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## Connecting - February 07, 2018

1 message

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Wed, Feb 7, 2018 at 8:03 AM

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# Connecting

February 07, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

In yesterday's Connecting **Paul Stevens** put out the call for stories and photos of your pets, those still with you and those who've gone ahead. Several of you heeded the whistle and came running right away with your own tails, er tales.

First in was **David Breslauer** with a wonderful photo of his rescued Samoyed, who loved to ride in the back seat of his convertible. Babs passed away years ago but no doubt is enjoying bug-free rides in the great beyond.

But today's issue leads with a beautiful story from **Angie Lamoli Silvestry**, who after months of worrying and missing physical contact with loved ones back in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico found a way to reconnect in a loving, humane way.

Paul is taking a break from the Connecting Editor's desk through the end of the week. I will endeavor to keep you informed of developments in the industry, The Associated Press and the tremendously talented people who served it. And your **pets**.

Send contributions to [markmitt71@yahoo.com](mailto:markmitt71@yahoo.com).

Enjoy the day!

- *Mark Mittelstadt*

## Lending a hand and a heart to the four-legged victims of Hurricane Maria

**Angie Lamoli Silvestry** ([Email](#)) \_ I was left yearning for physical contact with my own after Hurricane Maria. Living in the United States since 1978, in New Orleans since 1983, I had never felt more homesick and missing my loved ones more. The first months after the storm were emotionally and physically depleting. While awake, I spent every second locating loved ones and doing everything humanly possible to get supplies directly to my hometown of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, bypassing the logistics and distribution crisis which ensued at the hands at the federal and state governments.

Night after night, I found myself sitting at the kitchen counter blankly staring at the fountain in the backyard, while listening to the news on television and radio, multitasking by monitoring Zello for information out of my hometown. At some point I heard on a local television station that Zeus' Place, a New Orleans pet boarding, grooming and adoption organization, had brought 80 dogs from Puerto Rico for adoption.

My husband, New Orleans AP newsman **Kevin McGill**, and I had been considering adopting since our last in a sequence of dogs had passed from old age and our girls had gone to college and moved on with their lives. With an empty home, we pondered on the idea for years, only to come to the conclusion we liked the freedom and the savings living dog-free provided. I was laid off from AP in 2014 after 31 years of service, had reluctantly become a full-time housewife and became engaged in projects which kept me mostly at home but very busy. Hurricane Maria then brought me a personal project which at the onset allowed only for four or five hours of sleep and little time for much more. I am so grateful for our neighbors and friends who those few weeks before the storm brought us meals and emotional support. Still, I needed a dog in my life again, but the thought was fleeting.

Me being me, I talked Kevin into making a pit stop at Zeus' Place during one of our "therapy walks." As they walked us into the areas where the dogs were kept and the attendant left us there alone, I could not hold back my tears. When they came, the floodgates opened, releasing months of "I am alright." I wept for the puppies, imagining what they have been through. Some had issues with their eyes, in part attributed to corneal damage caused by facing high winds, they told us. But I also wept for my parents, my family, my friends and all those who still face the results of a historical natural disaster and the very much man-made

crisis which the federal and state governments created in lieu of an effective and efficient response, a reality they face still today and foresee for decades to come.

Sitting side by side in cages were a black and white pit bull/boxer mix and a black Labrador mix, both puppies. Initially I had set my eyes on the lab, although being able to take home just one was a gut-wrenching decision. They all needed a home, from that sweet lab on to the one which had lost half its upper lip, displaying his teeth like something out of a terror movie, but when seen in profile looked perfectly normally and so loving, wagging his tail and sweetly resting against the cage's door begging to be given a chance to a good home. And I wept and wept and wept, while Kevin, lost in all this emotion, kept offering me his shoulder and desperately looked for tissues in his pockets, finally settling for paper towels over a sink.



*'Lolo' a week after adoption.*

It must have taken us an hour to decide. We sent pictures of the puppies to our girls in New York, Baton Rouge and their dad Terry in New Orleans. We all agreed on the six-pound pit/boxer mix. Our youngest daughter **Angelina** brought up a good point when she said that the lab mix would be adopted right away, while many would be afraid to adopt a pit/boxer mix as the pit breed has been unfairly maligned. Angelina has a service dog, Millie Blue, who is a pit mix and could not be a better dog.

Our new puppy, adopted on Nov. 20, had been named Jax. He had been rescued with his mother and two siblings, Pipa and Betty. Mom and Pipa, we were told, were left in Miami. Pipa was extremely dehydrated at the time. Betty was locally adopted and given the name Bailey Grace.

I named our puppy Mario Dolores, "Mario" after Hurricane Maria, "Dolores" meaning pains. We nicknamed him Lolo. Kevin figured he was born on or around Oct. 1, right after the storm. Using this as a guideline, he is now four months old. Two weeks ago at the vet for his third round of vaccines, he weighed 26 pounds. The vet estimates he will grow to be around 60 pounds.



*Lolo (center) with sisters Pipa (left) and Bailey Grace (right) after arrival in US.*

Lolo has become a Facebook celebrity. To my Puerto Rican family, friends and others -- my Facebook page grew exponentially immediately after the storm -- he is the face of resilience and hope. If I miss posting pictures daily, I get mail asking for them.

Lolo reminds us that there is so much to be done in Puerto Rico. The island is still in the midst of a crisis. The only certainty is the uncertainty of recovery. I can only hope that the kindness so many on the mainland showed early on after the storm is contagious



Lolo with Christmas sweater

and ongoing. So much is needed today and much more will be needed for many years to come. Please consider Puerto Rico when giving of your time and resources. Please open your hearts to the pets being brought to the United States for adoption. There is so much love to give.

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AP Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Sally Buzbee at the Japan National Press Club (AP Photo/Mari Yamaguchi)

## AP's top editor: Journalism today must be 'unimpeachable'

By Lauren Easton  
AP Director of Media Relations

"The time for shock and awe is over," Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Sally Buzbee told the Japan National Press Club.

In her address Tuesday afternoon in Tokyo, Buzbee discussed the challenges of covering President Donald Trump's first year in office, how to apply those lessons going forward, and the danger of the "deliberate attempt to hurt the credibility of the news media."

Here are excerpts from her prepared remarks:

*Attacking the media as enemies is always dangerous territory. A hostile approach by government to the press is not something to be desired in any functioning democracy, nor are attempts to control the media. We don't want to be at war with the White House, we want to report it.*

*We see President Trump's criticism of the media as strategic. It is part of his agenda. Access under Trump, while a cause for concern, is not the biggest problem. The fundamental problem, and the single biggest challenge today, is that we can do the best journalism, but if there is not trust in the media, people*

*don't necessarily believe it.*

*Trump did not create distrust in the media. He picked up on something that was already there, particularly amongst his core base, for whom the mainstream media were already perceived as elitist and liberal-leaning. The president's strategy is to fan those flames of mistrust, to better insert his narrative, regardless of factual accuracy, into the national and global conversation.*

Buzbee outlined three ways news organizations must make their journalism meaningful and impactful:

*First, we strengthen our commitment to geographic diversity. There is such a high concentration of journalists within Washington - good journalists - but with this comes the danger that the viewpoints of people across the rest of the country, and across the globe, are not getting as much coverage. We must guard against this.*

*In the U.S. this means that we go and talk to people outside the coastal cities to understand their thinking and what matters to them. In other parts of the globe it means we gauge sentiment across the country and make sure we are listening to all voices - not just those in the centers of power. That's why we took our cameras to the streets last year, in Japan and around Asia, to get people's views of Trump, both after his election and before his visit to the region.*

*Secondly, we focus on policy. It's so important that we are not just covering what Trump says about policy day to day. It is essential to really dive in and accessibly and compellingly say what this means, what the impact is. We must deliver journalism that is fact-based, important and relevant to people's lives.*

*Thirdly, we throw our weight into covering the story that could have repercussions for decades or centuries to come: America's changing role in the world, and the effect of Trump's policies on America's global standing and reputation. The gaze of the U.S. media has been so firmly fixed on making sense of what's happening in Washington that news organizations - and the public - are paying less attention to what is going on in the world outside.*

She addressed how best to combat mistrust of the media:

*It would be naive to think that there is a quick fix for this. Sloppy, corner-cutting journalism feeds this problem and sets good factual journalism back immeasurably. We as journalists must work to regain that trust every minute of the day, every day of the year.*

*How do we do that?*

*We double down on facts.*

*We call out untruths.*

*We are transparent about our sources.*

*We make our journalism so grounded in factual information that it is unimpeachable.*

*And we put the facts where the fake news is, online, on social media, in a way that is meaningful and accessible to all audiences.*

*I have no doubt that people do still care about facts. People genuinely want to know the truth in this so-called "post-truth" world.*

*This is a critical moment for journalism. It is tough, it is challenging, but it is also inspiring. It is a time of validation for the journalistic values that we all hold dear. And we will double down on those values, as they are now more important than ever.*

Watch a replay of Buzbee's address [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Remembering Don Carson***

**Ray Newton** ([Email](#)) \_ Sorry to hear about the death of Don Carson. I knew him well. He was chair of journalism at the University of Arizona when I was chair at Northern Arizona University; we often served on various regional and state press and media committees and other activities together. He was a true pro-dedicated, intense and always an advocate for the First Amendment.

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### ***Recalling better days for the Charleston Gazette-Mail***

**Wayne Slater** ([Email](#)) \_ It was with some sadness that I saw the owners of the Charleston Gazette-Mail were declaring bankruptcy and selling the paper. My first job with the AP was in the Charleston, W.Va. bureau, a windowless office of clattering teletypes next to the newsroom in the Gazette-Mail building on Virginia Street. I would arrive before dawn to produce the morning broadcast split, combining bits and pieces from the morning paper with stories ripped from the pages of those teletypes (the ones without paper jams).

In those days, the early 1970s, Ned Chilton was the publisher of the Charleston Gazette. Chilton was a swashbuckling character, a Yalie with a loud and fearless habit of speaking truth to power. The governor was Arch Moore, a Republican, who held press conferences in the morning so that any news would appear first in the Republican afternoon paper, the Daily Mail, rather than Chilton's morning paper, which backed Democrats. At those news conferences, Moore refused to acknowledge the reporter from the Gazette, ignoring his questions. One morning, Chilton called me into his office. Moore was under investigation, which had begun to turn up some details. Chilton wanted me to ask a question: Why did Moore have thousands of dollars in cash in a cabinet in his Capitol office? Who gave it to him? For what purpose? Moore's face flushed in anger, but he could not ignore the question because it was from the AP, which he correctly assumed had been suggested by a member newspaper.

Allegations of corruption dogged Moore much of his political life and years later he was charged and pleaded guilty to five felony charges, serving three years in prison. In 2000,

while covering George W. Bush's presidential race for The Dallas Morning News, I bumped into Moore in the crowd on the Capitol grounds. When I told Bush about it later on the campaign plane, Bush asked why the former governor hadn't joined him on stage. "Prison, you know," I said.

*(The author currently is Political Writer Emeritus The Dallas Morning News)*

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## ***A side of Eddie Adams many never saw***

**Jeff Williams** ([Email](#)) \_ I'm a little tired of seeing Eddie Adams' iconic photo with all the Tet remembrances, so I thought I would give those who knew him -- and those who didn't -- a different view.



Eddie and I were in the highlands in 1968 when we took a break in the shade of a hooch. A lovely old lady came over to admire Eddie's cameras, but then focused on his wristwatch. He took it off and good-naturedly began bargaining over the price with her. She declined his best offer.

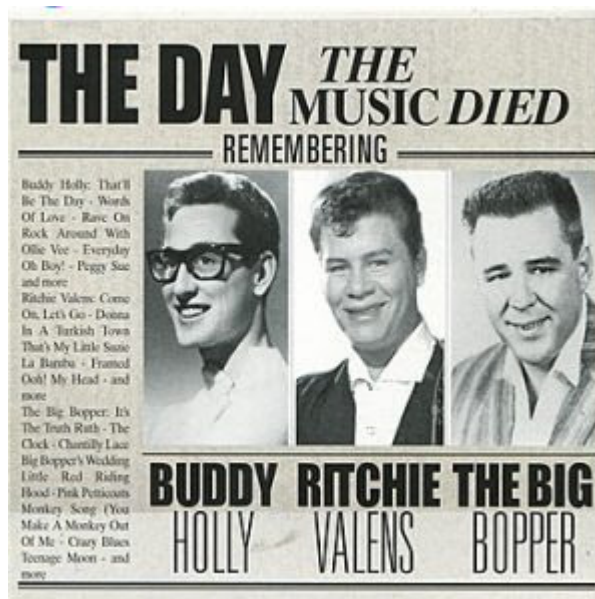
Eddie had a great and sly sense of humor.

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## ***Remembering Dad's first plane ride and the Day the Music Died***

**Wesley G. Pippert** \_ February 3, 1957. I was a correspondent for United Press International (then still the United Press) in Pierre, South Dakota, and there was a break of a few days in the biennial session of the South Dakota legislature. I'm from Mason City, Iowa, about 400 miles from Pierre, and my father still lived there on the family farm where he was born. He had never flown so I thought during the legislature's break I would take him on a plane ride.

We went up, taking off from the Mason City airport in a Beechcraft Bonanza with a 21-year-old pilot from Dwyer Flying Service. We flew over the family farm and over Clear Lake, famed for its Surf Ballroom, one of the few of its kind in the Midwest, and landed. The uneventful 20-minute flight was over and that was that.



That night about midnight, the same pilot in the same plane, which could carry three

passengers plus the pilot, took off in a snow storm carrying Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper, J.P. Richardson. They were headed for Fargo-Moorhead, N.D., where their next concert was scheduled. The plane crashed in a cornfield six miles northwest of the Mason City airport. They now call it The Day the Music Died.

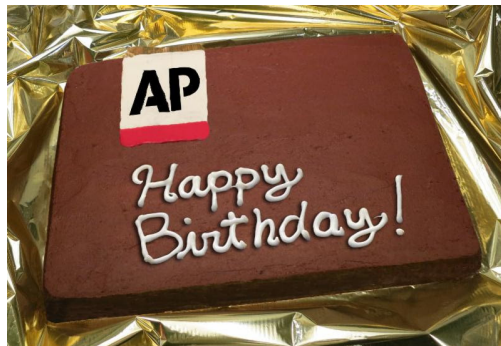
The Mason City Globe-Gazette headlined the story on Page One. Stories months later said the investigation showed that the young pilot, Roger Peterson, had not passed the instrument test at first and suffered from a bit of vertigo. That, plus the stormy conditions.

Jack Kujawaski, a bartender at the National Press Club bar in Washington, was fascinated by the story. So I brought in my scrapbook along with the \$6 receipt from Dwyer Flying Service and Jack liked to tell the story to any journalists at the bar who would listen.

*Wes Pippert covered state capitals, Congress, and the White House. He spent nearly 30 years with United Press International, serving first in the Bismarck and Pierre capital bureaus in the Dakotas and then in Chicago before coming to Washington, D.C. in 1966. He covered three presidential campaigns, the Carter White House, was UPI's principal on the Watergate story, and his final UPI assignment was as Middle East correspondent in Jerusalem. Then from 1989 to 2012, he directed the Missouri School of Journalism's Washington Program.*

Shared by Jack Limpert on his blog [About Editing And Writing](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

**Melanie Coffee Hesselberg**

## Stories of interest

### ***The death of the American newspaper (Washington Examiner)***

Too much ink is spilled telling us how the American newspaper business is dying. The major reason for this economic change being covered as no other is that the journalists spreading said ink are the people losing their jobs. In employment terms, the industry has halved in a mere couple of decades - this will get writers writing,



yes. Thus, we get the anguished pieces insisting that something must be done.

The reason for the industry's decline is obvious: the Internet. But near all are missing what the Internet has actually done. As a result of that, they're also missing what's going to happen - essentially, that the U.S. press is going to become much more political, in both party and sociopolitical terms. For what is happening is what did happen in the U.K. about a century ago, and the best bet is that the outcome will be the same as a result of the same economic incentives.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Douglas Pizac.

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### ***Los Angeles Times nearing sale to billionaire doctor (New York Times)***

The owner of The Los Angeles Times is close to a deal to sell the newspaper to Patrick Soon-Shiong, a billionaire Los Angeles doctor, two people familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday. The \$500 million deal comes amid months of turmoil at The Times, including upheaval in the editorial and management ranks. The transaction would include The Times and The San Diego Union-Tribune, these people said. Dr. Soon-Shiong is a major shareholder in Tronc, the parent company of The Times. A deal could be announced as soon as Wednesday but could still fall apart, the people said. Tronc is likely to use the sale proceeds to pay down its debt.



*Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong.*

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen

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### ***How the Christian Science Monitor re-thought its workflows with its readers in mind (The Lenfest Institute)***

Last year, The Christian Science Monitor totally changed its digital operations. It refocused its daily reporting into a subscription-supported daily news digest called The Monitor Daily. The Monitor bills the news digest as a unique look at the news, providing readers coverage of the world that they won't be able to get elsewhere.

To try and live up to that promise, the Monitor had to revamp its culture and its workflows to produce high-value coverage and emphasize the need to convert readers to subscribers. This week in Solution Set we're going to look at a few of the processes the Monitor changed to make this possible. Even though the Monitor is a global news organization, any news org that's going to ask its readers to directly support its journalism can learn from the Monitor's approach.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Ralph Gage

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## ***How "Fake News" changed the New York Times -- and didn't (Wilson Quarterly)***

In the morning hours of his first Saturday as president-elect, and just days after saying his public posture would change because "It's different now," Donald J. Trump logged into his Twitter account and posted a message denigrating The New York Times. "Wow," he wrote. "The @nytimes is losing thousands of subscribers because of their very poor and highly inaccurate coverage of the 'Trump phenomena.'" In fact, The Times was at the start of what would be the biggest increase in subscriptions in its history. If anything, the "failing" New York Times was failing at failing.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Breitbart deletes tweet suggesting Muslims will bring down the Super Bowl (Politico)***

Breitbart News on Monday deleted an incendiary tweet suggesting that Muslims would bring an end to the Super Bowl, saying it "did not meet our editorial standards." In a post linking to a report on the National Football League's declining television ratings for the annual championship game, the far-right website satirized a future in which the Super Bowl was no longer held, claiming that it was because of a rising influence of Islam in the U.S. The tweet featured an imagined conversation between a Muslim grandfather and his grandchild in which the child asks, "Grampa, what's a Super Bowl?" The grandfather then replies to "lil Muhammad" that "back when the kuffar ran things, they stitched up filthy pig skins, moved them around painted lines, and shoved each other."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Can the best magazine in Texas be saved? (The Daily Beast)***

Eleven major fixtures of Texas Monthly's editorial team have quit since a hedge fund bought the publication for \$25 million in October 2016, and a new dust-up over the publication's latest cover has reportedly led to dwindling morale inside the National Magazine of Texas. According to multiple interviews with former staffers, the environment inside the Austin-based publication is now largely characterized by fear and precariousness, with employees worried about job stability and unsure if they can trust their leadership.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Soll Sussman

# **The Final Word**

## ***Calling all AP pets***



**David Breslauer** \_ Babs, our rescued Samoyed, rides in the back seat of our MINI convertible with her "Doggles" to protect her eyes. Babs passed away several years ago, but this photo, continues to make me smile when I stumble across it.

## Today in History - February 7, 2018



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2018. There are 327 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 7, 1943, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. (Rationing was lifted in October 1945.)

### On this date:

In 1497, "The Bonfire of the Vanities" took place in Florence, Italy, as followers of Dominican friar Girolama Savonarola burned a huge pile of items considered to be sinful distractions, such as books, artwork, fine clothing and cosmetics.

In 1795, the 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, dealing with states' sovereign immunity, was ratified.

In 1817, America's first public gas street lamp was lighted in Baltimore at the corner of Market and Lemon streets (now East Baltimore and Holliday streets).

In 1857, a French court acquitted author Gustave Flaubert of obscenity for his serialized novel "Madame Bovary."

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized a flag for the office of the vice president.

In 1948, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as U.S. Army chief of staff; he was succeeded by Gen. Omar Bradley.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy imposed a full trade embargo on Cuba.

In 1971, women in Switzerland gained the right to vote through a national referendum, 12 years after a previous attempt failed.

In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk, which lasted nearly six hours.

In 1986, the Philippines held a presidential election marred by charges of fraud against the incumbent, Ferdinand E. Marcos. Haitian President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier (doo-VAHL-yay') fled his country, ending 28 years of his family's rule.

In 1998, the Winter Olympic Games were opened in Nagano, Japan, by Emperor Akihito.

In 1999, Jordan's King Hussein died of cancer at age 63; he was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdullah.

Ten years ago: John McCain effectively sealed the Republican presidential nomination as chief rival Mitt Romney suspended his campaign. Fourteen refinery workers were killed in a sugar dust explosion in Port Wentworth, Georgia. A gunman opened fire at a Kirkwood, Missouri, council meeting, killing three city officials and

two police officers before being fatally shot by law enforcement. In Los Angeles, a man who claimed responsibility for the deaths of three relatives opened fire on a SWAT unit, killing one officer; the gunman was killed by a police sniper. After two months of delay, shuttle Atlantis blasted into orbit with Europe's gift to the international space station, a \$2 billion science lab named Columbus.

Five years ago: CIA Director-designate John Brennan strongly defended anti-terror attacks by unmanned drones under close questioning at a protest-disrupted confirmation hearing held by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

One year ago: Charter school advocate Betsy DeVos won confirmation as education secretary by the slimmest of margins, pushed to approval only by the historic tie-breaking vote of Vice President Mike Pence. Actor Richard Hatch, perhaps best known for playing Captain Apollo in the original "Battlestar Galactica" film and TV series, died in Los Angeles at age 71.

Today's Birthdays: Author Gay Talese is 86. Former Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., is 83. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 59. Comedy writer Robert Smigel (SMY'guh!) is 58. Actor James Spader is 58. Country singer Garth Brooks is 56. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 56. Actor-comedian Eddie Izzard is 56. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 53. Actor Jason Gedrick is 51. Actress Essence Atkins is 46. Rock singer-musician Wes Borland is 43. Rock musician Tom Blankenship (My Morning Jacket) is 40. Actor Ashton Kutcher is 40. Actress Tina Majorino is 33. Actress Deborah Ann Woll is 33. NBA player Isaiah Thomas is 29.

***Thought for Today: "Do not read as children do to enjoy themselves, or, as the ambitious do to educate themselves. No, read to live." - Gustave Flaubert, French author (1821-1880).***

## Got a story or photos to share?

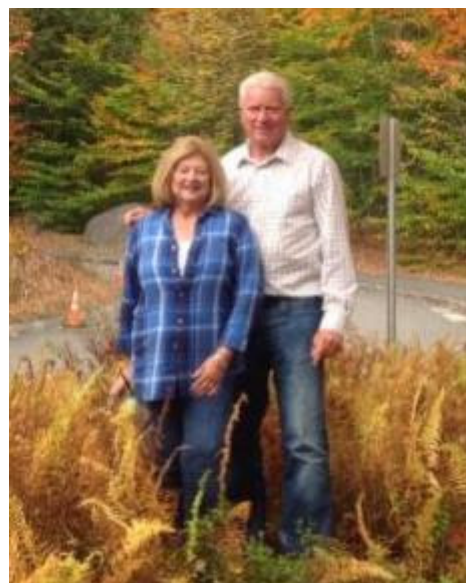
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.



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

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

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

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

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