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# Connecting - November 20, 2018

1 message

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# Connecting

November 20, 2018

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Colleagues,

Monday was the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gettysburg Address - and The Associated Press was there to provide an assist to President Lincoln.

Read all about it in our lead story from Poynter, in which **Valerie Komor**, AP's director of Corporate Archives, plays a lead role.

**Rachel Ambrose**, the subject of Monday's Connecting Profile, served as AP Los Angeles bureau's broadcast supervisor for 33 years - and during that period, she worked with 10 LA chiefs of bureau: Bill Waugh, Tom Pendergast, Paul Finch, John Armstrong, Ben Brown, John Brewer, Marty Thompson, Andy Lippman, Sue Cross and Anthony Marquez.

Several of them dropped a note to Connecting with their favorite memory of working with Rachel.

Have a great day!

Paul

## Lincoln relied on AP report of Gettysburg Address



**BY ANDREW BEAUJON**

**Poynter**

President Lincoln "consulted the published AP text when making his final copies of the Gettysburg Address in Washington," an Associated Press video says. Twenty-one-year-old Joseph Ignatius Gilbert, who covered the speech for AP, had covered

Lincoln before and "was familiar with his high-pitched voice," something that was "surely an advantage" during Lincoln's two-minute oration, a definitive copy of which remains "elusive," according to a separate AP report.



**Joseph Ignatius Gilbert**

Perhaps more interesting, Gilbert recalled that, moved by the speech, he "unconsciously stopped taking notes and looked at him." Lincoln let the reporter copy his second draft of the speech. There are differences between the two documents: Lincoln's use of the word "poor" in "our poor power to add or detract" doesn't appear in either Gilbert's account or that of another correspondent on the scene, Charles Hale. But it was in several drafts, including the second.

The phrase "under God," in the formulation "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom," doesn't appear in the first drafts of the speech, but Gilbert and Hale recorded it. "Lincoln probably inserted 'under God' while speaking," Valerie Komor, the director of AP Corporate Archives, says in the video's narration. The 16th president "benefitted by consulting the AP

version in making his final copies as he could improve or retain wording guided by a version he trusted."

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

## Former LA chiefs of bureau share favorite memories of Rachel Ambrose

**Sue Cross** ([Email](#)) - When I think of Rachel, I immediately picture two things:

Rachel standing at the broadcast desk with a huge smile and her laugh radiating through the newsroom. Rachel killed it every day, combining speed and continual accuracy checks to keep the huge California broadcast market covered, but always leavened the work with a great sense of humor. The second is seeing her at the AP broadcast association meetings. TV and radio anchors, reporters and editors all would literally stop everything to applaud Rachel when she took the podium. The degree of respect she earned and owned from broadcasters across one of the largest and most competitive markets in the world was something to behold.

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**Andy Lippman (Email)** - Rachel Ambrose was the den mother for the broadcast community. She was the fountain head for APTRA, the regional broadcast organization which included California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii.

She had to be really sick to miss even a judging competition during all the years she was broadcast editor. She helped scout locations for conventions and worked with the board to make everything right for every occasion. I never worried that an APTRA convention would have a problem. It never did, because if Rachel said something was so, that was usually how things turned out. And she was so organized that things nearly always turned out well.

Her son grew up going to annual conventions, and her husband always came along, and often watched sports while his wife was seemingly everywhere-with that upbeat personality and nearly always with a smile.

Rachel loves to take pictures, and she always had a camera. One of her favorite things was to take a photo of the APTRA board on Sunday morning. She would always try and find some suitable spot-which sometimes might be bizarre.

Her favorite place for photos was Disneyland, because that was one of her favorite places. She had an annual pass. Rachel also loved roller coasters.

All of this involvement with the regional organization was cashed in when it came time to cover the news. Rachel personally knew nearly every news director in the region, and when we needed a story, she picked up the phone and the member would deliver.

I've heard a coach say the difference between two teams was that he had the bigger star, and the other team did not. Well, the difference between the other guys and AP was we had Rachel, and they did not.

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**John Brewer (Email)** - I think every COB she worked with would echo Andy Lippman's words about Rachel.

I remember regularly receiving unsolicited praise from radio and TV members commending Rachel's upbeat personality, professionalism, organization and follow-through.

With Rachel overseeing things, I never, ever, worried about the broadcast report, or broadcast membership.

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**Marty Thompson (Email)** - Rachel's strong leadership of the broadcast report and with radio and television members was important to all of the California AP. From her seat at the editing desk cluster in Los Angeles, Rachel oversaw the report for all of California and the relationship with broadcasters in California and Nevada.

Her strong hand meant that a succession of CoBs in LA and San Francisco were able to focus on the rest of the report and our relationship with newspaper members.

From small market stations in places like Susanville to the some of the nation's largest in LA, broadcasters responded to Rachel by contributing to the report and taking active roles in the California AP Television and Radio Association (CAPTRA), which she oversaw. CAPTRA's regional and state conferences were popular with staff of stations large and small.

Rachel did it all cheerfully, a positive factor among a talented staff.

## ***And from Dallas - Rachel set the standard for all of us***

**Diana Heidgerd (Email)** - I was so pleased to read the feature story about Rachel Ambrose, the former California-Nevada broadcast supervisor in the Los Angeles bureau.

Anyone who's spent any time with AP, working on the broadcast side, will likely agree that Rachel set the standard for all of us.

A few years back when there was more money for travel and training, AP used to host state Broadcast Editor meetings annually in Washington. It meant heading to

DC to meet with other AP broadcast editors from around the country, or bureau chiefs or occasionally a correspondent. BNC (Broadcast News Center) meetings included sessions on writing, editing, audio, AP style changes and generally learning more from each other on any/all subjects related to AP broadcast operations.

Rachel always emphasized that having a good relationship with radio and TV members was important for overall success for all of AP. That meant - get to know the members, be helpful and pleasant as you (back then) took dictation or maybe wrote a story from a fax. Get to know the folks on the assignment desk. Organize and attend regional broadcast seminars, share your knowledge.

It really stuck with me, I often thought of Rachel - through my years as Texas AP broadcast editor (going back to 1985) -- and how she inspired us all.

During one BNC meeting, when each of us was asked to stand and say a few words about ourselves to the group, the only really important thing that I could think of to say - so I did -- was: "I want to be just like Rachel Ambrose when I grow up."

Several other broadcast editors repeated that phrase when it was their turn to talk.

And Rachel, I'm still working to achieve that goal.

Best of luck to you!

## Connecting mailbox

### *Top this AP punster*

**Charles Richards** ([Email](#)) - One of AP-Texas' more colorful characters in the 70's and 80's was B.F. Kellum, who was in the Houston bureau when I joined the Dallas AP bureau in in 1978, shortly before he was transferred to Dallas.

B.F. was absolutely addicted to puns, which explains why he and I became great buddies.

B.F. sent up a story from Houston a story about a jewel thief who swallowed small diamonds as he was being stopped from leaving the store where he had just stolen them.

Police put him in a jail cell and fed him laxatives.

B.F.'s lead: HOUSTON (AP) -- A man accused of stealing diamonds from a jewelry store is sitting in a jail cell as detectives wait for more than time to pass.

The story made it onto Texas wires and was relayed to the General Desk, which ordered an immediate Bulletin Kill.

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## ***Rid yourself of static before touching that CRT***

**Brendan Riley (Email)** - Regarding angst caused by copy-zapping CRTs, working in arid Nevada was a real problem because of all the static. The standard procedure when walking into the AP office in Carson City was to touch door frames, desks, the teletypes, a metal trash can, anything to lose the static before sitting down at the CRT. That didn't work all the time, however, and the ultimate fix, thanks to one of the genius techs who dropped by from time to time, was a bucket of water, with a cup of fabric softener mixed in, directly under the CRT. Just had to be sure not to kick it over.

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## ***Newspapers in Art: An AP Sidebar***



**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - The recent feature in Connecting on newspapers in art reminded me to pluck some images from my computer archive. These show our AP colleague, the late Howard Graves, engaged in his avocation of going through newspapers in search of articles he could mail to staff members in the U.S. and overseas.

Howard, who was a chief of bureau in three states before retirement, was aware that AP writers too often were unaware of where or how their articles were published once they moved on the wire. Howard scanned newspapers he encountered, snipped bylined articles, and mailed them to the writers or bureau chiefs. The man who came to be known throughout the AP as the "Unaclipper" passed away in 2017, marking the end of this one-man complimentary clipping service.

(Photos by Tim Marsh, one of Howard's many friends.)

***And speaking of newspapers in art...***





**Bruce Buchanan** ([Email](#)) - Don't forget Michael Garman's newsman statue.

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## ***And even more of your favorite quotes***

**Norman Abelson** ([Email](#)) - Talking about memorable quotes, I can recall two from more than a half-century back- one of which I used, the other which I opted not to.

One of our staples when I was an AP staffer in New Hampshire, which had a sizeable elderly population, was the 100th birthday piece. The required question, of course, was, "To what do you attribute your long life?" Answers usually were about eating healthy, exercise, no smoking, etc.

Not so this one time when I questioned a rather testy gentleman, who was not suffering me very gladly.

In response to how he had managed to live so long, he replied curtly:

"I just keep breathin', sonny."

My second remembered quote was uttered late one afternoon by Granite State Gov. Wesley Powell.

He had called me into his State House office, along with my colleagues from UP and the state's two major dailies; he wanted to give us a heads-up about a government reorganization plan he was announcing the next day.

Powell, a rather iconoclastic man, had once been a traveling preacher in the southwest. He proved it that afternoon when he stood up, walked to one of his windows, folded his arms behind his back and muttered softly:

"I want this administration to be known as one of divine guidance." Then, as if his mind had never wandered, he went on with his rather bureaucratic presentation.

My colleagues and I agreed we hadn't heard a word of his rumination.

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**Bruce Lowitt** ([Email](#)) - Hal Bock's recollection of his "File Not Found" story in the Nov. 16 Connecting reminds me of a time when I interviewed gentlemanly San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh at length on the phone, typing it onto the CRT as I went along. When I was finished, I hit the save button and the screen went blank.

With Walsh still on the phone, I yelled "F---!"

Walsh, who rarely used the word with the media but no doubt heard it often in the locker room, asked what happened. I told him. He said, "Want to do it over?" I was stunned, thrilled and all that. I did it again - with a pen and pad. It wasn't anywhere

near as good the second time around. I thanked him profusely, then ripped the techs a new one. They told me they'd shut down the system but had neglected to tell us.

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**Charles Richards (Email)** - Shortly after Alabama defeated Baylor 30-2 in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 1, 1981, Bear Bryant met with the media for his post-game press conference.

The first question came from a college age kid who asked excitedly, "Coach Bryant, in your wildest dreams, did you ever ..."

Bryant raised his hand and interrupted.

"Young man," he said, "I don't have wild dreams."

A few minutes later, I was back in the Cotton Bowl press box, where AP Southwest sports editor Denne Freeman pounced on Bryant's quote, re-leading his game story with it.

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**Brendan Riley (Email)** - In the colorful quote department, here's one from a 1978 story I wrote when gambling was legalized in New Jersey. Regulators there insisted they were prepared, but the chief investigator for the Nevada Gaming Control Board predicted a frenzy of cheating activity in Atlantic City. Tom Carrigan's quote: "The thieves in this state have got to be saving up plane fare to New Jersey so they can get rich. They'll be like blind dogs in a meathouse, because nobody knows them." Thanks, Tom, you got me on the aye wire with that.

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**Ed Tobias (Email)** - In July, 1986, after Ronald Reagan decided not to impose sanctions on South Africa for its apartheid policies, I reached Bishop Desmond Tutu on the telephone.

"Your president is the pits as far as blacks are concerned," Tutu told me as I recorded our conversation for AP Radio.

That quote was widely used, including by the NY Times, and the front page of the NY Daily News shouted "Tutu: Reagan's 'the pits!'"

## Stories of interest

### ***Opinion: How the AP covers your dubious election dispute pretty much depends on whether you're a Democrat or a Republican***

(Washington Examiner)

by **Becket Adams**

The language we use to cover news events says a great deal about our editorial judgment. And the Associated Press' handling of the long-shot recount efforts in Georgia and New Mexico says its judgment needs serious reconsideration.

In the Peach State, Democratic House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams is hoping against hope that her recount efforts will upend the results of the state's gubernatorial election, taking away Republican Georgia Gov.-elect Brian Kemp's victory. On Friday, the AP covered Abrams' campaign to overturn the election results with a headline that reads: " Abrams prepares push for new Georgia Gov. vote."

In New Mexico, Republican state Rep. Yvette Herrell is hoping against hope that her efforts to impound ballots will upend the results of the race in the state's 2nd Congressional District, taking away Democrat Xochitl Torres Small's narrow victory. Here's how the AP characterized Herrell's attempts to overturn the results of the House race: " Republican Refusing to Concede US House Race, Questions Vote."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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# ***White House to restore Acosta's pass, with a warning***

By **DAVID BAUDER** and **CATHERINE LUCEY**

NEW YORK (AP) - The Trump administration on Monday abruptly dropped its effort to bar CNN reporter Jim Acosta from the White House, but warned he could have his credentials pulled again if he doesn't follow guidelines governing journalists' behavior.

The White House said reporters would be permitted one question each if called upon at news conferences and allowed follow-ups only at the discretion of the president.

In a letter to Acosta, White House communications director Bill Shine and press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said they will be forced to reconsider the decision "if unprofessional behavior occurs."

CNN said that, as a result, it has dropped its lawsuit against the White House filed on Acosta's behalf.

"Thanks to everyone for their support," Acosta tweeted. "As I said last Friday ... let's get back to work."

Read more [here](#).

## ***And from Politico:***

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders laid out four rules "governing future press conferences" in her statement.

The first states that a journalist who is called upon "will ask a single question and then yield the floor."

The second rule says that follow-ups may be granted "at the discretion of the President or Other White House official" taking questions.

The third defines "yielding the floor," saying that includes "surrendering the microphone to White House staff." During the encounter that prompted the White House to initially suspend Acosta's hard pass, he declined to give up the microphone to a press assistant who was trying to take it from him.

The final rule states that "failure to abide" by any of the others "may result in suspension or revocation of the journalist's hard pass."

White House Sanders' statement also warned that there could be more rules to come.

"We are mindful that a more elaborate and comprehensive set of rules might need to be devised, including, for example, for journalist conduct in the open (non-press room) areas inside and outside the White House and for Air Force One," she wrote. "If unprofessional behavior occurs in those settings, or if a court should decide that explicit rules are required to regulate conduct there, we will be forced to reconsider this decision."

In a letter to Acosta, obtained by POLITICO, Sanders laid out the rules and warned the reporter, "Should you refuse to follow these rules in the future, we will take action in accordance with the rules set forth above."

Last week, White House Correspondents' Association president Olivier Knox said his organization has a "role to play" in creating any new rules for reporters' behavior, but he said Monday that the group was not consulted.

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## ***Why covering the environment is one of the most dangerous beats in journalism*** (Nieman)

By **ERIC FREEDMAN**

From the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Kashoggi by Saudi agents to President Trump's clashes with the White House press corps, attacks on reporters are in the

news. But this problem extends far beyond the politics beat - and world leaders aren't the only threats.

At Michigan State University's Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, we train students and professional journalists to report on what we view as the world's most important beat. One hard fact is that those who cover it are at heightened risk of murder, arrest, assault, threats, self-exile, lawsuits and harassment.

In a recent study, I explored this problem through in-depth interviews with journalists on five continents, including impacts on their mental health and careers. I found that some of them were driven away from journalism by these experiences, while others became even more committed to their missions.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***How a Small-Town Newspaper Editor Won a Pulitzer Prize*** (New York Times)



**Review By Alex Kotlowitz**

## **STORM LAKE**

### **A Chronicle of Change, Resilience, and Hope From a Heartland Newspaper**

**By Art Cullen**

**317 pp. Viking. \$28.**

Last year, Art Cullen, the editor of The Storm Lake Times, a twice-weekly newspaper in rural Iowa with a circulation of 3,000, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. Cullen, who has a mop of white hair and a horseshoe mustache, had written a series of blistering editorials about the role agricultural corporations played in defending the pollution of local waterways. Cullen so angered some state legislators that a resolution simply congratulating Cullen and his colleagues couldn't garner enough votes. The Republican state senator Mark Segebart told The Des Moines Register that Cullen "is not one of our favorite newspapermen."

It's not easy being a journalist these days, but it's especially not easy if you're working at a local newspaper. According to the Pew Research Center, daily newspaper circulation declined 11 percent from 2016 to 2017; the number of reporters and editors has plummeted by 45 percent since 2004. Amid these dark clouds, Storm Lake's winning the Pulitzer feels reassuring, a reminder that even the smallest newspapers - Storm Lake is a family affair, involving Cullen's brother (the publisher), his wife (a photographer) and his son (a reporter) - can hold the most powerful among us accountable. Cullen is a crusader in the spirit of Elijah Lovejoy, a 19th-century small-town newspaper publisher whose editorials took on the institution of slavery. As Cullen writes in his new book, "Storm Lake," when he and his brother John began to publish their newspaper, they had one thing in mind: "Print the truth and raise hell."

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History - November 20, 2018**





## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2018. There are 41 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 20, 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. (Almost a year later, the International Military Tribune sentenced 12 of the defendants to death; seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life; three were acquitted.)

### On this date:

In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

In 1910, the Mexican Revolution of 1910 had its beginnings under the Plan of San Luis Potosi issued by Francisco I. Madero.

In 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

In 1967, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.

In 1969, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's Generalissimo Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1976, the boxing drama "Rocky," starring Sylvester Stallone, premiered in New York.

In 1982, in one of college football's oddest finales, the University of California used five laterals to score a disputed winning touchdown on the last play of a game against Stanford, 25-20.

In 1985, the first version of Microsoft's Windows operating system, Windows 1.0, was officially released.

In 1998, forty-six states embraced a \$206 billion settlement with cigarette makers over health costs for treating sick smokers.

In 2000, lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush battled before the Florida Supreme Court over whether the presidential election recount should be allowed to continue.

In 2003, Michael Jackson was booked on suspicion of child molestation in Santa Barbara, Calif. (Jackson was later acquitted at trial.) Record producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of an actress, Lana Clarkson, at his home in Alhambra, California. (Spector's first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007; he was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Sen. Ted Stevens, the chamber's longest-serving Republican, delivered his swan song address following his failed re-election bid; he was saluted by his colleagues as a staunch friend and teacher. The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to impose new sanctions aimed at reducing the arms flowing into Somalia and the lawlessness and piracy that were flourishing there.

Five years ago: Secretary of State John Kerry said the U.S. and Afghanistan had agreed on the language of a bilateral security pact that would clear the way for thousands of U.S. troops to train and assist Afghan forces after the NATO combat

mission ended in 2014. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation allowing same-sex weddings in his state.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that he was designating North Korea, which he called a "murderous regime," as a state sponsor of terror. CBS News suspended Charlie Rose, and PBS stopped distribution of his nightly interview show, after a Washington Post report carried accusations of sexual misconduct from eight women. Nebraska regulators approved an alternative route for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, the last major regulatory hurdle facing the project's operator.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-comedian Kaye Ballard is 93. Actress Estelle Parsons is 91. Comedian Dick Smothers is 80. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 76. Former Vice President Joe Biden is 76. Actress Veronica Hamel is 75. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 72. Actor Samuel E. Wright is 72. Singer Joe Walsh is 71. Actor Richard Masur is 70. Opera singer Barbara Hendricks is 70. National security adviser John Bolton is 70. Actress Bo Derek is 62. Former NFL player Mark Gastineau is 62. Reggae musician Jimmy Brown (UB40) is 61. Actress Sean Young is 59. Pianist Jim Brickman is 57. Rock musician Todd Nance (Widespread Panic) is 56. Actress Ming-Na is 55. Actor Ned Vaughn is 54. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 53. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 53. Actress Callie Thorne is 49. Actress Sabrina Lloyd is 48. Actor Joel McHale is 47. Actress Marisa Ryan is 44. Country singer Dierks (duhkr) Bentley is 43. Actor Joshua Gomez is 43. Actress Laura Harris is 42. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes is 42. Country singer Josh Turner is 41. Actress Nadine Velazquez is 40. Actress Andrea Riseborough is 37. Actor Jeremy Jordan is 34. Actor Dan Byrd is 33. Actress Ashley Fink is 32. Rock musician Jared Followill (Kings of Leon) is 32. Actress Jaina Lee Ortiz is 32. Actor Cody Linley is 29. Pop musician Michael Clifford (5 Seconds to Summer) is 23.

**Thought for Today: "There is no greatness where there is not simplicity." - Leo Tolstoy, Russian author (1828-1910).**

## 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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