new meta-analysis of laboratory debunking studies published in the journal *Psychological Science*. The analysis, the first conducted with this collection of debunking data, finds that a detailed counter-message is better at persuading people to change their minds than merely labeling misinformation as wrong. But even after a detailed debunking, misinformation still can be hard to eliminate, the study finds.

"The effect of misinformation is very strong," said co-author Dolores Albarracín, professor of psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "When you present it, people buy it. But we also asked whether we are able to correct for misinformation. Generally, some degree of correction is possible but it's very difficult to completely correct."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

-0-

Maggie Haberman and Glenn Thrush take the next step with Trump (Vanity Fair)



Left, Glenn Thrush in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House; Right, Maggie Haberman appears on "Meet the Press." Left, from REX/Shutterstock; Right, by William B. Plowman/NBC/Getty Images.

By JOE POMPEO

The announcement that New York Times White House correspondents Maggie Haberman and Glenn Thrush have agreed to do a Trump book for Random House, as I first reported Tuesday, was both bombshell journalism news and something of a foregone conclusion. Haberman and Thrush, two veterans of the New York tabloid world who both worked at Politico before joining the Times, have been the foremost chroniclers of the West Wing reality show. Haberman, in particular, is enviably sourced, and has a bond with the president himself that's frayed at times but not broken. Thrush, wearer of a signature fedora, was parodied on Saturday Night Live by Bobby Moynihan. They are two of the essential stars of the Trump administration.

Gossip has been the fuel of the early Trump administration, and their Twitter feeds and author pages are steady streams of insider revelations and hot inside-the-room accounts of the administration and its foibles. But the duo's ambition for the as-yet-untitled book, according to sources familiar with the plan, is to do something that goes beyond the palace intrigue (though there'll be plenty of that as well) to tell a larger story about who Trump is, why the country chose him, and what it all says about America and where we're headed. They've told people that they want the book to be "durable," and that, "We want this to mean something."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word

A well-read coyote



Kyle Birdno, who lives in a suburban Tucson neighborhood, posted the following on the Nextdoor neighborhood web site:

Newspaper thief on the prowl - I was driving on Rondure Loop and noticed a suspicious individual prowling in driveways. I turned around and pulled out my

camera, of course I stayed in my truck with the doors locked while capturing the thief in action, Anyone missing their newspaper should look in the wash as that's where this culprit took it for his afternoon reading!

Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

Today in History - September 14, 2017



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2017. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" (later "The Star-Spangled Banner") after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British naval bombardment during the War of 1812.

On this date:

In 1829, the Treaty of Adrianople was signed, ending war between Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1867, the first volume of "Das Kapital" by Karl Marx was published in Hamburg, Germany.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice, France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1941, Vermont passed a resolution enabling its servicemen to receive wartime bonuses by declaring the U.S. to be in a state of armed conflict, giving rise to headlines that Vermont had "declared war on Germany."

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II." (The session closed two months later.)

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER' jeh-MAY'-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, appeared together on radio and television to appeal for a "national crusade" against drug abuse.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH'-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates raised the possibility of cutting U.S. troop levels in Iraq to 100,000 by the end of 2008, well beyond the cuts President George W. Bush had approved. In Iraq, some 1,500 mourners called for revenge as

they buried the leader of the Sunni revolt against al-Qaida, Abdul-Sattar Abu Risha, who had been assassinated in a bombing claimed by an al-Qaida front.

Five years ago: Fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai. A French gossip magazine's publication of topless photos of Prince William's wife, Kate, prompted an immediate lawsuit from the royal couple. (On Sept. 5, 2017, a French court ruled that photographers and gossip magazine executives had violated the privacy of the Duchess of Cambridge and fined two executives of gossip magazine Closer each the maximum of 45,000 euros (\$53,500) for such an offense.)

One year ago: Hillary Clinton's campaign released a letter from her doctor saying the Democratic presidential nominee was "recovering well" from pneumonia and remained "fit to serve as President of the United States." President Barack Obama said the U.S. was lifting economic sanctions and restoring trade benefits to former pariah state Myanmar as he met with former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi (ahng sahn soo chee), the nation's de facto leader. Tyre King, a 13-year-old boy, was fatally shot by Columbus, Ohio, police after authorities said he pulled a BB gun from his pants.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 84. Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 81. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 77. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 73. Actor Sam Neill is 70. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 70. Rock musician Ed King is 68. Actor Robert Wisdom is 64. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 62. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 61. Actress Mary Crosby is 58. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 58. Country singer John Berry is 58. Actress Melissa Leo is 57. Actress Faith Ford is 53. Actor Jamie Kaler is 53. Actress Michelle Stafford is 52. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 52. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 51. Actor Dan Cortese is 50. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 48. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 48. Actor Ben Garant is 47. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 47. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 46. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 44. Rapper Nas is 44. Actor Austin Basis is 41. Country singer Danielle Peck is 39. Pop singer Ayo is 37. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 35. Actor Adam Lamberg is 33. Singer Alex Clare is 32. Actor Chad Duell (TV: "General Hospital") is 30. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 30. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 28.

Thought for Today: "America has been called a melting pot, but it seems better to call it a mosaic, for in it each nation, people or race which has come to its shores has been privileged to keep its individuality, contributing at the same time its share to the unified pattern of a new nation." - King Baudouin (boh-doo-AHN) I of Belgium (1930-1993).

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.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ pjshane@gmail.com

9/17/2017

Gmail - Connecting - September 14, 2017

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try it free today