



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - February 05, 2018

1 message

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

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# Connecting

February 05, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February.

We lead today's Connecting with a report from **Robert Bellafiore** on a memorial service held for former AP New York state Capitol correspondent **David Shaffer**.

This edition also brings you some poignant memories of a woman denied admission to the University of Missouri in the 1930s because of her race, **Lucille Bluford**, by AP regional director **Kia Breaux...** of a former AP newsman who was director of the University of Arizona journalism school, **Don Carson**, by **Paul Davenport...** and **Norman Abelson** takes you back six decades to when he was a young pup reporter covering the New Hampshire primary.

In Stories of Interest, did you know that chief official White House Photographer **Shealah Craighead** "cut her chops" in her early photo career as a freelancer for The Associated Press?

Read on.

Finally, Linda and I will be taking vacation this week so Connecting will be delivered to you today and Tuesday morning before we go wheels-up to Florida for the rest of the week.

Here's to a great week!

Paul

***Memorial service for David Shaffer***

**'If you get the point across to your mom, you can get the point across to your readers'**



David's wife Mary Fiess took this photo when they were in Ireland last September.

**By Robert Bellafiore** ([Email](#))

DELMAR, N.Y. - Former AP New York state Capitol correspondent David F. Shaffer was remembered Saturday by family, friends, colleagues and one-time competitors as a master story teller who counseled young reporters "if you get the point across to your mom, you can get the point across to your readers."

Shaffer died on January 24, after a brief illness. He was 69.

Shaffer led the AP Albany Capitol bureau during some of New York State's most tumultuous times - the fiscal crisis that nearly bankrupted the state and New York City, debates over abortion and the death penalty, and Love Canal. A rising star, the

Virginia native was once asked why he declined opportunities to join the AP in Washington, D.C., or some other locale more glamorous than Albany, N.Y.

He said, "I wanted to marry Mary," a reference to his AP state Capitol colleague Mary Fiess. They wed in 1978 and built their life in Albany, raising four children.

Shaffer left the AP in 1980 to become communications director of The Business Council of New York State. At the Business Council, Shaffer's duties expanded to include financial and operational responsibilities. In 1981, he was elected the council's corporate secretary, a position he held until his retirement in 2008. In 1993, he became president of the council's research arm, The Public Policy Institute.



After leaving The Council, Shaffer served for five years as a Senior Fellow at the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government, focusing on higher education policy, economic development and federal stimulus funding.

At the memorial service on Saturday, friends noted how a few months at the Business Council taught Shaffer that a good journalist's skills will always be in demand.

"He walked into my office one day and said 'You will never be unemployed,'" recalled Judy Watson, at the time UPI's Capitol bureau chief and the AP's chief competitor.

Shaffer proved that point in his own life but also in his recruitment of numerous "recovering journalists" to the Business Council - as communications professionals and policy researchers. They included Watson, a former dean and now professor at the City University of New York's Graduate School of Journalism; former Albany Times Union and New York Law Journal reporter E.J. McMahon, Jr.; former Knickerbocker News journalist Robert B. Ward (now a deputy New York state comptroller), and the author of this report (a former UPI and AP reporter who later became a senior press and policy aide to Gov. George Pataki).

Attendees at Saturday's memorial represented a cross section of Shaffer's life and career. They included former AP colleagues Christine and Jim McKnight, Peter

Slocum, Joel Stashenko and Marc Humbert, who succeeded Shaffer and Fiess as the AP's Capitol correspondent.

Also attending were Katharine Q. ("Kit") Seelye of The New York Times; David Hepp, who founded the PBS public affairs program "Inside Albany"; author and former UPI reporter Jessica Treadway; and Josh Friedman, a Shaffer competitor in the mid-1970s, who went on to win a Pulitzer Prize at Newsday in 1985 for his reporting on the famine in Africa.

Friedman lamented Shaffer's departure from journalism: "He could have gone anywhere. But he was a do-gooder," a reference to Shaffer's life-long professional and personal commitment to public policy as well as his church and community.

For more information on Shaffer, see <http://davidfshaffer.com>

## An election night to remember - 61 years ago



**Norman Abelson (Email)** - The 2020 presidential hopefuls already are beginning to make trips - which they tend to disavow as political jaunts - to early primary states like Iowa and New Hampshire. All of which takes me back some six decades to my early days as an Associated Press newsman.

It was March of 1956, and the biggest political event of the year was about to pop: The quadrennial first-in-the-nation New Hampshire Presidential Primary election. And, as the 25-year-old junior staffer at the Concord, N.H., AP office, I was about to take part in one of the biggest stories of my young career.

In those days, well before the proliferation of presidential primaries, the Granite State's was the nation's premier early event in Presidential politics. It became all the moreso when the state inaugurated a new twist dubbed the "Beauty Contest." Previously, delegates on the ballot were voted for and elected according to their stated preferences for the presidency, an often slow and confusing process. Added to the ballot in 1952, was a space to vote directly for a candidate, some said as a way to assure the selection of popular war hero, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. (I had learned earlier that a group of moderate New Hampshire Republicans, anxious to stop the candidacy of conservative Robert Taft, had secretly traveled to Europe to try to convince the General, then the head of NATO, to return home and run.)

As might be expected, the press found the "Beauty Contest" irresistible. Soon, the delegate counts took a back seat to the popular vote. The '56 primary had other drawing cards: Having suffered a heart attack and undergone surgery for a bowel obstruction within the previous year, there was rising doubt whether Eisenhower would seek a second term. However, just one month before the primary, he announced he would run again. Adding to the brew were the building rumors that Ike might dump his controversial vice president, Richard M. Nixon.

With a story like that in the making, who would The AP assign to write the color and think pieces? Relman "Pat" Morin, their Pulitzer Prize winner, of course. Our AP team gathered that night with the other members of the press in the newsroom of the Manchester Union Leader, where the vote counts would come in.

Most of the running story that evening was pounded out by Concord correspondent Joe Kamin, the best and fastest political writer in my experience. I did whatever chores were handed out to the junior guy. Morin was quiet. He'd sit at a desk in the corner, then wander over to look over Kamin's shoulder, as the totals piled up and the outcomes took shape.

Well, the New Hampshire voters gave President Eisenhower some 95 per cent of the vote and, more surprisingly, awarded Nixon a huge, unexpected write-in vote for vice president, assuring his place on the GOP ticket, and his political future. It was rumored at the time that the Nixon forces had carried on an underground campaign

to secure those write-ins, but I don't believe it was ever proven. That didn't stop us from writing about the "possibility."

In any event, when it became apparent that the story, besides Ike's expected smashing victory, was the Nixon write-in, Morin went back to his desk. In a scene right out of "Front Page," he started his story at least a dozen times - yanking out sheets of copy paper, crumbling them up and dumping them in the basket.

When, finally, Morin finished his piece, he handed it over to be sent on the wires. I can't swear to it, but I believe his somewhat prescient lead went something like his:

"New Hampshire has written a conundrum around Richard M. Nixon."

## University of Missouri honors journalist denied admission over race

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - The University of Missouri is naming a new residence hall after a late journalist who was repeatedly denied admission to the school starting in the 1930s because she was black.

The Board of Curators unanimously voted Thursday to honor Lucile Bluford by bestowing her name on the 279-student dorm at the Columbia campus. The board also voted to name the hall's atrium after Gus Ridgel, the university's first black graduate.

Bluford was denied admission to the university's journalism school 11 times. Five decades after her first application, the university granted her an honorary doctorate degree in humanities in 1989.

Bluford spent decades working at the Kansas City Call newspaper before her death in 2003.



Ridgel received a master's degree in economics from the school in 1951. The 91-year-old taught, researched and worked as an administrator at the university level. He says the board's decision is "humbling."

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

## ***Her story was one I will always remember...***

**Kia Breaux** ([Email](#)) - Like Lucile Bluford, I grew up in Kansas City, Mo., wrote for my high school newspaper and dreamed of one day becoming a professional journalist.

Although our paths were different, Bluford and I both applied for admission to the Missouri School of Journalism - the world's first and widely regarded as the world's best journalism school. We were both accepted, but when Bluford showed up to enroll as a graduate student in 1939 she was turned away because she was black.

I don't remember when I first heard Bluford's story. However, it is one I will always remember.

Bluford received her journalism education at the University of Kansas and eventually returned to work professionally in Kansas City as a reporter, editor and publisher of The Call - one of the largest and most respected black newspapers in the country.

I earned my undergraduate degree in journalism from Missouri in 1996 and now work as the Kansas City-based Midwest regional director for The Associated Press. I also volunteer for the Mizzou Alumni Association, the journalism school and the university's honors college.

As a member of the alumni association's governing board, there was no greater sense of being than to vote last fall in favor of a recommendation to name a dormitory in Bluford's honor. Because of her I could.

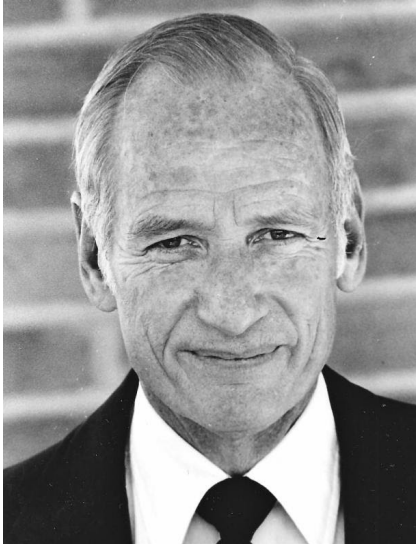
Bluford previously was awarded an honorary doctorate degree and the Honor Medal for Distinguished Service from the School of Journalism.

The most recent honor is a permanent marker symbolic of how far the university has come and a beacon of hope for the future.



# Don Carson, former director of University of Arizona school, dies at 85

Donald W. Carson, a revered professor in the University of Arizona journalism program and one of the early leaders in helping diversify the nation's newsrooms, died in Tucson on Feb. 1. He was 85.



Carson, a 1954 UA journalism graduate, reported for the Arizona Daily Star and The Associated Press in Phoenix and Washington, D.C., before returning in 1966 to join the faculty. He was director of the school from 1978-1985 and retired in January 1997. (He worked for AP from 1961-1966 in Phoenix and WDC.)

Carson, a 1954 UA journalism graduate, reported for the Arizona Daily Star and The Associated Press in Phoenix and Washington, D.C., before returning in 1966 to join the faculty. He was director of the school from 1978-1985 and retired in January 1997.

Read more [here](#).

## ***Don's death a tough loss for UA journalism alums...***

**Paul Davenport** ([Email](#)) - Don's death is a tough loss for many University of Arizona journalism alum. He was tough with grading but quick with a smile. As department head, he helped mobilize grads and others to thwart a misguided proposal in the 1990s by the university's then-president to eliminate the department. Don was my adviser after I transferred to the university after two years at a community college, and I'm grateful for the advice and encouragement he provided me about how to get through school and into a newsroom. His Reporting Public Affairs class provided a solid foundation for me as a newspaper reporter covering city government and later as statehouse reporter in AP's Phoenix Bureau. Ditto for my wife, Patricia Sallen, a fellow UA journalism grad and a former reporter for the Arizona Republic. One of Don's daughters, Susan Cormier, worked at the AP's Phoenix Bureau in the early 1980s. Paul Davenport (UA Class of 1979)

# How and why we should all be like the late journalistic giant Robert Parry

By Jon Schwarz

The Intercept

ROBERT PARRY, THE editor of Consortium News, died unexpectedly on January 27 at age 68.

His work inspired generations of journalists, but it's possible you've rarely encountered his writing, or have simply never heard of him. So here are three amazing things about him:

First, Parry was one of the greatest American investigative reporters of the past 50 years, at the level of Seymour Hersh. While he was best known for breaking the Nicaraguan side of the Iran-Contra scandal during the Reagan administration, that was but one gumball in the giant gumball machine of political malfeasance Parry uncovered during his career. (He won the prestigious George Polk award and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his work on Iran-Contra.) If you don't read his books and website, you'll always have a distorted view of recent U.S. history.

Second, precisely because he was so good, he was forced to the margins of the U.S. media, so far out that he had to start Consortium News in 1995 and depend on reader donations. His fate is especially educational because he was so non-ideological. Unlike, say, I.F. Stone, he wasn't a socialist or radical. He just had basic, boy scout-like principles, such as "reality is important" and "the government shouldn't lie all the time about everything." Yet this was enough to make it impossible for him to work for his former employers such as the Associated Press and Newsweek, which he said tried to suppress his most explosive investigations holding the powerful to account.

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



# AP uncovers NJ utility lobbying for a bailout, and blackout of financial records



**A cooling tower at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station, operated by Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. (PSEG), rises above a small farm in Lower Alloways Creek Township, N.J., Nov. 13, 2007. AP PHOTO / MEL EVANS**

In the weeks before New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie left office, a measure began quickly advancing through the Legislature that would give the state's largest utility company a \$300 million bailout for its nuclear power plants.

That got the curiosity of statehouse reporter Michael Catalini, who started digging.

A records request turned up more than a dozen emails between PSEG lobbyists and the Christie administration, showing that the company had lobbied for the bailout and wrote in a clause itself to prevent the public release of financial information proving it needed the money.

How the (nuclear) sausage gets made: Utility worked with Christie administration on \$300M bailout, keeping financial details from the public. <https://t.co/4Yk0Qo5aLa>

- AP Eastern US (@APEastRegion) January 24, 2018

One of the emails from a lobbyist uncovered by Catalini called for adding "more stringent" financial confidentiality language to shield the company's books from the public. The suggested language from the lobbyist was included in the bill introduced in the Legislature and became the basis of the harshest criticisms against the bill from its opponents who argued that the administration and lobbyists worked together to keep data from the public.

The bill failed to get to Christie's desk during December's lame-duck session, but re-emerged after Democrat Phil Murphy took office.

Lawmakers rewrote the bill the day after Catalini's story appeared, requiring the utility to open its financial records.

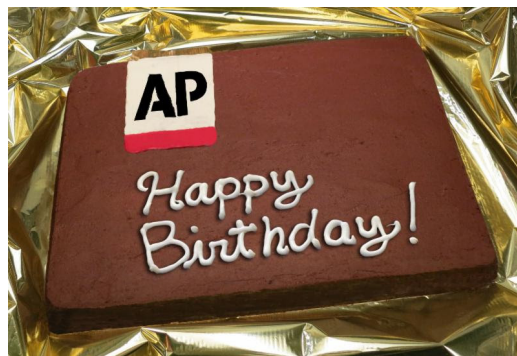
Catalini's story was published a day before a committee hearing on the bill and lawmakers rewrote the measure after the story to clarify that PSEG would be required to submit "any financial information" to the state utility regulator.

The story was played on the front page of the state's largest newspaper, the Newark Star-Ledger, and was cited by fellow New Jersey journalists in their own aggregated versions of the story.

The piece was used by more than 100 customers, according to NewsWhip, showing that the accountability angle had an audience outside of just New Jersey.

For holding the utility and state lawmakers responsible, Catalini will receive this week's \$300 Best of the States prize.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Mike Doan - [mdoan96@yahoo.com](mailto:mdoan96@yahoo.com)

Richard Boudreaux - [richardboudreaux@gmail.com](mailto:richardboudreaux@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***The Woman Behind the Lens: Meet White House Photographer Shealah Craighead*** (Marie Claire)



Photo by Dina Powell

By **RACHEL EPSTEIN**

"I'm not here for policy change. I'm here to document history." Chief Official White House Photographer Shealah Craighead is indeed documenting one of the most untraditional, controversial administrations in presidential history. And while you might expect politics to color everything that goes on in the White House, it was never about politics for Craighead. It still isn't.

With three administrations and two campaign trails under her belt, Craighead, 41, isn't new to the political photography world. You can't be when you receive a phone

call from former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer four days before the 2017 presidential inauguration asking if you'll capture the historical event. "It took me about three seconds to say, 'Absolutely, where and when?'" says Craighead. "I spent the next day wrapping up the job I'd just finished, and the day after that trying to truly grasp what it meant to photograph the inauguration."

Spicer was familiar with Craighead's work-they were both staffers in the Bush 43 administration. (She photographed former first lady Laura Bush after briefly working under former Vice President Dick Cheney. Later she captured the 2008 campaign trail with former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and in 2016 with Florida Senator Marco Rubio.) She met with President Trump for a "break-in period" shortly after the inauguration. Then, it was only a matter of days before Craighead found herself in the White House leading a team of 13 photographers, editors, and archivists-just the second female chief photographer in White House history.

Read more [here](#). Noted in the story from Craighead: "After college I freelanced with the Boston Globe, AP, and Getty Images. That's where I earned my chops. And then, through friends and colleagues, asking around if anyone knew of job openings in D.C. area, I ended up in D.C."

-0-

## ***How Hope Hicks Became the Ultimate Trump Insider*** (Town and Country)



Photo/M. Scott Brauer

**By ELEANOR CLIFT**

There's not much room for frivolity in the White House briefing room these days, but press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders loves a birthday. On a Friday in October, she urged reporters to send Hope Hicks, "our incredible communications director," a note to wish her a happy 29th birthday. Hicks celebrated the next day with a family dinner at the small Elm Street Oyster House in Greenwich, Connecticut, with her 85-year-old paternal grandmother, who is an artist, her parents, and her sister, Mary Grace and her husband, Wyot Woods. She was handling birthday texts intermittently through the day and flowers were delivered to her parents' house from at least one major news organization.

The unfailingly polite and deferential Hicks, a former child model, has improbably become White House Director of Communications, a role she never sought or prepared for. How she prevails in the chaotic world of Trump, where so many others have gone by the wayside, stems from an absence of entitlement, notable given her privileged background and the circles she moves in professionally and personally, and the level-headedness that seems to be in her DNA.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

**A super Super Bowl** (for at least fans of one team)







## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2018. There are 329 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 5, 1918, during World War I, the Cunard liner SS Tuscania, which was transporting about 2,000 American troops to Europe, was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the Irish Sea with the loss of more than 200 people.

### On this date:

In 1631, the founder of Rhode Island, Roger Williams, and his wife, Mary, arrived in Boston from England.

In 1783, Sweden recognized the independence of the United States.

In 1887, Verdi's opera "Otello" premiered at La Scala.

In 1917, Mexico's present constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Convention in Santiago de Queretaro. The U.S. Congress passed, over President Woodrow Wilson's veto, an act severely curtailing Asian immigration.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of U.S. Supreme Court justices; the proposal, which failed in Congress, drew accusations

that Roosevelt was attempting to "pack" the nation's highest court.

In 1943, "The Outlaw," Howard Hughes' controversial Western featuring the screen debut of Jane Russell, premiered in San Francisco.

In 1958, Gamal Abdel Nasser was formally nominated to become the first president of the new United Arab Republic (a union of Egypt and Syria which lasted until 1961).

In 1967, "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell stepped onto the surface of the moon in the first of two lunar excursions.

In 1988, the Arizona House impeached Republican Gov. Evan Mecham (MEE'-kuhm), setting the stage for his trial in the state Senate, where he was convicted of obstructing justice and misusing state funds allegedly funneled to his Pontiac dealership.

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that all but a small rear-guard contingent of its troops had left Afghanistan.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Family and Medical Leave Act, granting workers up to 12 weeks unpaid leave for family emergencies.

Ten years ago: More than 80 tornadoes began touching down in the midwestern and southern U.S.; the deadliest of the twisters claimed 57 lives. Sen. John McCain seized command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination, winning delegate-rich primaries from the East Coast to California on Super Tuesday; Sen. Barack Obama, trailing much of the night, nearly pulled even with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in the contest for Democratic delegates. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a guru to the Beatles who introduced the West to transcendental meditation, died at his home in the Dutch town of Vlodrop; he was believed to be about 90.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama asked Congress for a short-term deficit reduction package of spending cuts and tax revenue that would delay the effective date of steeper automatic cuts scheduled to kick in on March 1. (The president and congressional leaders failed to reach an agreement, and the \$85 billion in federal spending cuts, known as sequester, went into effect.)

One year ago: Tom Brady led one of the greatest comebacks in sports history highlighted by an unbelievable Julian Edelman catch that helped lift New England from a 25-point hole against the Atlanta Falcons to the Patriots' fifth Super Bowl victory, 34-28, the first ever in overtime.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron is 84. Actor Stuart Damon is 81. Tony-winning playwright John Guare (gwayr) is 80. Financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn is 79. Actor David Selby is 77. Singer-songwriter Barrett Strong is 77. Football Hall of Famer Roger Staubach is 76. Movie director Michael Mann is 75. Rock singer Al Kooper is 74. Actress Charlotte Rampling is 72. Racing Hall of Famer Darrell Waltrip is 71. Actress Barbara Hershey is 70. Actor Christopher Guest is 70. Actor Tom Wilkinson is 70. Actor-comedian Tim Meadows is 57. Actress Jennifer Jason Leigh is 56. Actress Laura Linney is 54. Rock musician Duff McKagan (Velvet Revolver) is 54. World Golf Hall of Famer Jose Maria Olazabal is 52. Actor-comedian Chris Parnell is 51. Rock singer Chris Barron (Spin Doctors) is 50. Singer Bobby Brown is 49. Actor Michael Sheen is 49. Actor David Chisum is 48. Country singer Sara Evans is 47. Country singer Tyler Farr is 34. Neo-soul musician Mark Shusterman (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 33. Actor-singer Darren Criss is 31. Actor Alex Brightman is 31. Rock musician Kyle Simmons (Bastille) is 30. Actor Jeremy Sumpter is 29. Drummer Graham Sierota (Echosmith) is 19.

***Thought for Today: "The greater the philosopher, the harder it is for him to answer the questions of common people." - Henryk Sienkiewicz, Polish author (1846-1916).***

## Got a story or photos to share?

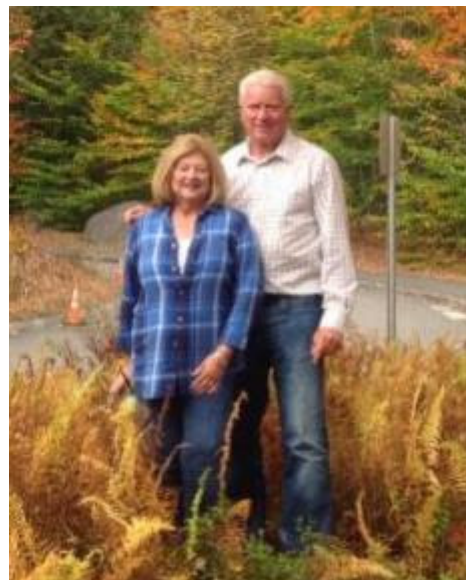
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

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

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