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Connecting - September 21, 2018

1 message

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September 21, 2018

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning!



Connecting extends congratulations to **Mike Green**, AP Chicago photojournalist who was among four longtime Chicago journalists awarded Studs Terkel Awards on Thursday night.

He is shown in the photo above with previous AP Terkel award winners - national writer **Martha Irvine** (left) and national writer **Sharon Cohen**. The Terkel awards are sponsored by Public Narrative, a nonprofit community media organization. (Thanks to Connecting colleague **John Dowling** for providing this photo.)

Mike's email address is msgreen@ap.org

Be sure to read the Thought for the Day in today's Today in History. What did that German philosopher know back then that makes his quote apply so much today???

We bring you another issue full of memories and comments as we begin the first weekend of the fall.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

My uncle Cedric was the author of infamous Madison prank

Arthur Max ([Email](#)) - Some family stories have a life outside the intimate circle of clan reunions, so I was delighted to see Robert O'Meara's retelling in Connecting Thursday of the infamous prank appearing in 1933 in the Madison, Wis., Capital Times. The author of the prank was my uncle Cedric.

My mental image of Cedric Parker, who married my Dad's sister Ethel while enmeshed in his great crusade against Joe McCarthy, was of a pugnacious looking man with a nicotine-stained mustache, short-cropped hair and a boisterous laugh. I can't credit Cedric with my interest in journalism - that came purely by accident - but as a reporter myself I could imagine his gruff voice, edged with cigarettes and whiskey, barking across the newsroom from his desk as city editor and later as managing editor. When voice faltered, Cedric ruled the newsroom with the help of his boatswain's whistle, which he had carried in the first assault on Omaha Beach during a Navy interlude from the paper. The AP had one corner of the CapTimes newsroom, which Cedric shared for a while with AP's Frank Crepeau. Frank later was my bureau chief in Tel Aviv. Six degrees of ...



Cedric Parker

Reading Robert's contribution on Cedric's bit of April Fool's fake news prompted me to dig out Ethel's unpublished memoirs. Her often hilarious reminiscences of her husband's 43 years at the paper - not counting two years as a student stringer or his absence in the Navy - is a portrait of how newspapering was done at its crusading best. Still in his 20s, Cedric was the paper's leading investigative reporter. He penetrated a nascent neo-Nazi organization with forged Ku Klux Klan credentials in 1938, ending the ambitions of the so-called Silver Shirts. A union activist, he was denounced as a Communist by his own editor and banished for months to the obituaries.

Cedric wrote one of the first exposes of the future Sen. McCarthy, who was running quickie divorce scams and evading taxes as a small-town lawyer in Appleton (home of Erik Weisz aka Harry Houdini - but that's another family yarn). Until his end in politics, McCarthy waged endless attacks on the CapTimes and Cedric. "McCarthy's

war on Parker was ironic, the perfect example of a phony hero's attack on the genuine article," wrote one of his many colleagues and drinking buddies.

Cedric's montage of the collapsing Wisconsin capital building, wrote Ethel, emerged from his doodling in the darkroom. The paper ran the fake photo under this outline: "When the sixth of a series of mighty blasts toppled the capital dome this morning, a Capital Times cameraman arrived just in time to snap this photograph of the mass of granite and steel as it fell." Although Cedric was an accomplished photographer, this was the only image in Aunt Ethel's lengthy memoir. "It was the first - and probably the best - of Parker's hoaxes," she wrote.

Hurricane Beulah arrived in Texas 51 years ago Thursday, spawning 115 tornadoes



Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - Fifty-one years ago today (Thursday), Hurricane Beulah blew into Brownsville, Texas, with torrential rains and winds of 110 mph, destroying homes and businesses and spawning a then-record 115 tornadoes.

The region received a year's worth of rain in a three-day period, and homes were up to their roofs in many neighborhoods. Every river in South Texas was over its banks, and it was weeks before things improved.

It was an event in which UPI, for whom I worked at the time, scored a significant beat over the AP and others, thanks to the storm knocking out TV, weather service and mobile phone towers almost from the instant the storm made landfall.

Hurricane Beulah, then the third-largest hurricane of record, arrived at 7 a.m. on Sept. 20, 1967, with a couple dozen media - including me and two UPI colleagues - operating out of the Cameron County Courthouse in Brownsville.

There were no cell phones back then, and the courthouse had only two phone booths in the first-floor hallway for reporters to fight over.

UPI rented three vehicles, all equipped with mobile telephones. Other news agencies took similar actions. So there were treks from the courthouse to use a mobile phone.

But as soon as the storm hit, there was no longer any phone service available.

Except to UPI.

Cameron County offices were shut down for the storm, and UPI South Texas correspondent Mack Sisk had the foresight to work a deal with one of the county officials for us to "rent" her office.



When the mobile towers went crashing down, the Rio Grande Valley lost all phone service - except for the office where I was with Sisk and UPI's Houston bureau manager Darrell Mack were.

Because we had a line open to UPI Dallas at the moment, the connection amazingly stayed live. For two days, we kept the line open, never hanging up and never agreeing to let anyone else use the phone.

We relayed emergency messages from the Red Cross, shuttled through the UPI Dallas bureau. Clearly, we thought, God was on UPI's side.

Beating the AP on a story meant everything to us. I worked from 1964 to 1970, and we were always aware if there was one of us on a story, AP had two. Or if we had a bureau with three employees, AP had five.

So there was always a "hurry up" attitude, because many newspapers had both AP and UPI, and we wanted our story to be the first one they saw. From 1978 to 2003, I worked for the AP, and I never sensed that same urgency there.

Oh, we also were fortunate we were at the courthouse when Hurricane Beulah arrived. We had a room at the "Fort Brown Motor Hotel" in Brownsville, which suffered heavy damage from the storm. When we checked on our room, it was several feet deep in water and the roof was gone.

Military Draft Reminiscences: Reserve Unit Met at a Bar

Michael Doan ([Email](#)) - When I faced the draft in 1963 my boss at the Delaware State News arranged to get me into an Army Reserve unit. After I wrote articles for the paper about the horrors of basic training, enlistments in the town dropped sharply, the commanding officer told me later. Later, in Pittsburgh, I joined a public relations unit that often met bi-weekly at a bar.

The Army lost track of me for several years, but I joined a unit quickly in Portland, Ore., when I read that reservists who missed five meetings would be sent to Vietnam. Transferred by AP to Las Vegas, I desperately tried to get into another unit. The commanding officer, knowing I was a journalist, got me to publicize several of his events before he agreed to let me join. I even wrote press releases and sent them to several member papers. Ethical? No. Do I regret it? No. I got in.

Introducing: Best of the Week

(A note to staff Thursday in Inside AP by Brian Carovillano, managing editor of The Associated Press. I thought you would be interested since Connecting regularly publishes both Beat of the Week and Best of the States.)

Brian Carovillano - Beat of the Week and Best of the States are institutions at the AP.

Collectively, these contests have recognized some of the finest journalism anywhere in the world, not just at the AP.

A tour through the archives of past winners reveals essential, agenda-setting stories and visuals that have been astonishing and important - and have had concrete impact. As a former jury member myself, looking over the nominations was always a highlight of my week. Choosing one winner from among so much good work was often an almost impossible task.

Since the Beat of the Week contest launched in September 2003, we have presented more than 750 awards and thousands of honorable mentions. The first winner was ... former Stockholm newsman (and current Southern Europe News Director) Karl Ritter, for his coverage of the stabbing of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. I've attached that citation, as well as the January 2004 edition of Inside AP celebrating some of the earliest winners. Thanks to our colleagues in the Corporate Archives for that.

Best of the States was born in October 2011 to recognize the depth and breadth of our state-level journalism, and its core role with our membership. The first winner was Vermont newsman Wilson A Ring for his reporting on how floodwaters from Hurricane Irene washed 50 sets of human remains out of a mountainside cemetery.

Like many good things, Beat of the Week and Best of the States are in need of a refresh. Don't worry - they are not going away. To the contrary, we are intent on making them even more central to what we do. This is not only an opportunity to celebrate the best of what we do, but also to better reflect the current expectations and priorities among AP's global news staff and our customers, and to share best practices that can be replicated elsewhere. We just want to make sure we're getting it right, and in the process, hopefully restore some of the anticipation and buzz surrounding the weekly announcement.

To that end, here is a look at the changes we intend to make, which will take effect over the next few weeks ...

- First off, Beat of the Week is getting a new name - Best of the Week -which we think better reflects the full breadth of great work that AP journalists around the world do, across formats.

- Along with a new name, Best of the Week will have a new jury, whose names are included below. These are 12-month appointments so we'll be in the market for a whole new jury next fall. John Daniszewski chairs the group, so if you are interested, he's the one to be in touch with.

- In addition to the e-mails that you all get weekly, we will reveal the Best of the Week winner live, and also occasionally highlight some of the honorable mentions, each Friday during the AP Global News Meeting, which happens at 9:15 a.m. ET. You all have the invitation on your Outlook calendars and are encouraged to listen in. The winners and honorable mentions will also continue to be featured here at the AP Leads site.

- Best of the States will remain the name of the contest that celebrates the best work done across the AP's domestic bureaus. However, Noreen Gillespie and the U.S. News leadership team will take over the judging of that contest, which previously had been done by the same set of jurors as Beat of the Week.

- As part of the new Q&AP news discussion series, we will regularly feature Best of the Week and Best of the States honorees talking about how they got the story. This began last week with the inaugural edition of this series, in which Senior Editor at Large Kristin Gazlay interviewed Global Entertainment Editor Nekesa M. Moody about breaking the news of Aretha Franklin's death.

What's not changing is that Best of the Week and Best of the States will continue to honor important exclusives, dominant coverage on major breaking news and truly exceptional enterprise and investigative work. Above all, we will strive to reinforce our commitment to scoops and breaking news on big stories, which is the core of what we do here at the AP and which valued most by all of our customers. And, of course, a win will still come with a check -- \$500 for Best of the Week and \$300 for Best of the States, and we look forward to seeing all your great nominations for outstanding AP journalism in the months and years to come.

BEST OF THE WEEK JURY:

- * Maya Alleruzzo, Mideast Regional Photo Editor, Cairo
- * Amanda Y. Barrett, Nerve Center Director, New York
- * John Daniszewski, Editor at Large, Standards, New York
- * Matthew Chandler, Senior Producer, London
- * Oskar F. Garcia, Deputy Sports Editor, Philadelphia
- * Kristin Gazlay, Senior Editor at Large, New York
- * Paul B. Haven, Director of Top Stories, New York
- * Anthony Hicks, Regional Photo Editor, Europe, London
- * Josh Hoffner, News editor, National Beats, Phoenix
- * James Jordan, Senior Producer, London

- * Anthony R. McCartney, Deputy Entertainment Editor, Los Angeles
- * Vaughn Morrison, Head of U.S. Video Production, Washington
- * Stephanie C Mullen, Deputy News Director, West, San Francisco
- * Tatjana Popovic, Senior Producer, London
- * Maye-E Wong, Photographer/Enterprise Photo Editor, New York

New-member profile - Jackie Hallifax

Jackie Hallifax ([Email](#)) - I had the good fortune of being hired by Miami Bureau Chief Gary Clark in June 1985.

My first summer as an AP staffer was quite a ride. It was a busy hurricane season and I remember looking around at my new colleagues, marveling at how they kept up with the whirlwind pace. It seemed as if a hurricane was always barreling in or blowing out ... and that was just a fraction of the news we covered!

One weekend not long after I started, Mel Fisher discovered the 17th century Spanish galleon he had been hunting for many years - and I just happened to be coming on duty when word reached the bureau that the mother lode of the Nuestra Senora de Atocha had finally been found. Hence, my first helicopter ride, down to Key West to interview the famous treasure-hunter. That ride also turned out to be my last chopper ride, but there was no end to the parade of amazing stories, both exciting and disturbing, that kept breaking out all over South Florida.



One of the most demanding stories I covered as a young reporter was the three-week trial of Theresa Jackson, who was convicted of aggravated child abuse following the suicide of her 17-year-old daughter. A few months before Tina Mancini shot herself in the mouth, she started working as a nude dancer. Jackson drove her daughter to and from work - and charged her for the rides. Legal experts agreed it was the first time a parent was prosecuted in the suicide of a child; another unusual, if not unprecedented, feature of the trial was testimony about a "psychological autopsy."

After three years, I transferred to the Tallahassee bureau, where I covered state government for the next 17 years. While I covered all three branches, as did my

coworkers, I most enjoyed covering the courts, especially the Supreme Court, where I learned a lot about the death penalty and many other legal issues.

North Florida had its fair share of big news outside the Capitol and, yes, even before and after the presidential election of 2000, which I usually describe with a single word: CRAZY. But what I am most proud of is being a working reporter covering Florida state government, day in and day out. I sometimes dimly appreciated what a unique privilege it was to have a front-row seat to this remarkable experiment in self-government that is the United States - but only sometimes and only dimly! In hindsight, I'm acutely aware of how lucky I was.

Almost exactly 20 years after my first day with AP, I resigned to take a position as deputy PIO at the Florida Supreme Court. Earlier this year, I left the Court and moved back to the little town where I grew up in western New York State, Bath. After 40 years in Florida, I'm living near family again ... and wondering what my first winter is going to be like!

I will always be grateful for all I learned at AP, about writing and about the world. Working as an AP reporter was an incredible education and experience: I've always known that, but it became even clearer to me after I left the news business and became a consumer of news.

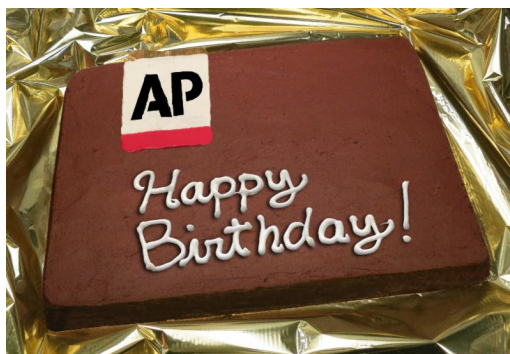
Because of the mind-boggling speed in the evolution of communications technology in the last few decades, some of the tools of journalism certainly changed during my 20 years with AP.

Who could have imagined social media back in the days when we literally ripped several wires every shift??

But, of course, The Associated Press has remained absolutely unchanged in its essentials - its mission and its standards. So now I'm also grateful that I can turn to AP as a reader, a citizen, a voter. I will always be proud of the role AP played and continues to play in informing people about important issues and telling the stories of our time.

Very proud - and very grateful to Gary Clark for making a decision that let me be a small part of such an essential and honorable undertaking.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Grey Montgomery - grey.montgomery@gmail.com

Karol Stonger- karol.stonger@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Michelle Williams - mwilliams@ap.org

On Sunday to...

Joni Beall - jbeall@ap.org

Kristin Gazlay - kgazlay@ap.org

Tom Leone - tleone@ap.org

Jon Rust - jrust@semissourian.com

Bill Welch - williammwelch@yahoo.com

Welcome to Connecting



Robert O'Connor - roboconnor2012@gmail.com

Chad Thompson - cthompson@messengernews.net

Stories of interest

Florence shows how storm coverage is politicized

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Donald Trump Jr.'s attack tweet this week showing CNN's Anderson Cooper waist-deep in flood waters has driven home the point that politics - not just weather - was an important subtext of the media's coverage of Hurricane Florence.

"Stop lying to make @realDonaldTrump look bad," the president's son admonished Cooper, triggering a harsh response from the CNN journalist, who was part of his network's team covering Florence's landfall in North Carolina.

"I didn't see him down in North Carolina in the last few days helping out, lending a hand, but I'm sure he was busy doing something important besides just tweeting lies," Cooper said on his show Monday.

Ever since President George W. Bush's administration was crippled by its response to Hurricane Katrina, politicians and news organizations have been acutely aware of the stakes raised by big storms. Some Republicans never forgave former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for being photographed with President Barack Obama after Sandy struck just before the 2012 election.

"A storm and responding to it the right way can make or break a political career," said Gary Lackmann, a professor of atmospheric science at North Carolina State University.

Read more [here](#).

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Why Strunk & White still matters (or matter) (or both) (Poynter)

By **ROY PETER CLARK**

Editor's note: Roy is working on a writing book about ... well, books on writing. On occasion, with permission from the publisher Little, Brown and Company, Poynter.org will publish drafts of key chapters.

"The Elements of Style" is the great-granddaddy and the great-grandmommy of all books on writing.

I say granddaddy and grandmommy not just to avoid the universal masculine, but because it is now the work of two authors, not one: William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White.

A century ago, Strunk was an English professor at Cornell, and White became one of his most famous students, one of the most well-known and versatile writers of the 20th century. A veteran of *The New Yorker*, White wrote as a reporter, editorialist, correspondent, essayist, poet and novelist. To generations of children and their parents, he was best known as author of "Stuart Little" and "Charlotte's Web."

Strunk, the Professor & White, the Author. Their names, conjoined by ampersand, became shorthand for the title of what Strunk and his students knew as the "little

book." That little book became big enough in its influence to have sold more than 10 million copies. Strunk & White.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

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Mike Pompeo Has Launched a War on Misplaced Commas (NY Magazine)

By ADAM K. RAYMOND

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has a problem with improper punctuation and his staff is making sure everyone at the State Department knows about it.

According to CNN, the former Kansas congressman is such a stickler for proper comma usage that his staff has twice emailed State Department officials in recent months with instructions on how to properly use commas. The most recent email was sent this month and included "updated guidance ... regarding correct use of commas in paper for Department principals."

"The Secretary has underscored the need for appropriate use of commas in his paper (both their inclusion and omission)," the email declares. It also notes that Pompeo prefers adherence to the Chicago Manual of Style, which states "effective use of the comma involves good judgment, with the goal being ease of reading."

CNN spoke to a State Department official who said that previous secretaries were annoyed by other punctuation and style peccadillos. Colin Powell "famously focused on font and font size," while his successor, Condoleezza Rice, didn't like people to mess with a document's margins.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - September 21, 2018



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 2018. There are 101 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 21, 1981, the Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1792, the French National Convention voted to abolish the monarchy.

In 1893, one of America's first horseless carriages was taken for a short test drive in Springfield, Mass., by Frank Duryea, who had designed the vehicle with his brother, Charles.

In 1937, "The Hobbit," by J.R.R. Tolkien, was first published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. of London.

In 1938, a hurricane struck parts of New York and New England, causing widespread damage and claiming some 700 lives.

In 1970, "NFL Monday Night Football" made its debut on ABC-TV as the Cleveland Browns defeated the visiting New York Jets, 31-21.

In 1977, after weeks of controversy over past business and banking practices, President Jimmy Carter's embattled budget director, Bert Lance, resigned.

In 1983, in a speech to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Interior Secretary James G. Watt jokingly described a special advisory panel as consisting of "a black ... a woman, two Jews and a cripple." Although Watt later apologized, he ended up resigning.

In 1985, In North Korea and South Korea, family members who had been separated for decades were allowed to visit each other as both countries opened their borders in an unprecedented family-reunion program.

In 1987, NFL players called a strike, mainly over the issue of free agency. (The 24-day walkout prompted football owners to hire replacement players.)

In 1989, Hurricane Hugo crashed into Charleston, South Carolina (the storm was blamed for 56 deaths in the Caribbean and 29 in the United States). Twenty-one students in Alton, Texas, died when their school bus, hit by a soft-drink delivery truck, careened into a water-filled pit.

In 1996, John F. Kennedy Jr. married Carolyn Bessette in a secret ceremony on Cumberland Island, Georgia. The board of all-male Virginia Military Institute voted to admit women.

In 2001, Congress again opened the federal coffers to those harmed by terrorism, providing \$15 billion to the airline industry, which was suffering mounting economic losses since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Ten years ago: South African President Thabo Mbeki (TAH'-boh um-BEH'-kee) announced his resignation. "Mad Men" became the first basic-cable show to win the top series Emmy; "30 Rock" and its stars Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin won comedy awards. The United States took back the Ryder Cup with a 16 1/2-11 1/2 victory over Europe. Baseball said farewell to the original Yankee Stadium as the Bronx Bombers defeated the Baltimore Orioles 7-3.

Five years ago: Days after mass shootings in Washington and Chicago, President Barack Obama urged the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation to help push stalled legislation out of Congress so dangerous people wouldn't get their hands on guns. Islamic militants attacked an upscale shopping center in Nairobi, killing at least 67 people in the deadliest terrorist attack in Kenya in 15 years. An Afghan

wearing a security forces uniform turned his weapon against U.S. troops, killing three in eastern Afghanistan.

One year ago: Millions on Puerto Rico faced the prospect of weeks or months without power in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly to discuss the ongoing crisis involving North Korea. Facebook said it would provide congressional investigators with the contents of 3,000 ads that had been bought by a Russian agency; it had already released the ads to federal authorities investigating Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election.

Today's Birthdays: Author-comedian Fannie Flagg is 77. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer is 75. Former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear is 74. Musician Don Felder is 71. Author Stephen King is 71. Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore is 69. Actor-comedian Bill Murray is 68. Hall of Fame jockey Eddie Delahoussaye is 67. Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is 61. Movie producer-writer Ethan Coen is 61. Actor-comedian Dave Coulier is 59. Actor David James Elliott is 58. Actress Serena Scott-Thomas is 57. Actress Nancy Travis is 57. Actor Rob Morrow is 56. Actor Angus Macfadyen is 55. Retired MLB All-Star Cecil Fielder is 55. Actress Cheryl Hines is 53. Country singer Faith Hill is 51. Rock musician Tyler Stewart (Barenaked Ladies) is 51. Country singer Ronna Reeves is 50. Actress-talk show host Ricki Lake is 50. Rapper Dave (De La Soul) is 50. Actor Rob Benedict is 48. Actor James Lesure is 47. Actor Alfonso Ribeiro is 47. Actor Luke Wilson is 47. Actor Paulo Costanzo is 40. Actor Bradford Anderson is 39. Actress Autumn Reeser is 38. TV personality Nicole Richie is 37. Actress Maggie Grace is 35. Actor Joseph Mazzello is 35. Actress Ahna O'Reilly is 34. Rapper Wale (WAH'-lay) is 34. Actor Ryan Guzman is 31. Actors Lorenzo and Nikolas Brino are 20.

Thought for Today: "All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident." - Arthur Schopenhauer, German philosopher (born 1788, died this date in 1860).

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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