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#### Connecting -- July 20, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

July 20, 2018









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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!

In a new report from the Knight Foundation and Gallup, The Associated Press was rated as the most trustworthy news source by 3,432 Americans taking part in a study using seven news sources across the political spectrum.

With more than a hint of pride in our company, we bring you a Politico story on the report as our lead item in today's Connecting.

Today's report includes the obituary for longtime AP vice president and treasurer Jim Tomlinson, who died Tuesday night at the age of 92. If you would like to drop a note to his wife Sally, who once worked for AP in New York, you can do so by email - JTomlin952@aol.com - or by postal address: 25 Thornton Way #238, Brunswick ME 04011.



Connecting brings you more detail on services for Richard Pyle, the last of the AP's Saigon bureau chiefs from the Vietnam War and a distinguished journalist for a half century who died last November.

His remains will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at 2 p.m. August 20. Anyone who wants to attend the service must be at the Administration Building near the entrance to the cemetery by 1 p.m. on that day. Thanks to Michael Putzel for sharing.

And our series on what jobs you held before your first journalism position continues today with an entry from Andrea Cavanaugh - one that will be hard to top. But I hope you try!

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## Readers may trust news stories more when they don't know their source

BY TAYLOR BLATCHFORD, Poynter

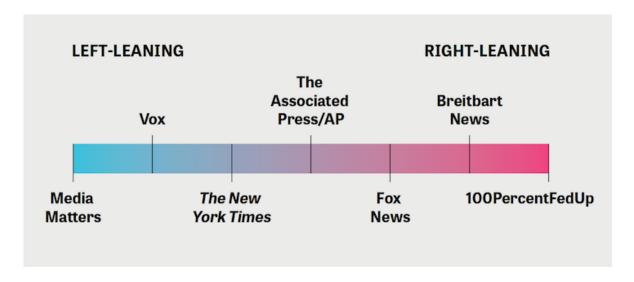
Readers' trust in news stories depends more on the source's alignment with their political preferences than the actual content of the story, according to a new report from the Knight Foundation and Gallup.

Source attribution can reduce readers' trust by reminding them of their personal preferences and biases, the study suggests.

The study assigned 3,432 Americans to one of four groups, where they viewed news articles on an aggregation website that included the article's news source, the accompanying image, both source and image, or neither. In the display below, articles are shown with the news source but no image.

Study participants rated the trustworthiness of articles about politics, economics and science.

The study used seven news sources across the political spectrum. From left-leaning to right-leaning, according to the researchers: Media Matters, Vox, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Fox News, Breitbart News and 100PercentFedUp.



#### (Knight Foundation/Gallup)

The groups that viewed articles with displayed news sources rated those articles as less trustworthy. The inclusion of images with articles didn't affect trust ratings. One alternative for aggregation sites could be a setting that allows users to hide the news source, the report suggests.

#### A few more findings:

The AP was the most trusted news source across all groups. Regardless of the inclusion of source or image in the display, readers rated AP stories as the most trustworthy, followed by The New York Times.

Breitbart News, 100PercentFedUp and Media Matters had the lowest trust ratings. Even when articles were shown without sources, readers were generally able to determine that their content was less trustworthy than more moderate sources.

Read more here. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

## Obituary chronicles the wonderful life of 41-year AP veteran Jim Tomlinson



Jim Tomlinson in 1987



...and in 1952

TOMLINSON--James F., longtime Associated Press executive, died in Brunswick, Maine on July 17th, aged 92. Jim was born in Long Beach, California in 1925. As a youth in Ventura, CA, he was bookish and curious, and during his summer job picking lemons and walnuts he dreamed about seeing the wider world. World War II gave him that chance. During the war, Jim served in the Army of Occupation in Germany. He wrote frequent letters home describing both the drudgery of army life and his eager visits to centers of European culture. In 1946, he was honorably discharged and attended college under the GI Bill of Rights, starting at the University of Southern California and graduating in 1950 from the University of Virginia, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In his 41-year career with the AP, Jim rose from correspondent to bureau chief, and eventually became vice president, secretary, and treasurer. He relished the opportunities of a reporter's life. His work led him to meet four U.S. presidents and also allowed him to travel to every

continent -- including a 1957 trip to Antarctica, where he developed a lifelong affinity for penguins. Jim was an active, adoring father whose enthusiastic care for his daughters broke the stereotype of the serious New York executive. Every evening when he returned from work, he changed into his "play clothes" and jumped right into whatever game was being played. He read Snow White hundreds of times, made chocolate chip cookies every weekend, and played wiffle ball and football in Central Park, followed by trips to get frozen yogurt. In retirement, Jim audited classes at Columbia and Barnard, completed NY Times crosswords in ink, and swam a mile every day at the New York Athletic Club, twice with Michael Phelps in the next lane. Jim won age-group trophies year after year in the NYAC's annual swimming marathon. A "regular" in his New York neighborhood, Jim was known for his quick smile, corny wit, prolific vocabulary, and genuine optimism. He delighted to greet friends with a quip or a line from a show tune. He lived each day with gratitude even as his memory and health declined. Jim is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sally Ryan Tomlinson; two daughters, Elizabeth Tomlinson of Yarmouth, ME, and Victoria Tomlinson of Arlington, VA; two sons-in-law, Peter Sillin of Yarmouth, and John Herrmann of Arlington; two granddaughters, Julia and Katherine Herrmann, both of Arlington, and two step-grandchildren, Jack and Annie Sillin of Yarmouth. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. At Jim's request, there will be no other service. Donations in his memory may be made to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Published in The New York Times on July 20, 2018

### Your memories of Jim Tomlinson

**Lou Boccardi** - former AP president and CEO - Jim was a quiet, meticulous and trustworthy man. He had a sly sense of humor that typically landed quietly and then exploded when the joke emerged. If you received something from Jim you knew that it was both accurate and well-considered. He had a famously clear desk that was the envy of many of us. (I never had the nerve to ask for a peek inside any of the desk drawers.) He served AP with distinction and class.

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John Kuglin (Email) - I certainly remember Jim Tomlinson. He was AP's treasurer when I went to New York in 1984 to interview for the COB's job in Helena after Hugh van Swearingen was promoted to be Oregon's COB.

In the brief time I talked to Jim, he recalled that when he worked in Helena the streets around the state Capitol were dirt. "Maybe they are still dirt, " he said.

Jim, and others in Treasury, cautioned me that if I became COB, not to waste the company's money.

After I was named Helena COB in early 1985, I received in the mail - with carbons to various AP executives in New York - a letter, at the end of every quarter, commenting on my fiscal performance. Jim's first letter said something like ``Chief of Bureau Kuglin, you ended the last quarter in the black. Everyone in New York is proud of your performance." The next letter, with the appropriate carbons, was even more warm: "Chief of Bureau Kuglin, all of us in New York, with a great deal of admiration to you personally, salute you for your magnificent budget performance in the last quarter. Keep up the good work."

After I had been COB for a year, I sent a letter to Vice President Walter Mears, wondering if it would be okay to spend up to \$175 for a Christmas party for the staff and a few members. Walter replied, "Since when does a chief of bureau have to ask for permission to spend money? As long as your budget is in the black."

Flash ahead quite a few years. New York told us they had a new tool to make it `easier" for bureau chiefs to manage their budgets. Every month we would receive a printout showing each budget line and whether we were in the black or red.

Uh, oh! I soon began receiving emails - we had come to that - from Ron Nesheim in Treasury, that we could not exceed individual budget lines in our budget. The COB's called this ``being Neshimed." In fact, Ron, was a very nice guy and just wanted an answer. To one email from Ron, asking why I had exceeded my photo stringer budget I replied: "Helena does not have an AP photographer and the members persist in sending photos so we have a state photo report." Never heard back from Ron, and I didn't expect to.

I still have fond memories of Jim Tomlinson, when life was simpler, we managed our budgets, and were not afflicted with great evils like budget line printouts.

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**Yvette Mercourt** (Email) - The memory I have of Jim is a very good one. I am saddened. To me he did not talked much but he listened. You could feel a true human being.

## **Connecting mailbox**

### My first job before journalism: pixie helper to a drunken, deranged Santa

Andrea Cavanaugh (Email) - I came to journalism relatively late in life. My first job was as a pixie helper to a drunken and deranged Santa at a third-rate Christmas-themed amusement park. After that I was a hotel maid, preschool teacher, koi farmer, furniture builder, party planner, bookkeeper, factory manager, little-league picture-day drill sergeant, and probably a couple dozen other things.

Since leaving journalism in 2005, I've worked for a human rights organization, written web content, done trial prep for attorneys, and worked as a private investigator. For the last five years I've worked in government as a consumer protection investigator.

I wanted to plug one of my volunteer commitments for the past few years as a courtappointed special advocate, or CASA, for kids in foster care. It's an opportunity that's available in every state, it's a perfect match for journalists, and makes a tremendous difference in the lives of vulnerable kids.

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## Remembering fondly Sue Manning's early days in Spokane

**John Willis** (Email) - Smoking and gambling seem to have been common vices amongst newsmen and newswomen back in the late 1980s when Sue Manning joined The AP in Spokane, where I was correspondent. To say nothing of drinking.

We hit it off very quickly. We shared the bureau ashtray (we were allowed to smoke indoors in those days), and I soon learned that I could depend on her to hold down the fort when I had to scramble to cover stories like a prison riot in Walla Walla or the crash of a US Forest Service DC-3 in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. She was rock solid, and so was Joy Toppin, our third.

She was fond of Vegas even then and my post prior to Spokane was the VG correspondent. One day Sue asked me if my wife and I played bridge. I had not played in years and my wife had never played. We decided that we would spend a Saturday evening playing bridge.

Sue brought her friend Ralph to our home for dinner that winter night, and then we tried to teach my wife how to play bridge. I had to do a quick refresher, as well.

The teams were set. Sue and Ralph vs Connie and me.

Connie was having issues any beginner would have, especially in bidding.

When the evening came to an end I looked down at the score sheet, and Connie and I had not been able to make one successful contract. I thought something was awry early on, but figured things would work themselves out. They did not. Sue and Ralph set us every time we won the bid and they were always successful when they got the bid.

In the end we all had a good laugh when my wife admitted that she misunderstood her position at the table and she was bidding based on Ralph's bids, not mine.

That's how you lose at bridge. A good time was had by all, though.

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### He once had pleasure of visiting Hemingway's Cuban retreat

**Greg Nokes** (Email) - Thank you for including Paula McLain's well-written piece on Martha Gellhorn in Thursday's Connecting.

I, too, once had the pleasure of visiting Finca Vigi'a, Hemingway's Cuban retreat while with The AP in 1980 or so. But I didn't know, or don't now recall if I knew, of Gellhorn's involvement. I'm ordering McLain's book, "Love and Ruin," so I can read more of their fascinating relationship.

Coincidentally, Hemingway's suicide at Ketchum, Idaho in 1961 was the first significant story I worked on after joining The AP in Salt Lake City that same year. Note I said "worked on" rather than covered, as my involvement was taking dictation from our on-site Idaho correspondent, Bill Bebout. However small my role, it was a

memorable story to work on as I was a huge Hemingway fan. It was also doubly shocking because of the way he took his life, with a shotgun.

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### 'There are three H's in Khrushchev'

**Joe Galu** (Email) - The Khrushchev headline (in Thursday's Connecting) reminded me of a non-frantic night at the AP when someone included his name in a story but misspelled it. I handed it back and said that's not how to spell Khrushchev. Whoever it was (I do not recall) wanted me to spoon feed them the correct spelling. I said, "There are three H's in Khrushchev." He worked on it, got the 'shch' and said, "There isn't room for three H's." "Yes, there is. If you had to put in one more, where would you put it?" He was doubtful but eventually asked, "After the K?" Bingo. Fun times.

Like the night a newbie in Buffalo made three spelling errors in pari-mutual, which may or may not be correct -- it's been so long since I've used it. I called and congratulated him for making three mistakes in one word. We laughed and he asked questions until he got it right. He never made that mistake again.

It took years to convince Mel Reisner that we had to edit out the racism from some of the stories they were picking up from the Buffalo papers. It was not until a black woman in his Mormon congregation died that he realized I was right. The headline said, 'East Side Woman Dies', and 'east side' meant black. She was not from the East Side, but the story had no hint about her race so they labeled her in the headline. It wasn't vile, but it was certainly racist. The old Daily News used Rhody McCoy's picture every day during a weeks-long school dispute to remind people that McCoy was black, and they did not want to be horribly blatant in their text.

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### Newsprint tariffs are greatest threat to newspapers, ever

Al Cross (Email) - That was a pretty short AP piece on newsprint tariffs. I think they are the greatest existential threat to newspapers, ever.

### Today in History often rings a bell

Harry Cabluck (Email) - Just wondering:

Do very many "Connecting" readers scroll down to the daily Today In History section and say to themselves, "I was there, or I covered that story?"

Some of that stuff often rings a bell here.

## **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



On Saturday to ...

Kevin Dale - kdale@me.com

Margaret Gentry - margaretgentry@hotmail.com

John Eagan - johngator64@gmail.com

On Sunday to ...

Lindel Hutson - Ih0722@gmail.com

Jim Anderson - janderson@ap.org

## Stories of interest

## The universe of people trying to deceive journalists keeps expanding, and newsrooms aren't ready (Nieman)

#### By HEATHER BRYANT

Robyn Tomlin has led newsrooms in New York, Texas and North Carolina over the past two decades, and amid a torrent of change she's noticed a constant. The universe of people trying to deceive journalists keeps expanding.

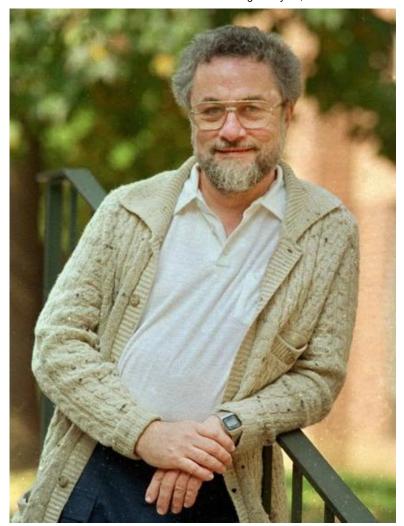
"When the intent goes up, people will find different technologies to try to help support the mission that they have, which in this case is to mislead us," says Tomlin, McClatchy's regional editor for the Carolinas. Previously, she was managing editor of The Dallas Morning News and editor of Digital First Media's Project Thunderdome.

It's as if journalists like Tomlin, in newsrooms small and large, have been playing a video game without the ability to change its settings. Every year, they level up into a new class of challenges, with more antagonists, more complicated storylines and an adversarial machine that seems to know their next moves.

Read more here. Shared by Doug Pizac.

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### Airman who inspired 'Good Morning, Vietnam' film has died



This is a 1987 file photo of Adrian Cronauer. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

### By BEN FINLEY

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - Adrian Cronauer, the man whose military radio antics inspired a character played by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam," has died. He was 79.

Mary Muse, the wife of his stepson Michael Muse, said Thursday that Cronauer died Wednesday from an age-related illness. He had lived in Troutville, Virginia, and died at a local nursing home, she said.

During his service as a U.S. Air Force sergeant in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, Cronauer opened his Armed Forces Radio show with the phrase, "Goooooood morning, Vietnam!"

Williams made the refrain famous in the 1987 film, loosely based on Cronauer's time in Saigon.

The film was a departure from other Vietnam war movies that focused on bloody realism, such as the Academy Award-winning "Platoon." Instead, it was about irreverent youth in the 1960s fighting the military establishment.

"We were the only game in town, and you had to play by our rules," Cronauer told The Associated Press in 1987. "But I wanted to serve the listeners."

Read more here.

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## Rival networks see boost from Sinclair deal's likely demise (Politico)

### By JASON SCHWARTZ

After the Federal Communications Commission's likely death blow to Sinclair Broadcasting Group's \$3.9 billion proposed merger with Tribune Media, there is at least one group of clear winners: rival conservative TV news outlets.

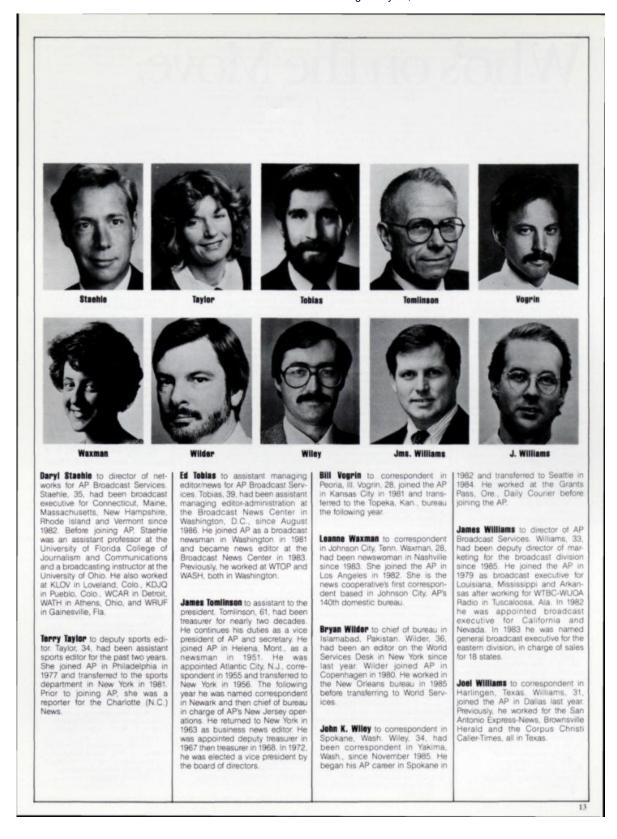
Newsmax and its CEO, Chris Ruddy, lobbied particularly hard against the deal, both in the news media and with the government, and One America News Network also actively opposed it. But if the Sinclair deal does go down, the biggest beneficiary will be Fox News and Rupert Murdoch, analysts and experts say.

For months, Sinclair has been laying the groundwork to launch a block of conservative TV programming, likely on WGN America, a Tribune cable network. The merger's failure - made almost certain by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's announcement Monday that he would send the deal to review by an administrative law judge - would imperil those plans.

Read more here.

## **The Final Word**

The way we were...



**Francesca Pitaro** (Email) - of AP Corporate Archives is one of Connecting's greatest resources for sharing with us material from the archives, such as this page from the Fall of 1987 AP World that featured a story on a promotion for the late Jim Tomlinson (whose obituary is in today's issue).

I decided to publish it since there are a number of current Connecting colleagues pictured on the page. Connecting would not be what it is without the work of Francesca and her boss, Corporate Archives director Valerie Komor.

## Today in History - July 20, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 20, the 201st day of 2018. There are 164 days left in the year.

#### **Today's Highlights in History:**

On July 20, 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

#### On this date:

In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States convened in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1923, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa was assassinated by gunmen in Parral.

In 1942, the first detachment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps - later known as WACs - began basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The Legion of Merit was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1954, the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games, organized by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, were held at Soldier Field in Chicago.

In 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, killing more than 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage. The U.N. Security Council voted to admit Vietnam to the world body.

In 1982, Irish Republican Army bombs exploded in two London parks, killing eight British soldiers, along with seven horses belonging to the Queen's Household Cavalry.

In 1989, Burmese activist Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) was placed under house arrest by the military government of Myanmar.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

In 2012, gunman James Holmes opened fire inside a crowded movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," killing 12 people and wounding 70 others. (Holmes was later convicted of murder and attempted murder, and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI wrapped up a six-day World Youth Day Festival in Sydney, Australia, by challenging young people to shed the greed and cynicism of their time to create a new age of hope for humankind. Padraig Harrington became the first European in more than a century to win golf's British Open two years in a row.

Five years ago: People rallied in dozens of U.S. cities, urging authorities to press federal civil rights charges against George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch leader found not guilty in the shooting death of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin. Five employees of an Italian cruise company were convicted of manslaughter in the Costa Concordia shipwreck that killed 32 people, receiving sentences of less than three years. Longtime White House correspondent Helen Thomas, 92, died in Washington.

One year ago: O.J. Simpson was granted parole after more than eight years in prison for a hotel room heist in Las Vegas. (He was released on October 1.) Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he would remain in office, a day after President Donald Trump rebuked him for recusing himself from the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 88. Author Cormac McCarthy is 85. Rockabilly singer Sleepy LaBeef is 83. Former Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 82. Actress Diana Rigg is 80. Artist Judy Chicago is 79. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 75. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 74. Singer Kim Carnes is 73. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 71. Rock musician Jay Jay French (Twisted Sister) is 66. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols, Man Raze) is 62. Actress Donna Dixon is 61. Rock musician Mick McNeil (Simple Minds) is 60. Country singer Radney Foster is 59. Actor Frank Whaley is 55. Actor Dean Winters is 54. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 52. Actor Reed Diamond is 51. Actor Josh Holloway is 49. Singer Vitamin C is 49. Actress Sandra Oh is 47. Actor Omar Epps is 45. Actor Simon Rex is 44. Actress Judy Greer is 43. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 40. Singer Elliott Yamin (yah-MEEN') (American Idol) is 40. Supermodel Gisele Bundchen is 38. Rock musician Mike Kennerty (The All-American Rejects) is 38. Actor Percy Daggs III is 36. Actor John Francis Daley is 33. Country singer Hannah Blaylock (Edens Edge) is 32. Dancer-singer-actress Julianne Hough is 30. Actress Billi Bruno is 22.

Thought for Today: "The regret on our side is, they used to say years ago, we are reading about you in science class. Now they say, we are reading about you in history class." - Neil Armstrong, American astronaut (1930-2012).

## 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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