



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - January 29, 2018

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

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning!

The Associated Press family lost three of its finest last week, and we bring you their stories in today's edition of Connecting:

Elna Koval Kammler, winner of an AP Gramling Spirit Award during her 25 years as administrative assistant in the New Orleans bureau where she was affectionately referred to as the "bureau mama." She was 92 when she died last Wednesday.

Robert Parry, a longtime investigative journalist who was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1985 for his Associated Press exclusives about the CIA's production of an assassination manual for Nicaraguan rebels. He was 68 when he died Saturday. (Condolences may be sent to his wife Diane Duston at Dduston429@aol.com or to her by mail at 2200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 102-231, Arlington, VA 22201.)

David Shaffer, who as head of the AP's state Capitol office in Albany headed AP coverage of the 1975 fiscal crisis that brought New York City and the state to the brink of bankruptcy. He was 69 when he died last Wednesday. (Condolences may be sent to David's wife Mary Fiess at maryfiess@gmail.com or Mary Fiess, 16 Pasture Gate Lane, Delmar, N.Y., 12054.)

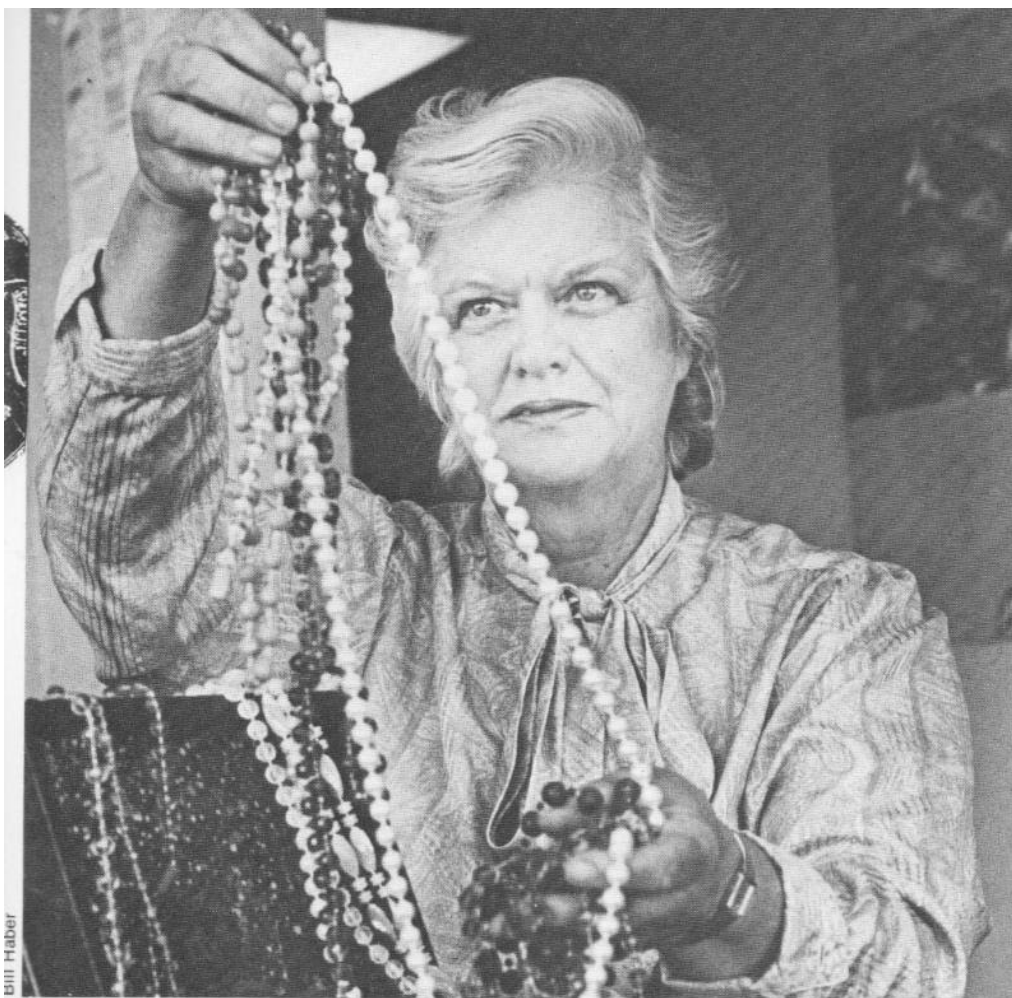
If you have memories or a favorite story to relate on Elna, Robert or David, please send them along to Connecting.

Today's issue brings you first responses to **#worstjobinterviewever** - and we're hoping that you, too, share that moment in your own career that happens to us all.

Have a great week!

Paul

Longtime AP administrative assistant Elna Koval Kammler dies at 92



Elna in 1985 AP World

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Elna Koval Kammler, a longtime administrative assistant in The Associated Press' New Orleans bureau who won an AP Gramling Spirit Award and was affectionately referred to as the "bureau mama," has died. She was 92.

Kimberly Kammler said her mother died Wednesday after contracting the flu and pneumonia.

Kammler worked for the AP for 25 years, retiring in 2007 at the age of 82.

In 2000, she won a \$3,000 spirit award for exceptional and enthusiastic service to the staff, members, subscribers and clients.

Read more [here](#).

Snapshots of Elna

Charlotte Porter ([Email](#)) - To me, she has always been "Dame Elna."

Elna Kammler was more than an administrative assistant, more than the "bureau mama." She was the bureau matriarch, who as she grew older resembled Barbara Bush (though prettier) and delighted in the comparison. She knew everyone in town, it seemed, and was always ready to put that knowledge to work for the entertainment and service of The Associated Press. She left AP in 2007, after 25 years, and left behind lots of great memories, in a bureau filled with them, when she died last week at age 92.

I first came to appreciate Elna when I was ACOB in Atlanta. Some friends and I wanted to go down to New Orleans for JazzFest, and someone recommended contacting her for hotel advice. Of course there was a hotel with a special AP relationship - Bill Haber used it for visiting photographers for decades - and between the two of them they wrangled us a large room complete with kitchen. What a weekend that was - perfect weather, my first Coop's oyster po-boy, my first taste of Commander's Palace and Brigtsen's, being taken out by Kent and Faye Prince to Chez Helene just before it closed for good. I fell in love with New Orleans that weekend, and my life changed. Elna started that.

Hank Ackerman hired her, from a bookkeeping job at Commander's Palace, as I recall. Mike McQueen, I believe, was the last bureau chief she worked for. Pat Arnold was the first to rush to her side when her husband, Al, died, and she treasured that memory. Al loomed large in another favored memory - whenever they dined at the storied Mosca's restaurant, the two of them were granted the privilege of sitting in the front room, between the door and the corner table reserved for Carlos Marcello. She took staffers and visitors back to the restaurant often, and she was always given a front-room table and hugs and kisses from the family that owned the place.

Her home in Uptown New Orleans was just a few doors away from St. Charles Avenue, and every Mardi Gras she opened it to staffers, family and friends. We could sit on her porch and keep an eye on the parades, or run back and forth to grab a bite of lasagna or gumbo and use the bathroom. She was a founding member of the Krewe of Muses, the all-female Mardi Gras organization that first paraded in 2001, and when I begged and pleaded to get in, too, she managed it. We stood together on the float for a couple of years, getting filthy from the beads we tossed to the crowds.

She never forgot a birthday, never missed a staff gathering, adored her children and grandchildren and always made sure AP visitors felt like royalty. Kent reminds me that she was also a member of the vote-gathering crew on election nights, and never, ever made a mistake.

Her family says there will be a gathering in her memory sometime after Mardi Gras. The stories will flow - and the supply is almost endless. Dame Elna will reign.

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Kent Prince (Email) - A sidebar to Charlotte's nicely done piece on Elna from my wife Faye, who ran the AP elections operation in New Orleans:

The year before Elna won the Gramling Award, she was nominated and didn't win.

It just so happens I'm a Gramling descendent - great grandmother Lucinda makes me a distant cousin of AP historian and broadcast executive Oliver - and we headed that year to Madison County, Florida, three miles from the Georgia border, for the annual Florida Gramling Reunion. At historic Shiloh Methodist Church under towering oaks strewn with moss, we gathered with those lovely folks, who were only too happy to sign a Florida Gramling Award for Elna Kammler. We had a buro presentation. We didn't tell New York.

So is Elna the only staffer ever to win back-to-back Gramlings?

Washington investigative journalist Robert Parry dies at 68

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) - Robert Parry, a longtime investigative journalist who was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1985 for his Associated Press exclusives about the CIA's production of an assassination manual for Nicaraguan rebels, has died. He was 68.

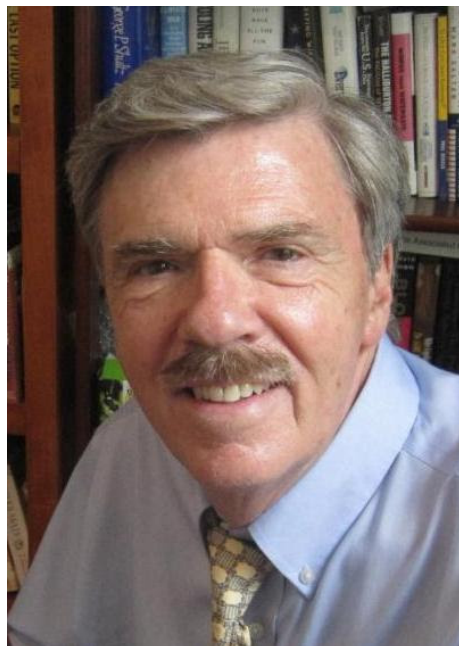
Parry died Saturday in hospice care after a series of strokes brought on by undiagnosed pancreatic cancer, said his wife, Diane Duston.

Parry joined the AP in 1974 and went on to work in the Washington bureau, where he covered the Iran-Contra scandal as it rocked the Reagan administration. His

work on the scandal also brought a George Polk Award in 1984.

After leaving the AP in 1987, Parry worked for Newsweek until 1990 and then became an investigative reporter for the PBS series "Frontline."

In 1995, frustrated with what he saw as dwindling venues for serious investigative reporting, Parry founded the Consortium for Independent Journalism. Its website, Consortiumnews.com, sought to provide a home for such reporting in the early days of the internet, though it struggled financially and relied on contributions.



In a tribute posted on the site, son Nat Parry said, "With my dad, professional work has always been deeply personal, and his career as a journalist was thoroughly intertwined with his family life."

Parry was born on June 24, 1949, in Hartford, Connecticut. He graduated from Colby College with a degree in English in 1971. He worked in Massachusetts journalism before joining the AP.

The author of six books, Parry received the I.F. Stone Medal for Journalistic Independence from the Nieman Foundation in 2015 and the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism in 2017. In his remarks in London at the presentation of the Gellhorn Prize, Britain-based journalist John Pilger said, "Bob Parry's career has been devoted to finding out, lifting rocks - and supporting others who do the same."



With then-executive editor Lou Boccardi (right) in 1984 after receiving the Polk Award

Survivors include his wife, a former Associated Press newswoman; sons Sam Parry and Jeff Parry of Arlington and Nat Parry of Copenhagen, Denmark; daughter Elizabeth Parry of Alexandria, Virginia; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service is planned for later in the year.

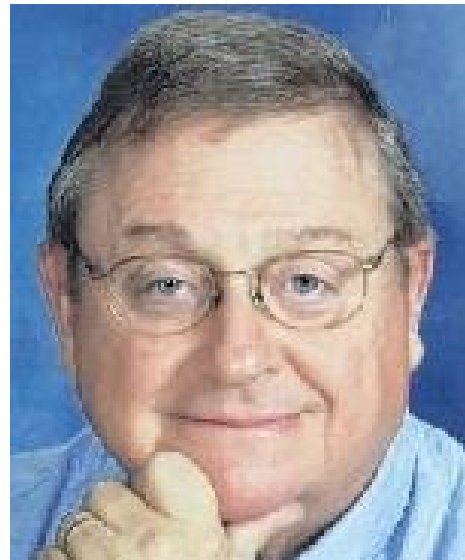
[Click here](#) for a link to this story.

David Shaffer, legendary for coverage of 1975 NY fiscal crisis, dies at 69

By **MARC HUMBERT** ([Email](#))

David F. Shaffer, a mentor to a host of colleagues at The Associated Press as head of the AP's state Capitol office in Albany from 1975-80, died on Jan. 24, 2018 after a brief illness. He was 69.

Known for his humor, his humanity and his sharp intelligence, Shaffer became a legend in the AP for his coverage of the 1975 fiscal crisis that brought New York City and the state to the brink of bankruptcy. He was the AP's lead reporter as New York's state government leadership made the transition from an era dominated by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller's massive public works projects to Gov. Hugh Carey's declaration that the "days of wine and roses" were over.



It was during that time that Shaffer also met the love of his life, Mary Fiess, a fellow AP reporter who succeeded her husband as the news service's chief correspondent at the state Capitol when he left in 1980 to become the first communications director for The Business Council of New York State. The couple had been married for 39 years at the time of his death.

Word of Shaffer's death led to an outpouring of praise for the man many considered a friend and teacher.

"The smartest and wisest man I ever met," said Robert Bellafore, a former AP reporter in Albany who also worked with Shaffer at the Business Council. "I nicknamed him Yoda."

"One of the best in so many ways. A leader by example and an inspiration for many of us," said Peter Slocum, a former AP reporter who worked with Shaffer at the state Capitol before moving on to head up the AP's state Capitol office in Maine. "I'm one of those who had his career and more shaped by David."

At the Business Council, Shaffer quickly became much more than a media coordinator for the organization, taking on financial and organizational responsibilities. As one of the council's chief strategists, Shaffer was instrumental in pushing tax cuts and programmatic reforms that aided New York's business community. He was elected corporate secretary for the council in 1981, a position he held until his retirement from the council in 2008. He also led the council in-house think tank and served on several state advisory boards. Shaffer was a senior fellow at the State University of New York's Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government from 2008 to 2013.



The press corps listen to Governor Hugh L. Carey at his first press conference in January 1975. Front row, from left: Aaron Shepard (WTEN), unidentified, Pauline E. Williman (Stenographer), Tom Poster (New York Post), David Shaffer (Associated Press), unidentified.

A Richmond, Va., native, Shaffer graduated from Duke University and received a master's degree in political science from SUNY's University at Albany in 1972. While studying for his master's degree, he was hired by the AP.

In retirement, Shaffer and his wife had continued to enjoy nature, hiking across New York and other parts of the United States. Their recent travels had included Ireland and India.

A memorial service and celebration of David's life will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Delmar (N.Y.) on Saturday, February 3, at 10 a.m.

[Click here](#) for a link to David Shaffer's obituary.

(Marc Humbert was Capitol correspondent in Albany from 1981 until 1994 when he became New York state political editor. He adds:

"David had a Leprechaun's twinkle in his eye and the power of genius in his brain. A nice combination. And, for a reporter, he also possessed that most important tool - he understood the difference between cynicism and skepticism. Within the AP, his work covering the 1975 fiscal crisis that almost toppled New York City and the state made us all proud. A great reporter and editor, and a better person."

Remembering David Shaffer

Ed Staats ([Email](#)) - David Shaffer was the chief political writer in Albany during almost all of my time as upstate New York chief of bureau which encompassed most of the 1970s.

He was a consummate political reporter -- smarter than most of the people he covered and better educated about state government than many of the elected and appointed officials he wrote about.

His was a difficult job, having to compete with some of the best political reporters in the country, those from the New York City papers and television stations. He had the advantage of being in Albany fulltime - not just for legislative sessions. As a result, the AP often led on key state government and political developments thanks to his fine reporting and close relationships with newsmakers.

It was a blessing for me to not have to worry about the political news report, which was the No. 1 assignment of the bureau, as I was traveling and working with publishers and editors and competing head-to-head with UPI.

He will be long remembered. Along with David, we must not forget Mary Fiess, his wife of many years, and a former AP staffer in the Albany bureau. She was a terrific journalist as well and a wonderful person. I look back on those years with fond memories and admiration for their work.

I offer heartfelt condolences to the family.

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Joel Stashenko (Email) - Soon after joining the AP in Albany in 1979, I had the privilege of sometimes working for David at the Capitol. I remember practically every one of those days as a crash course in New York government, but not in a theoretical or scholarly way, though David was trained in political science and could speak as an academic expert. As a working journalist and an exacting AP editor, though, his lessons were in the realpolitik way of HOW THINGS WORK: What political or public policy demands compelled Gov. Hugh Carey to issue that executive order or why had Assembly Speaker Stanley Fink made a committee chairman kill a bill rather than let it reach the Assembly floor for a potentially embarrassing vote? It was breathtaking for me at age 22 and 23 to be in the presence of someone who could predict and explain the future in this way through his insightful thinking. I am quite sure that the fact I subsequently spent more than 15 years covering New York government and politics for the AP in Albany was motivated in part to be like David and to try to learn the same kind of command of an area of expertise that David had. Plus, he could always do it with a wry sense of humor and a good, non-cynical heart.

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Christine McKnight (Email) - David was one of the first AP staffers that Jim and I met when we transferred from Detroit to Albany in 1973. He was a mentor and a friend, and patiently tutored me in the workings of state government when I joined the AP staff covering the Capitol. Later, as the AP's Albany news editor, I knew the statehouse report was in good hands under his leadership. David was known as a brilliant a public policy analyst, but I will always remember him first and foremost for his total devotion to his wife Mary and their beautiful family. He was brainy, yet caring and folksy at the same time. When we got together in recent years to celebrate a birthday or some other milestone, there was always a lot of laughter, and he talked with pride about his children.

#worstjobinterviewever - your stories

Getting a \$15 a week pay cut on first day of work

@Paul Albright (Email) - I was out of a job. I decided to show off my journalistic skills in New York City, which had eight dailies (as I recall) in 1960. After an exhausting, cross-country Greyhound bus ride, I walked into newsrooms of the Herald-Tribune, the World-Telegram, the Wall Street Journal, the Evening Post (and

perhaps some others) before I realized that the Big Apple was not thrilled by my sheaf of clippings from Denver's Rocky Mountain News.

I had crashed at a third-rate hotel in Manhattan and was running out of cash. Reluctantly, I cold-called a couple papers across the Hudson and was surprised to be invited to the Paterson Evening News in New Jersey for an interview. The interview went well, and the managing editor asked how much salary I wanted. "Well, I was making \$105 a week in Denver, and I was hoping for the same here," I replied. That sounded okay with him, and I was told to report on Monday.

When I arrived at the office, he pulled me into his office (which he rarely occupied except for "serious" discussions) and informed me that he couldn't pay me the salary he had agreed to a couple days earlier. Instead, I was to get \$90 per week. Almost broke, I reluctantly agreed and walked out to the newsroom with a \$15 per week pay cut on my first day on the job.

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Interviews with two companies in same week - and both folded

Michael Doan (Email) - I was literally playing both sides of the street, interviewing the same week to be editor of the AFL-CIO News and a staffer at Nation's Business, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce magazine in Washington. I had trouble keeping my answers to their pointed questions straight, and I didn't get either job. Both folded not long afterward (probably because they didn't hire me.)

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His reply could have scuttled the job he was after

Tom Eblen (Email) - When I was the AP correspondent in Knoxville in 1984, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution launched its Southern regional reporting staff, hiring five people outside Georgia to do what it had claimed to be doing for years: "Cover Dixie like the dew."

I applied for the Tennessee job, was flown to Atlanta and was ushered into the office of the editor, Jim Minter, who was famous for his dry wit.

His first question: "How many other major newspapers have Tennessee bureaus?"

"None that I know of, sir," I replied.

"Maybe they know something we don't," he said.

The rest of the interview went well, but for a few moments I thought that not only would I not get the job (I did), but nobody else would, either.

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A job on General Desk? How about broadcast peddler in Kansas, Missouri?

Jim Hood ([Email](#)) - While it may not have been the oddest, the most surprising job interview I ever had occurred one day at 50 Rock. I was in New York nosing around for a new assignment after spending a few years in the Denver and New Orleans bureaus.

My goal in coming to work for the AP had been to get away from broadcasting, where I had landed because of the chronically poor newspaper job market. So even though I wrote what was known as the radio wire in both bureaus, I managed to squeeze in the occasional enterprise story and made the AAA Wire with some regularity.

I was hoping to turn that into a General Desk gig and see what that might lead to. I had a pleasant visit with Burl Osborne, then the Managing Editor, who interrupted our chat to call Roy Steinfort, impresario of AP Broadcast, and tell him I was in town.

"Roy would like to have lunch with you today," Burl said. "Why don't you head up to the fifth floor and see if he's ready?"

Never one to turn down a free lunch, I did as instructed and soon found myself at Joyce's Irish Pub with Roy and Broadcast Deputy Director Bob Benson. Both were known quantities. I had met Roy several times at various conventions and hoorah events and Bob was an old friend from my radio news days.

"Ever been to Missouri?" Roy asked, apropos of nothing much.

"Well, yeah, I grew up in Illinois, which is right next door," I said.

"How about Kansas?" he asked.

"Yes, I drove through Kansas one month," I replied, wondering where this conversation was going.

"How'd you like to be a broadcast peddler in Missouri and Kansas?" Roy asked.

"I wouldn't," I said. "I'm trying to talk my way onto the General Desk. I'm actually kind of fed up with broadcasting."

"Ahhh," said Roy, signaling for another round. "The General Desk is like getting into a fight with your wife -- you can't win. Drive around Missouri and Kansas for a year or two and you can probably get a book out of it, or at least a couple of good stories. Make a lot more money too."

"You get a company car and you can basically live off expenses," Bob chimed in.

This, I must admit, piqued my interest. Cars and I had been through a rough patch and an expense account was something I had heard about but never really experienced.

"Oh what the hell," I said, never one to agonize over a decision. "I don't think I'm much of a salesman but I'll give it a try."

To my surprise, my years on the road, first in Kansas and Missouri, then in Northern California, were among the most rewarding of my speckled career. I saw a lot of good journalism being practiced in some unlikely places -- Lawrence, Kansas; Moberly, Missouri and Susanville, California, to name a few - and got to know a lot of broadcasters and local newspaper people who became lifelong friends.

It also turned into something of a market research project that gave me a lot of insight into how AP's broadcast products could be tweaked to everyone's benefit.

I never did get out of broadcasting though.

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'Did you know you misspelled 'copyright?'

Repps Hudson ([Email](#)) - My worst interview was back in late 1976, after the Republican National Convention had left Kansas City, and I was restless.

Casey Jones, city editor of The Kansas City Times, told me that when the Republicans left town after they nominated Gerald Ford for his first elected term as president, "tumbleweeds will be rolling down the streets of downtown" Kansas City.

Naturally, as an ambitious city desk reporter, I headed east for stops in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Washington.

I thought perhaps my best chance was to land a job at Congressional Quarterly. I liked the wonky, detailed political and congressional coverage in CQ. I thought it would be excellent preparation for my next move, perhaps to The New York Times or The Washington Post.

I had my clips and plenty of stories. One I was particularly proud of was about the Americans who had been killed in Hiroshima when the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Aug. 6, 1945.

I had found a Kansas City businessman who had been in Hiroshima as member of the U.S. Army within a few days of the bomb blast. He told me with compelling detail about seeing dying American airmen who had been held there in what he called "the Hiroshima jail."

I went to the Truman Library in Independence to see what I could find in the archives about President Harry Truman's decision to drop the bomb on Japan and bring the war in the Pacific to an end, despite the high cost in Japanese lives.

I even tracked down Paul Tibbets, the pilot who had flown the Enola Gay, the B-29 Stratofortress that carried America's first atomic weapon used in wartime.

In a telephone interview I asked him, had he known captured American airmen were in Hiroshima when his plane released Little Boy, would he had aborted the mission.

He said, "No. It wouldn't have made any difference."

So I had a pretty good story that no one else had written. It required a lot of phone calls and time tracking down facts long before the internet has made that so easy. I spent weeks on it between daily city desk assignments.

When I got to Washington, I had an appointment to meet an editor at CQ, which was near Dupont Circle and Embassy Row. As I sat down with the editor, I handed her my cover letter and my clips.

She read the letter first, and I don't think we ever got to the clips.

"Did you know you misspelled 'copyright'?" she asked me as she looked at my letter touting the Hiroshima story, which the editors at The Kansas City Times had decided merited protection from the Associated Press and others carrying it without giving the paper credit.

I was dumbfounded.

She handed my clips and letter back to me and thanked me for thinking of CQ.

I later found a job in the district, also near Dupont Circle, working for a think tank, writing reports for the company that also published National Journal.

Clearly I wouldn't be ready for some of the best jobs in print journalism for a few more years.

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His non-love of bass may have cost him a job

Will Lester (Email) - I had an interview with an AP bureau chief (who will remain nameless) for a news editor job and he was asking about my previous work experience. I told him I had covered news and features in the newspaper business before coming to the AP about six years before this news editor interview.

I told him I had also been a sport editor, a job I liked as long as I didn't have to cover BassMaster fishing tournaments. The bureau chief narrowed his eyes and said coolly: "I love bass fishing."

I never heard any more about the job.

Fortunately, the AP had another news editor opening in Miami - and the topic of bass fishing never came up in the interview.

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'You have no professional experience', to which he replied, 'Neither do you'

Bruce Lowitt (Email) - I was 23 and had worked for a couple of years as an editor at Moody's Investors Service in Manhattan, cutting lengthy financial stories to two or three paragraphs for its semi-weekly periodical, when I decided in the spring of 1965 to become the next Jimmy Breslin. So I gave my notice and two weeks later began my search.

As the weeks and then months passed I was turned down by every New York City area newspaper that was willing to give me an interview, primarily because I hadn't earned a degree, journalism or otherwise, and had never written anything that qualified as a story for financial compensation. I expanded my search to include trade journals and house organs. No one was interested in hiring a candidate whose only examples of his journalistic skills were stories from The Greek Herald, Long Island University's fraternity newspaper.

Ultimately I ended up in the office of the Leader-Observer, under the el (elevated subway line) in Queens. I should note that it is now one of a group of eight weekly community newspapers in the city. In 1965, though, it was a one-man storefront operation, a four-page (one sheet, folded in half) weekly flyer - store coupons and advertisements with one story on the front.

I remember all too vividly the story the day I walked into the office, wearing a suit and tie. It was about a car that had been broken into in the neighborhood, with a photo of the smashed vent window (remember vent windows?) on the driver's side. A guy wearing suspenders, his white shirtsleeves rolled up to his elbows, came out of a back room and said, "Gimme your clips." I handed him my folder, sat down, began to read the latest edition of his paper, and wondered how the hell I'd sunk to this level.

A minute later the guy came back out, handed me my folder and said, "You have no professional experience."

I stared back, handed him his latest edition and said, "Neither do you," and walked out.

I was so depressed that I spent the next several days killing time by going to the movies and playing Skee-Ball and other games in a Times Square arcade. Fortunately I was still living at home in Brooklyn and not having to pay rent. My parents, a dentist and dental hygienist, assumed I was still (against their better judgment) trying to become a newspaperman and going on interviews each day.

Then I got a phone call from a Manhattan employment agency. I had filled out one of their cards a month or two earlier and they had two leads for me, both afternoon papers - the Bayonne Times in New Jersey and the Port Chester Daily Item just north of New York City. Westchester County sounded better so I started with the Daily Item, which hired me in August of 1965. A year and a half later I decided sunny California was preferable to snowy New York and was hired by The Associated Press in Los Angeles, the beginning of my 19 years with The AP - 16 of them back in New York Sports.

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'You might show a little enthusiasm'

Mike Tharp ([Email](#)) - Like Ye Olde Editor, I have an interview story that involves KU (university of Kansas).

I was finishing a master's at the J-School in Lawrence when one Sunday April night, I got a call in my one-room, GI-Bill hovel just off campus. It was Ed Bassett, dean of the school. Without preamble he began, "Tharp, I noticed you haven't signed up to be interviewed by the Wall Street Journal tomorrow." "That's right, sir, I just didn't think that my anarchist point of view would fit very--"

He interrupted me. "Well, I signed you up. Be there at 8 a.m. And you might show a little enthusiasm!"

So I showed up and met Ken Slocum, the Dallas bureau chief. He made Calvin Coolidge look verbose. We sat across from each other sharing grunts and

monosyllables. Then I recalled Dean Bassett's words. "And I want this damn job bad!" I said.

We shook hands and I thought, well, that was interesting. Good practice, I guess.

A few days later Ken called and said he wanted to fly me to Dallas to meet the other reporters. I started June 1, 1972. Slocum became the best boss I've ever had.

All thanks to Ed Bassett.



Pope responds, in person, after AP scoop on papal letter about Chilean bishop



Pope Francis meets reporters during his flight to Santiago, Chile, Jan. 15, 2018. A 2015 letter from the pope obtained by AP showed that Francis knew that Bishop Juan Barros was accused of complicity in covering up sexual

abuse, but the pope appointed Barros bishop anyway. The scandal and Francis' subsequent accusations of slander triggered a backlash against the pope. AP PHOTO / ALESSANDRA TARANTINO

Holding prominent officials accountable is one of the main missions of journalism, even if it is uncomfortable at times. AP's Nicole Winfield did just that, politely but firmly pressing Pope Francis on his knowledge of a sexual abuse scandal that has clouded his appointment of a Chilean bishop in 2015 and cast doubt about his commitment to fighting the problem. Along with AP Santiago correspondent Eva Vergara, Winfield shares Beat of the Week.

Vergara got the first part of the scoop for AP. She knew a letter she had spent months tracking down was toxic to Francis, to his upcoming trip to Chile, and to the Chilean bishop appointed by Francis and accused of covering up for the country's most notorious pedophile priest.

When she finally got ahold of it, she took measures to protect her source lest anyone start investigating who gave it to her. She donned latex gloves when she touched it to photograph it, then wiped it clean to remove any trace that it was ever in her hands.

The revelations in that letter from Francis to the executive committee of the Chilean bishops' conference about the appointment of Bishop Juan Barros became a major part of Francis' just-concluded trip to Chile and Peru. The scandal and Francis' subsequent accusations of slander against abuse victims dominated coverage. It led to Francis trying to explain himself under tough questioning by Winfield on an extraordinary in-flight press conference on his way home.

The letter showed that Francis knew that Barros was accused of complicity in covering up the sexual abuse by Rev. Fernando Karadima, but appointed Barros bishop anyway. It also revealed that the Vatican at one point was prepared to sack Barros and two other Karadima-trained bishops but didn't. It became front-page news in major Chilean media and was picked up widely internationally. The most-read Vatican commentator, Sandro Magister, wrote an entire column about it.

The letter's importance, and AP's dominance of the story, only grew once the trip got under way. Francis opened his Chile trip by issuing an apology to all victims of sex abuse, and he met with a small group of survivors on his first full day in Santiago. But a few days later, Francis was asked by a Chilean journalist specifically about the Barros appointment, which had outraged Chileans ever since it was announced in 2015.

Francis' comments caused more consternation: "The day they bring me proof against Bishop Barros, I'll speak," Francis said. "There is not one shred of proof against him. It's all calumny. Is that clear?"

Pope shocks Chile by accusing sex abuse victims of slander.

<https://t.co/HViVUdTex8>

- The Associated Press (@AP) January 19, 2018

Winfield, who was part of the Vatican's traveling press pool, sensed the gravity of Francis' words: The pope was accusing sex abuse victims of slander. Her story that night - filed after an incredible day in which the pope married two flight attendants - was widely picked up.

The Boston Globe, which broke the sex abuse story in the U.S. in 2002, linked to Winfield's story in a blistering piece by columnist Kevin Cullen titled "Pope Francis, Company Man."

Winfield then filed even bigger news: Francis' top sex abuse adviser, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, had publicly chastised the pope for his comments. O'Malley said Francis' words had been the source of "great pain" to victims, made them feel abandoned and left in "discredited exile."

By the time the flight home came around, Francis knew he had to address the issue.

"One of you came to me and showed me a letter I wrote several years ago..." Francis began, referring to Winfield's request for comment two weeks earlier about the letter - a request that had been met with silence from the Vatican.

When it was her time to ask a question, Winfield then questioned Francis on his words about the Barros accusers, his partial apology earlier in the press conference, and O'Malley's rebuke.

In a remarkable exchange that earned her a warning, Winfield told the pope that the accusers were abuse victims, not just any-old dissidents.

Winfield told the pope that victims weren't so upset that he demanded to see proof of their claims but that he had accused them of slander. In a remarkable back-and-forth that earned her a warning from the Vatican spokesman, Winfield told the pope that the Barros accusers were abuse victims, not just any-old dissidents, as he seemed to think.

Pope: "If I say 'you stole something, you stole something,' I'm slandering you because I don't have evidence."

Winfield: "But these are victims saying this!"

Pope: "But I didn't hear from any victim of Barros."

Winfield: "There are victims. There are victims. They're Karadima's victims. They say Barros was there."

Pope: "They didn't come forward. They didn't give evidence for the judgment."

Which was not accurate, as Winfield wrote in her story filed after the plane landed in Rome. Victim Juan Carlos Cruz testified to Chilean prosecutors that Barros had witnessed Karadima's abuse.

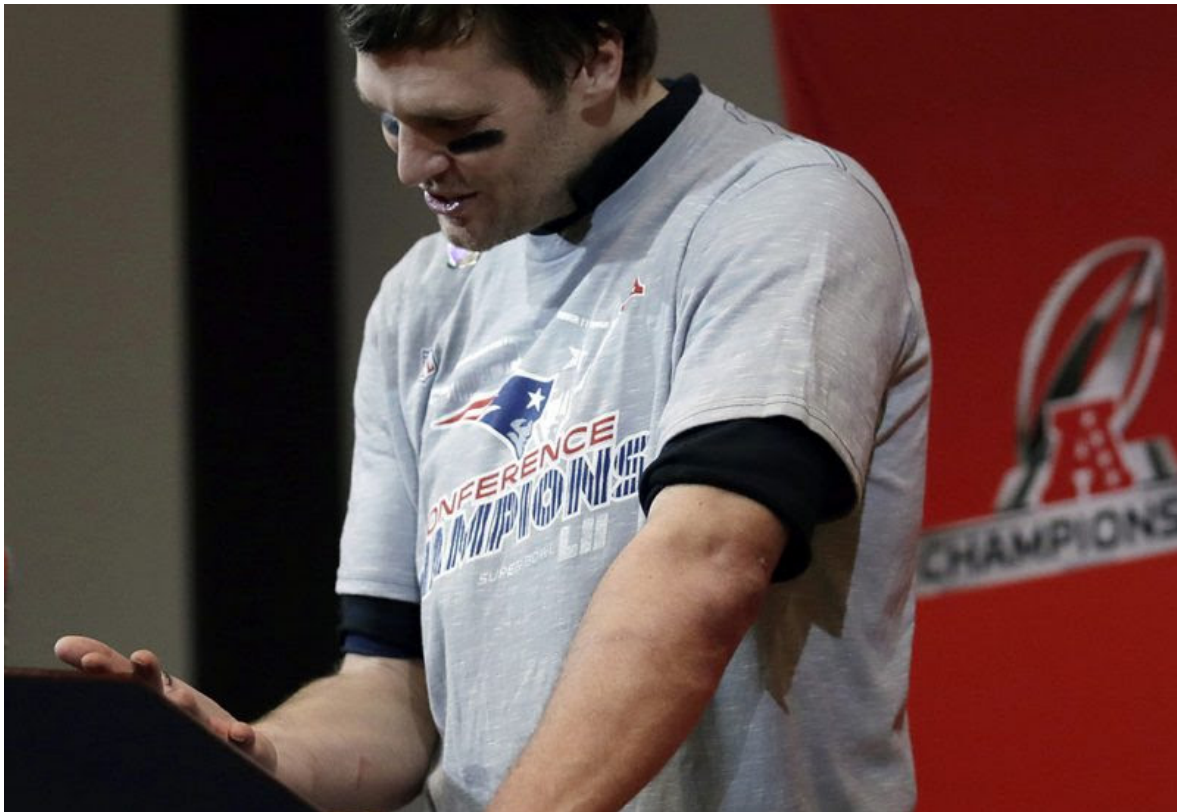
The AP's trip coverage was widely praised. Winfield received emails from abuse victims and even Mitchell Garabedian, the lawyer (portrayed by Stanley Tucci in the movie "Spotlight") who helped bring the U.S. abuse scandal to light.

"Thank you for your reporting," he wrote.

For Winfield's extraordinary conversation with the pope and the letter that launched it all, Winfield and Vergara share this week's \$500 prize.



Krupa makes exclusive photos of Tom Brady's unbandaged hand injury



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady looks at the stitches in his right hand as he speaks to the media following the AFC championship NFL football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Jan. 21, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots won 24-20 behind Brady, who played despite the injury which occurred in practice four days earlier. AP PHOTO / CHARLES KRUPA

As he geared up to cover Sunday's AFC championship between the Jacksonville Jaguars and New England Patriots, Boston photographer Charlie Krupa knew the biggest national sports story of the week had been the mysterious injury to the throwing hand of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

Brady had suffered the undisclosed injury during Wednesday's practice. The Patriots remained tight-lipped about the specifics, but multiple reports indicated it could be serious enough to keep him out of the game. He didn't practice on Thursday, and his scheduled media availability kept being pushed back.

All eyes on QB Tom Brady as he misses practice with hand injury.
<https://t.co/Zxjgoee0k2>

- The Associated Press (@AP) January 19, 2018

On Friday he wore gloves on both hands during practice when the media was present, and he wore gloves on both hands at the podium afterwards. He refused to answer questions about the injury.

On Sunday, Krupa and every other photographer at the game made photos showing the bandaged hand as Brady warmed up, played, and celebrated yet another AFC championship on stage at midfield afterwards.

But after covering countless high-profile sporting events around the globe during his AP career, Krupa knew there was one more picture he needed to make.

When the field cleared and Brady took the podium outside the locker room to speak at the post-game news conference, Krupa watched through the lens for that fleeting moment of Brady's unbandaged hand. His exclusive pictures, published on ESPN and Boston Globe websites, among others, confirmed Brady had sustained a cut at the base of his right thumb that required several stitches to close.

For journalistic tenacity and photographic skill that gave AP an exclusive beat, Krupa receives this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

Stories of interest

Belatedly, The Indianapolis Star Gets Its Due for Gymnastics Investigation (New York Times)

By DANIEL VICTOR

In April 2016, a few instances of nearby schools failing to report child abuse caught the attention of the investigations team at The Indianapolis Star. The journalists wondered how often it happened, and why.

As one of the reporters, Marisa Kwiatkowski, looked into it, a source tipped her off to a lawsuit accusing U.S.A. Gymnastics, which is based in Indianapolis, of the same behavior. Later that day, The Star put her on an airplane to Effingham County, Ga., fearful that the records would soon be sealed.

She returned with almost 1,000 pages of documents. She and two other reporters, Mark Alesia and Tim Evans, dug in.

The decision of the newspaper to spend on airfare to follow a lead, then throw themselves behind an investigative project that has now continued for nearly two years, led to the arrest and sentencing of Lawrence G. Nassar, the former doctor for the national gymnastics team who was accused of molesting Olympic athletes and more than 100 other girls under the guise of medical treatment. He was sentenced on Wednesday to 40 to 175 years in prison.

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

AND...

The IndyStar brings justice to Nassar victims

USA TODAY NETWORK is especially proud of The Indianapolis Star's investigative reporters whose commitment to impactful journalism was highlighted by the sentencing of former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar this week. In August 2016, the IndyStar broke the story about USA Gymnastics' failure to report allegations of sexual abuse by coaches to authorities. Following publication of that stunning "Out of Balance" piece, Rachael Denhollander of Louisville, Ky., courageously emailed the IndyStar explaining that Dr. Larry Nassar had abused her under the guise of medical treatment, and in September 2016, the IndyStar broke the news about Nassar, who was working at Michigan State University at the time.

"We are proud of IndyStar's dogged reporting and in awe of the victims' courage to share their stories, which led to Nassar's sentencing," said Maribel Perez Wadsworth, president, USA TODAY NETWORK. "The conversation they have started about sexual abuse will continue to make an impact in the sports world and beyond. This week underscored why we do what we do as journalists."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ed Williams.

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'Anything could happen': Amid newsroom clashes, Los Angeles Times becomes its own story (Washington Post)

By **PAUL FARHI**

The news has been frenetic lately for reporters at the Los Angeles Times. Massive wildfires swept a region just getting over a historic drought, followed by deadly mudslides, and then the explosive Turpin family child-abuse saga - a chain of events that tested the chops of the prizewinning newsroom.

But some of the biggest news at the Times has been coming from within its downtown headquarters. The paper - one of the largest and most important news organizations in America - has been beset by turmoil the past two weeks, prompting questions about its future.

After decades of successful resistance by management and years of demoralizing cutbacks, the Times's journalists voted overwhelmingly last week to unionize. Before bargaining can begin, however, reporters are concerned about a plan by the Times's management to reorganize the way the paper produces news.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Robert Meyers.

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A toast to undercover journalism's greatest coup, when reporters bought a bar (CJR)

By **JACKIE SPINNER**

The Mirage Tavern-now the Brehon Pub-was purchased in 1977 by the Chicago Sun-Times and run by journalists who used the bar to expose corrupt city officials. Photo by Jackie Spinner.

THE MIRAGE TAVERN was never only what it seemed.

In 1977, the Chicago Sun-Times bought a tavern in downtown Chicago and set up one of the most elaborate undercover stings in American journalism history. The bartenders were reporters and investigators. The repairman was a photographer. There was a hole in the ceiling for cameras, and bar stools were positioned just so, to catch city inspectors accepting bribes in exchange for ignoring health and safety violations at a sleazy tavern in Chicago's Near North Side neighborhood.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

The Final Word

Mort Walker, whose 'Beetle Bailey' was a comic-page staple for decades, dies at 94



By ALI BAHRAMPOUR | Special to The Washington Post

Mort Walker, whose "Beetle Bailey" comic strip followed the exploits of a lazy G.I. and his inept cohorts at the dysfunctional Camp Swampy, and whose dedication to his art form led him to found the first museum devoted to the history of cartooning, died Jan. 27 at his home in Stamford, Connecticut. He was 94.

Bill Morrison, president of the National Cartoonists Society, confirmed the death. The cause was pneumonia.

In contrast with the work-shirking soldier he immortalized, Walker was a man of considerable drive and ambition. He drew his daily comic strip for 68 years, longer than any other U.S. artist in the history of the medium.

Debuting in 1950, "Beetle Bailey" was distributed by King Features Syndicate and eventually reached 200 million readers in 1,800 newspapers in more than 50 countries. Beetle and company appeared in comic books, television cartoons, games and toys and were also featured in a musical with the book by Walker, as well as on a U.S. Postal Service stamp in 2010.

"Beetle Bailey" was among the first cartoons to mark a shift in the funny pages from the serial strips of the previous decade to the graphically simpler gag-a-day model that predominates today.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - January 29, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2018. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 29, 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's famous narrative poem "The Raven" ("Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...") was first published in the New York Evening Mirror.

On this date:

In 1820, King George III died at Windsor Castle at age 81; he was succeeded by his son, who became King George IV.

In 1843, the 25th president of the United States, William McKinley, was born in Niles, Ohio.

In 1856, Britain's Queen Victoria introduced the Victoria Cross to reward military acts of valor during the Crimean War.

In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1936, the first inductees of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, New York.

In 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married in Las Vegas.

In 1963, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963). Poet Robert Frost died in Boston at age 88.

In 1964, Stanley Kubrick's nuclear war satire "Dr. Strangelove Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" premiered in New York, Toronto and London. The Winter Olympic Games opened in Innsbruck, Austria. Actor Alan Ladd, 50, died in Palm Springs, California.

In 1975, a bomb exploded inside the U.S. State Department in Washington, causing considerable damage, but injuring no one; the radical group Weather Underground claimed responsibility.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan announced in a nationally broadcast message that he and Vice President George H.W. Bush would seek re-election in the fall.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

Ten years ago: John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida primary, easing past Mitt Romney for his first-ever triumph in a primary open only to Republicans. Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton claimed victory in a campaign-free Florida presidential primary in which all the candidates had signed pledges not to compete. (The national Democratic Party had stripped the state of its delegates as punishment for moving its primary ahead of Feb. 5.) Margaret Truman, the only child of President Harry S. Truman, died in Chicago at age 83. Raymond Jacobs, believed to be the last surviving member of the group of Marines photographed during the first U.S. flag-raising on Iwo Jima, died in Redding, California, at age 82.

Five years ago: BP PLC closed the book on the Justice Department's criminal probe of its role in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster and Gulf of Mexico oil spill, with a U.S. judge agreeing to let the London-based oil giant plead guilty to manslaughter charges for the deaths of 11 rig workers and pay a record \$4 billion in penalties. The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed President Barack Obama's choice of five-term Sen. John Kerry to be secretary of state, 94-3. (Kerry voted present.)

One year ago: Six people were killed in a shooting at a Quebec City mosque during evening prayers; a 27-year-old university student was charged with murder and attempted murder. The White House vigorously defended President Donald Trump's immigration restrictions, as protests against the order banning travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries spread throughout the country. The AFC won a 20-13 victory over the NFC in the Pro Bowl in Orlando, Florida. Roger Federer won his 18th Grand Slam title, defeating Rafael Nadal 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 at the Australian Open.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-composer-lyricist Leslie Bricusse is 87. Feminist author Germaine Greer is 79. Actress Katharine Ross is 78. Feminist author Robin Morgan is 77. Actor Tom Selleck is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 72. Actor Marc Singer is 70. Actress Ann Jillian is 68. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 65. Rhythm-and-blues/funk singer Charlie Wilson is 65. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 64. Actor Terry Kinney is 64. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 62. Actress Diane Delano is 61. Actress Judy Norton Taylor (TV: "The Waltons") is 60. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 59. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 58. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 57. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 57. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 56. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 54. Actor-director Edward Burns is 50. Actor Sam Trammell is 49. Actress Heather Graham is 48. House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.,

is 48. Actor Sharif Atkins is 43. Actress Sara Gilbert is 43. Actress Kelly Packard is 43. Actor Justin Hartley is 41. Actor Sam Jaeger is 41. Writer and TV personality Jedediah Bila is 39. Actor Andrew Keegan is 39. Actor Jason James Richter is 38. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 37. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert (TV: "American Idol") is 36. Country singer Eric Paslay is 35.

Thought for Today: "Any idiot can face a crisis - it's this day-to-day living that wears you out." - Anton Chekhov, Russian author and playwright (born this date in 1860, died in 1904).

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.

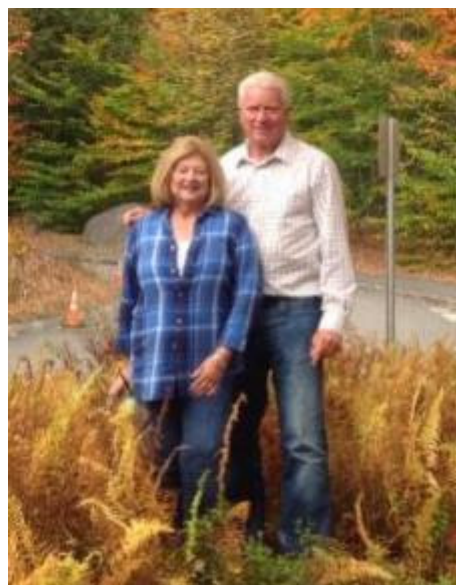
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **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

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