



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 24, 2018

1 message

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

Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 9:08 AM

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



Connecting

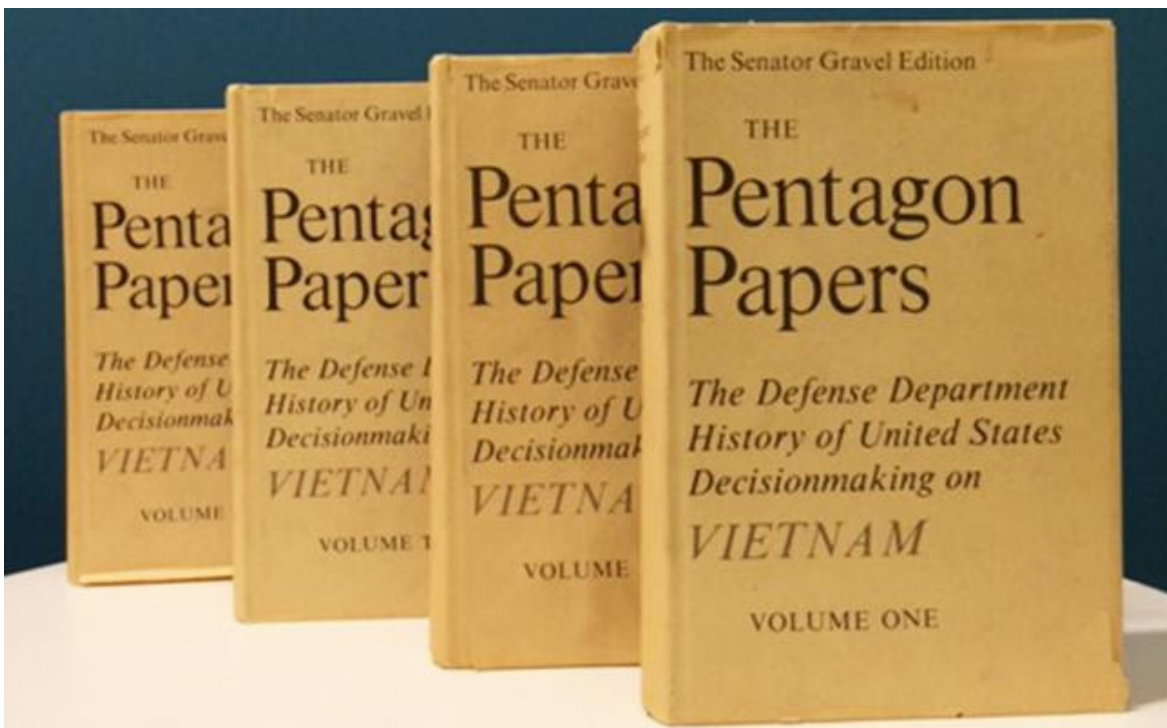
January 24, 2018

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



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

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



Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Today's issue of Connecting brings you a lesson in AP history - with memories from colleagues who were working for the AP at the time the Pentagon Papers were released - timely with the recent release of the movie "The Post."

Their responses came followed a call from **Mark Hamrick** in Tuesday's edition inviting information from his colleagues on how the AP handled the Pentagon Papers story.

Thanks to **Michael Sniffen**, **Peter Arnett** and **Ann Blackman** for being the first to respond and share memories of their involvement in the AP coverage. And thanks in advance to those of you who might want to share your own experiences.

We congratulate our colleague **Melissa Rayworth** on her appointment as managing editor of NEXTpittsburgh, which is published twice a week with stories "about the people driving change in our city and the innovative and cool things happening here."

Have a great day!

Paul

The Associated Press and the Pentagon Papers

A bland three-column headline announces blockbuster documents



Michael Sniffen (Email) - The AP's involvement in the Pentagon Papers story began very late on the evening of June 12, 1971, at the New York General Desk when the first edition of the next day's New York Times arrived.

A bland three-column head just to the left of the day's lead story (which no one remembers) announced: "Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing U.S. Involvement."

Beneath that was a lead that did its best to soft pedal the decades of government deception that the study revealed:

"A massive study of how the United States went to war in Indochina, conducted by the Pentagon three years ago, demonstrates that four administrations progressively developed a sense of commitment to a non-Communist Vietnam, a readiness to fight the North to protect the South, and an ultimate frustration with this effort to a much greater extent than their public statements acknowledged at the time."

But that mildly worded 13-paragraph story jumped to three entire inside pages of stories about what the papers revealed and excerpts from them. And the paper said that was just their first installment of a series.

After considerable debate and consultations, it was decided to leave the story over for the day staff to read the massive account carefully and evaluate, and the AP ultimately ran a pickup on June 13.

And pickups were basically the AP's response for the next 17 days as more and more papers began printing excerpts from the papers, while first the New York bureau and then the Washington bureau covered the battle raging in the federal courts to stop publication of the study.

As the new movie, "The Post," so dramatically describes, The Washington Post was the first to begin publishing part of the study after a federal judge in New York barred the Times from further publication. The Post was followed by the Chicago Sun-Times, then by a number of papers in the Knight-Ridder group, then The Boston Globe and then the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

As the number of papers printing portions of the Pentagon archive expanded, the General Desk responded with a roundup of the various disclosures each day. As a General Desk staffer at the time, I wrote quite a few of those for Ed Dennehy's AMs report.

By this time in 1971, Peter Arnett, the AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning Vietnam correspondent, was in New York. And Arnett got a lead on how to obtain some portions of the Pentagon study. He flew off to New England one day and returned a day or so later with some as-yet-undisclosed sections of the Pentagon study and his story about them.

His story moved as an urgent late on the afternoon of June 30, 1971, just about 10 minutes after the Washington bureau filed a bulletin on the Supreme Court ruling siding with the newspapers against the Nixon administration's effort to suppress reporting about the study.

The government did not formally remove the classification shielding the papers from public view until June 30, 2011, the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision.

(Michael Sniffen retired in 2013 after 45 years with The AP. He began in Newark, N.J., then was assigned to the New York General Desk as an editor/supervisor and as national urban affairs writer. He transferred in 1973 to Washington and served as a desk supervisor, news editor, Justice Department and intelligence agencies beat reporter, investigative team member and supervisor, and finally legal team leader. Now, he said, "I own several appallingly slow race horses.")

-0-

Look for a 'pregnant' woman in Logan Airport

Peter Arnett ([Email](#)) - Regarding your Pentagon Papers query: As a reporter working out of the General Desk in June 1971, I did receive an armful of Ellsberg's Pentagon Papers a few days after the New York Times began printing them. I had known Ellsberg in Vietnam when he was on the staff of the celebrated counterinsurgency expert, Maj. General Edward Lansdale. Ellsberg was close to the controversial American adviser John Paul Vann who, while he lived, was one of my best war-time sources.

The New York Times began printing the Papers on Sunday, June 13, 1971, but soon stopped publishing them because of a restraining order from a federal court. I had learned that Ellsberg was the leaker, and won then-Managing Editor Lou Boccardi's permission to see if I could get a copy of the Papers for the AP. Bear in mind that the possession of these Top Secret documents could result in criminal prosecution.

Using my Vietnam War contacts, I was soon able to communicate with a member of the Ellsberg team that had printed copies of the Papers given to the Times. With the Times unable to continue printing, I argued that the AP was a possible alternative publisher, and I was promised about a third of the Pentagon Papers file which I was told contained the most news-worthy material. The handover was to take place the following morning at 10 a.m. at Boston's Logan airport. I was told to contact an obviously pregnant woman at the east side in the colonnaded entrance hall of the airport. I took the 9 p.m. shuttle to Boston from La Guardia, and sure enough at the Logan entrance-way was the pregnant woman. I quietly introduced myself. She

opened her dress and withdrew a bulging brown paper bag and handed it to me without saying a word. Then the less pregnant lady disappeared from my view.

On my return to AP headquarters at Rockefeller Plaza around noon, I was ordered to the executive level where in the company of senior executives and a lawyer or two, we examined the bag's contents. Indeed, it was the real thing, a dozen or so of the voluminous studies that comprised the Department of Defense's history of United States political-military involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967. Now that we had them, what to do with them? Next day the Washington Post, also privy to the Ellsberg publishing team, began publishing the documents also passed on to them in Boston. That this was in defiance of the federal court's restraining order against the Times, eventually became the core of an all-star Hollywood movie, as we all now know. Imagine a different scenario, with the AP the star; Who would you pick to play Lou Boccardi?

The Pentagon Papers I had brought to New York were legal hot potatoes. The AP was a ready writing daily reports based on what the Times had reported, and now on the Washington Post stories. I was told there seemed little point in getting involved in a legal hassle with the government while AP member newspapers, the Times and the Post, were running with the story. It was suggested I write a piece comparing what I read in the official Papers as against what I knew as an AP reporter covering the war in Vietnam at that time. The AP eventually released my long, detailed story the day after the Supreme Court on June 30, 1971, ruled that the New York Times, based on the 1st Amendment, did have the right to print the Pentagon Papers. That was OK with me. I made a quick check today with the Newspaper Archives web site, and noted that a few newspapers including the Arizona Republic, the Eureka Times Herald, the Biloxi Daily Herald and others made room for my analytical piece.

-0-

What's the decision? It can't be disclosed until it runs on wires of The Associated Press

Ann Blackman ([Email](#)) - I don't remember how the AP handled the Pentagon Papers story, but here's my small piece in it.

I was a new and very young reporter in the Washington bureau and was assigned the job of physically bringing the AP's copy of the Pentagon Papers decision from the Supreme Court to the office. I'm quite sure Barry Schweid, the AP's longtime court reporter, was filing. I took the AP spot in the press room, first in line, and remember running down the marble halls of the corridor with the ruling in my hands, my high heels clicking away. I ran down the long steps of the Court and flagged

down a cab to take me back to the bureau. There was another person in the cab, but seeing what i was carrying, he kindly let me in.

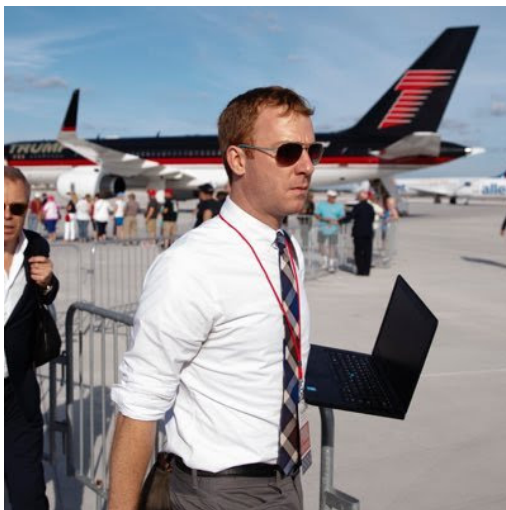
I had probably never been to the Court before and had absolutely no understanding of the law, but someone told me the decisions were at the end of the ruling. Once I took a seat, I flipped to the back and there were several pages of legalese that made absolutely no sense to me.

"What's the decision? What' the decision?" the man next to me cried excitedly.

Not wanting to admit that I didn't have a clue, I looked straight at him and said, "The Supreme Court ruling can't be disclosed until it runs on the wires of The Associated Press."

My question: How does Jonathan Lemire cover White House for AP from TV studio in New York?

Doug Richardson ([Email](#)) - My lede would be: How does Jonathan Lemire cover the White House for AP from a tv studio in New York? My more serious question is how the AP has clearly changed its stance about reporters expressing opinions on the news. Has there been a new edict on that?



Jonathan Lemire

I remember when I covered politics in Indiana. I asked questions on televised debates for governor and Senate, and questioned legislators on a PBS weekly show. But that was just an extension of reporting. It didn't involve offering opinions.

I understand this new way helps to burnish the AP brand in the universe of the pundit class. But it also seems to be a departure from past tradition. Could be a topic for discussion or reporting on your newsletter.

Lauren Easton ([Email](#)), AP's director of media relations, responds:

The policy remains the same. Reporters need approval before proceeding with TV or radio interviews. They refrain from expressing opinion, they stick to the facts, and they don't break news anywhere but on the wire.

We are pleased when staffers are available to showcase AP's expertise and offer objective news and analysis that reflects what we provide to our members and customers in our news services.

I would also point out that Jonathan Lemire most certainly does not express opinions on the air, nor do any of our reporters.

Remarkable, ever-evolving Pittsburgh: My NEXT stop, and my once and future home



Melissa Rayworth ([Email](#)) has been named managing editor of NEXTpittsburgh.

She started her AP career in the early 1990s as administrative assistant to AP President and CEO Lou Boccardi, then went to work for VP Jim Donna and ended up being the office manager for Terry Taylor in Sports, which is where she met Ted Anthony at the Nagano Olympics in 1998, 20 years ago next week. Melissa left AP in 2001 when they got married and moved to China but continues to freelance for AP regularly, primarily in the Lifestyles report.

Her husband Ted Anthony has moved back from Bangkok, where he served as AP director of Asia-Pacific News for nearly four years, and returned to work at headquarters and will be splitting his time between Pittsburgh and New York.

By MELISSA RAYWORTH

We often talk about balancing work and home: I'm excited that my new job is covering one of the amazing places I'm glad to call home. Some of my friends saw this in Ted's feed yesterday, but I just wanted to share it here for old friends who might not have.

"Where are you from?"

It's the question everyone asks when one American runs into another while living overseas. I can't count how many times I was asked that question while living in Thailand for the past three years. Strange as it may sound, I was always a little surprised to hear the answer that came out of my mouth.

"Pittsburgh," I'd tell them.

I was born a New Yorker and once believed I'd never leave. Then three years in China shaped me into a person who wanted to understand the entire world and tell its stories. But it is Pittsburgh, a place I came to a decade ago thinking I'd stay only a year or two, that has truly become my home.

I knew from the moment I started dating a Pittsburgher that this place was special. Ted Anthony had lived all over the globe, but he told me on one of our first dates that someday he'd move back. It was the '90s, so I met that comment with a blank stare, having no idea what Pittsburgh was really all about.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

The rest of the story

Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Connecting colleague Bruce Lowitt mentions how the headline "The Rest of the Story" gave away the surprise ending of Jim Hood's story, but I disagree. When I arrived at the University of Missouri from my "sophisticated" hometown on Long Island, one of my first friends in the dorm was from a Missouri farming family, and he would say "And now you know the rest of the story!" Shortly thereafter he clued me into Paul Harvey and how his voice was a staple in rural America. I thought his show was quaint, but like many things in Missouri, it grew on me. It was a few years later I learned about the Missouri native son and broadcasting blowhard Rush Limbaugh who is known for many different phrases, but not the Paul Harvey trademark sign-off. And I can assure you, Limbaugh's show has never grown on me.

-0-

Connecting sky shot - Sunset over the Hudson



Photo by Claude Erbsen ([Email](#)).

-0-

William Mead, journalist and baseball writer, dies at 83

By Bart Barnes

The Washington Post

William B. Mead, a journalist and baseball writer whose subjects included the hapless St. Louis Browns and their single wartime championship season and a "New York Yankees Haters Handbook," died Dec. 14 at a hospital in Bethesda, Md. He was 83.

The cause was a transected aorta, said a grandson, Brett Mead.

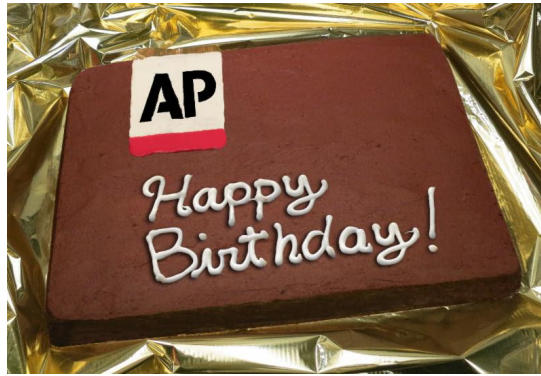
Mr. Mead, who held reporting jobs with United Press International and Money magazine early in his career, wrote seven books on baseball and was co-author of volumes on money management, tax savings and trivia.

His first, and possibly best-known book, was published in 1978, "Even the Browns: The Zany, True Story of Baseball in the Early Forties." Sports Illustrated called it "marvelous, informative and fun to read." Historically, the Browns had been considered one of major league baseball's worst teams. That changed during World War II.



Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Feinsilber, who wrote, " Bill Mead was a 50-year friend with whom I co-authored a book. He was well known in baseball circles and those that run around Washington journalism."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Lisa Pane - lpane@ap.org

Stories of interest

Rupert Murdoch: Facebook should pay media companies for news on social network (USA Today)

By MIKE SNIDER

Facebook should pay media companies for providing trusted news content that appears on the social network, media mogul Rupert Murdoch said Monday.

His remarks follow Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's announcement Friday that the world's largest social network would prioritize which news organizations' articles and videos users were more likely to see in their Facebook feeds, based on user surveys about trustworthiness of news sites. That followed a plan by Facebook to revamp the News Feed so that users would see more posts from friends and family, and fewer articles and videos.

Both of the moves are responses to criticism that Facebook did not do enough to prevent the spread of disinformation and divisive posts from Russian operatives during the 2016 presidential campaign.

If Zuckerberg wanted to do right by news sites, he would have Facebook pay news sites just as pay-TV systems pay broadcasters and cable channels, Murdoch said

Monday in a statement posted on NewsCorp.com. "The publishers are obviously enhancing the value and integrity of Facebook through their news and content but are not being adequately rewarded for those services," Murdoch said.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Female journalists kept at back of Pence's visit to Western Wall (Guardian)

By OLIVER HOLMES

A spiritual visit by the US vice-president, Mike Pence, to Jerusalem's Western Wall has been overshadowed after female journalists were forced to stand behind their male counterparts in a fenced-off area.

While women and men are separated by the ultra-Orthodox Jewish authority that runs the plaza, both sexes are normally able to look into each other's section. During previous visits by Donald Trump and Barack Obama, sexes were divided although female reporters and photographers were afforded an unobstructed view.



Twitter photo by Ariane Menage

One reporter, Noga Tarnopolsky, said authorities had gone too far on Tuesday with female press members "penned off behind the men, which has zero to do with any 'religious rule'".

Images shared by reporters on Tuesday showed men

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Can newspapers make real changes under the constant threat of layoffs? (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

Ben Conarck wanted to work in local journalism.

Despite the relentless crawl of bad news for the industry, he still does.

"It's terrifying, honestly, to be in local media right now," said the cops and prisons reporter at the Florida Times-Union, a Gatehouse newspaper.

This week offered a few reminders of that.

About 70 people worked in his newsroom when Conarck started a year and a half ago. After 10 people were laid off from the newsroom this week, that number now hovers in the 40s.

Across the country, Digital First Media's planning more deep cuts in its California newsrooms. And last year, local news lost digital sites and alt-weeklies. Corporate shops including Gannett and McClatchy continued cutting.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

An Arizona school district kept a secret blacklist for decades. A reporter found it (CJR)

By HANK STEPHENSON

FOR YEARS, the Tucson Unified School District kept a secret blacklist that included the names of about 1,400 former employees. The overwhelming majority of those employees were blacklisted for seemingly frivolous reasons: They had used all their vacation time, or had received a few poor performance evaluations, or had butted heads with a school administrator with access to the list. Many were teachers who had otherwise stellar careers in the district.

My story about the existence of the blacklist for the Arizona Daily Star made big waves in a state that suffers from a severe teacher shortage. The Tucson Unified School District regularly relies on long-term substitutes because it can't attract or retain enough certified teachers.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - January 24, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2018. There are 341 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

On this date:

In A.D. 41, Roman Emperor Caligula, 28, was assassinated by members of the Praetorian Guard after a reign of nearly four years; he was succeeded by his uncle Claudius.

In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession.

In 1908, the Boy Scouts movement began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-Powell.

In 1939, at least 28,000 people were killed by an earthquake that devastated the city of Chillan in Chile.

In 1942, the Roberts Commission placed much of the blame for America's lack of preparedness for Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1965, British statesman Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1975, the extremist group FALN bombed Fraunces Tavern in New York City, killing four people.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

In 1993, retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 84.

In 2003, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn as the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security.

Ten years ago: Congressional leaders announced a deal with the White House on an economic stimulus package that would give most tax filers refunds of \$600 to \$1,200. French bank Societe Generale announced it had uncovered a 4.9 billion euro (\$7.14 billion) fraud by a single futures trader. Italian Premier Romano Prodi resigned after his center-left coalition lost a Senate confidence vote.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the lifting of a ban on women serving in combat. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee opened a hearing into President Barack Obama's nomination of Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state. President Obama appointed Mary Jo White, a former prosecutor, to head the Securities and Exchange Commission. New Orleans Hornets owner Tom Benson announced he was changing his team's nickname to the Pelicans for the start of next season.

One year ago: President Donald Trump moved swiftly to advance the controversial Keystone XL and Dakota Access oil pipelines, signing executive actions to aggressively overhaul America's energy policy and deal a sharp blow to Barack Obama's legacy on climate change. The 89th annual Academy Awards nominations were announced; the retro musical "La La Land" received a record-tying 14 nods; eight went to eventual best picture winner "Moonlight."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jerry Maren (Film: "The Wizard of Oz") is 99. Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 82. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 79. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 77. Singer Aaron Neville is 77. Actor Michael Ontkean is 72. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 68. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 68. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 67. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is 65. Actor William Allen Young is 64. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 60. Actress Nastassja Kinski is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Theo Peoples is 57. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 55. Obama White House budget director Shaun Donovan is 52. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 51. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 48. Actor Matthew Lillard is 48. Actress Merrilee McCommas is 47. Blues/rock singer Beth Hart is 46. Actor Ed Helms is 44. Actor Mark Hildreth is 40. Actress Tatyana Ali is 39. Rock musician Mitchell Marlow (Filter) is 39. Actress Carrie Coon is 37. Actor Daveed Diggs is 36. Actor Justin Baldoni is 34. Actress Mischa Barton is 32.

Thought for Today: "God gives us relatives; thank God, we can choose our friends." - Addison Mizner, American architect (1872-1933).

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.

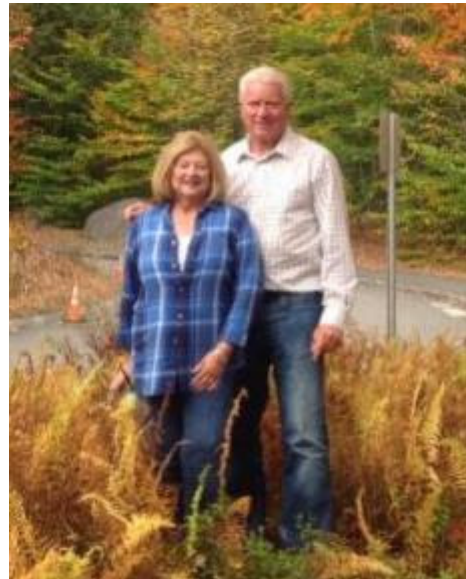
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **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

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

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com in collaboration with

