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# Connecting - January 09, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

January 09, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning!

Connecting has received good initial response to the call for your memories of and experiences from the 1969 strike against the AP by the Wire Service Guild - the first and only strike in the cooperative's history.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the eight-day strike was featured in Tuesday's issue. If you haven't shared your own memories, send them along today.

Today's issue also brings you a report from colleague **Arnold Zeitlin** from his recent teaching experiences in China where the tables were turned and he, the reporter, was the subject of a story by one of his students. Which he shares.

Finally, my most recent Spotlight column in my hometown newspaper, The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa, focused on **Joey Coleman**, who makes a good living as a motivational speaker for businesses and sharing his mantra that most business is kept, or lost, in the first 100 days. Click [here](#) to read the story.

Have a good day!

Paul

## Your memories of Guild's 1969 strike against AP



## ***He picketed a capitol broom closet***

**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - News that the WSG was on strike against the AP came as I was beginning coverage of the 1969 session of the North Dakota Legislature in Bismarck. I had been an active officeholder in the WSG in the 1960s during previous stints in the Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, bureaus. So, I felt an obligation to honor the strike. But it was awkward.

The AP's office in the Capitol was located right off the rotunda of the North Dakota Senate chambers, raising the potential for my picketing in the hallway just outside the entrance to the Senate.

I did not want to alienate the legislators and their staff who I needed as news sources by parading an on-strike sign in front of the Senate chambers. So, I asked for a quick meeting with the lieutenant governor, who was president of the Senate, and the director of Legislative Council. They reacted with astonishment while thanking me for giving them a heads up. They certainly didn't want me picketing in the legislative hallways, either.

So, Lt. Gov Richard Larsen came up with a "solution." He ordered that the AP office be "temporarily moved" from the Senate rotunda to another room on the ground floor of the Capitol. A paper sign reading "Associated Press" was taped to a door where I could picket in full view of the many state employees and visitors going to and from the parking lot. I was featured in a local TV news report and the *Bismarck Tribune* quoted me as saying the office move was a "false front situation" but I had agreed to this to avoid "embarrassment or disruption" of Senate activities.

What no one reported, however, was that this newly designated AP office was a broom closet stocked with mops and buckets.

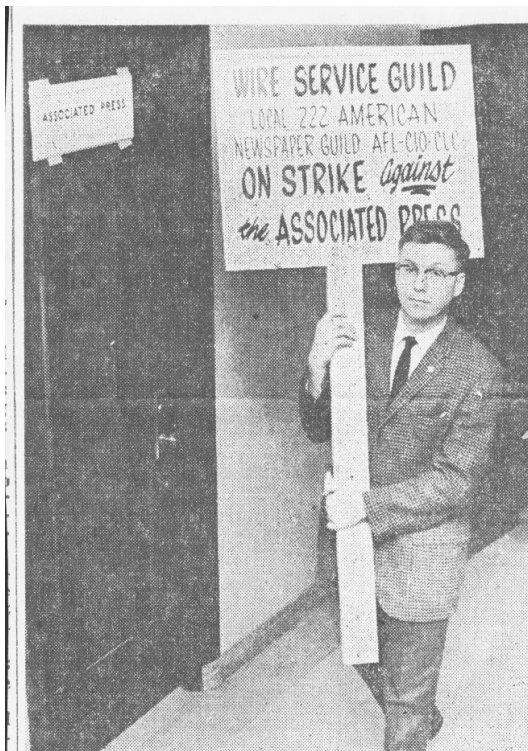
While my co-worker continued to cover the legislative session out of the rotunda office, I spent a week picketing a broom closet and appreciative that state officials did not kick me out of the building into the chilling North Dakota winter weather. Thankfully, there were no hard feelings after the strike, but there was a lot of joking banter around the Capitol the remainder of that legislative session. After all, not everyone spends a week picketing a broom closet inside the State Capitol building.

Update: My wife and I were visiting relatives and friends in Bismarck in September, 2017, when I decided to see if I could locate where I had been picketing. Sure enough, there it was, and it's still a broom closet.

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## ***Walked picket line with Gaylord Shaw***

**Joseph Carter** ([Email](#)) - I had left journalism for posts with Democrat politicians and was working on the Hill when Guild members of AP went on strike. As a former unit chair of the wire service guild in Kansas City, I felt strongly about the strike...so I walked the Washington, D.C. picket line with Gaylord Shaw--who later won a Pulitzer for AP. Shaw was strong guild member and superb correspondent now deceased. (Carter is ex-UPI in Dallas, Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Tulsa bureaus.)



### **A Picket in the Capitol**

Associated Press Correspondent Paul Albright, a member of the Newspaper Guild now striking the Associated Press, carries a picket sign on the ground floor of the Capitol in front of a door that carries the AP sign. The office of the wire service is actually off the hallway of the Senate chambers. Albright had asked Lt. Gov. Richard Larsen, president of the Senate, to have the AP office moved. Larsen then designated this room the official AP room. Albright called the move a "false front situation" but agreed to picket on the ground floor to avoid "embarrassment or disruption" of Senate activities. He again Friday asked that the AP office actually be moved.

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## ***Stayed home as protest***

**Mike Doan** ([Email](#)) - As Las Vegas correspondent, I didn't see the point in picketing the Las Vegas Review Journal, where I had my office. As a one-man bureau, I would be picketing against myself, and the nonunion paper might have kicked me out. But as a UC Berkeley graduate, of course I had to be part of the protest. So I stayed home. I wish I had taken Lyle Price up on his offer to get me a temporary job on the L.A. docks. I could still be writing books about my "career" as a longshoreman!

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## ***On probation, gritted teeth and worked***

**Joe Galu** ([Email](#)) - I was a new hire, on probation and had not been asked to join the Guild, so I gritted my teeth and worked. But I told Howard Clark I would join as soon as I passed probation, which I did and became local guild chair.

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## ***Came to AP interview in Chicago on day strike began***

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - I was working at the Rockford Morning Star and Register Republic when I decided to test the employment waters with the AP, thanks to some good advice from childhood friend and longtime AP photographer Barry Sweet. When I talked with what was then called Personnel in New York, I was told I could get in touch with COB Dion Henderson in Milwaukee or COB Al Orton in Chicago to set up an interview and a time to take the writing test. Milwaukee and Chicago were about the same distance from Rockford, but I called Chicago since my in-laws lived in the suburb of Skokie and my wife could visit with them while I did my thing at the Chicago bureau.

On the morning of my scheduled visit to the bureau, Jan. 8, 1969, Judy dropped me off at the Skokie Swift, the train that connects to the Chicago elevated train system. I bought a Chicago Sun-Times, got on the Swift and opened the paper. On the front page was a story encircled with a thick black border. The headline: AP ON STRIKE!

I didn't know what to do, but I was on my way into the city by that point. When I got to the building that housed the AP office at the busy corner of Randolph and LaSalle, there was a small picket line walking back and forth in front of the main doors. I hesitated momentarily. But, of course, nobody knew me and I didn't know any of them, so I walked on through and took the elevator up to the fourth floor. I stood by the door to the AP office, observing the chaos in the big main room, until someone finally noticed me and asked what I was doing there. I asked to speak with Mr. Orton.

He came walking up shaking his head and apologizing for forgetting to cancel our appointment. But, instead of sending me away, Mr. Orton offered to let me take the test on my own and just leave the papers on his desk before leaving.

"I'll take a look at the test when I can and I'll call you after the strike is settled," he said.

I spent a good part of that day working on the various parts of the test. On one written part that was supposed to be timed out at 20 minutes, I wrote and rewrote that story - I believe it was about a fire with a fatality - three or four times until I had it close to perfection (at least in my mind). I probably took close to an hour.

Finally, I felt I had done enough, caught Mr. Orton's attention long enough to wave goodbye and went back to Skokie.

As you know, the strike was over one week later. A couple of days later, I was getting ready to head for my 5 p.m. shift at the Rockford paper when the phone in our apartment rang. I answered and the voice on the other end said, "Hey, Mike. This is Al Orton. How soon can you come to work?"

A few weeks later, on Feb. 16, 1969, I began my 41-year career with the AP.

About two years later, after I had been transferred to Indianapolis as the state sports editor, I was told by personnel that I had failed to take the vocabulary part of the entry test. I had to sit down then and there to finish it "for the record."

As an aside, I joined the Guild as soon as I was eligible and was a member until I retired in 2009. But I never had to walk a picket line.

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## ***He did his job as bureau chief, I did mine as union member***

**Martha Malan** ([Email](#)) - I was a 22-year-old TTS operator, working a shift in the Minneapolis bureau that started at 2am. Each night during the strike, Bureau Chief George Moses would call me to change my start time to something else-140am, 220am, 310am, etc. The idea, of course, was to get me into the building when there were no Guild pickets.

Each night, after hanging up with George, I would call my union's chapel chairman to relay my new start time. Thus, there were always pickets, no matter what time I arrived.

Though I'm sure George saw through the ruse, we had an unspoken understanding: He was doing his job as bureau chief, and I was doing my duty as a union member.

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## ***AP held no grudge against those who walked***

**Chuck McFadden** ([Email](#)) - You know, one thing I will always remember about the strike - to my knowledge, The AP didn't retaliate, or bear a grudge, against those of us who hit the streets with picket signs. Mike Short, a strike leader, went on to become Boston bureau chief; the beloved Jim Lagier went on to become a bureau chief and more, and I got my coveted assignment to the Sacramento bureau covering politics. And as for the legendary Linda Deutsch, well, it goes without saying...

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## ***Haunted by memories of animosity shown to staffers who crossed picket lines***

**Charles Monzella** ([Email](#)) - I had transferred to the New York Broadcast Department in 1965 so, as a relative newcomer, was working nights by the time the Wire Service Guild went on strike against the AP in January 1969. I had asked for time off the month before after my father died and I wanted to attend his funeral in Alabama. By the time I returned, I had developed a severe head cold and was out on disability until a few days before the strike began.

The weather in New York was bitter cold on January 8. Because I still had not recovered completely, I was assigned to the picket line at the truck entrance to Rockefeller Center on 49th Street so I could get some warmth coming out of the driveway from the building's basement.

One of the memories that haunts me to this day is the animosity shown to AP staffers who chose to cross the picket lines and go to work. That was a difficult choice for them to make, but I respected them nevertheless. These were people I needed to work with each day and for me not to treat them cordially would not be acceptable. But I can recall many strikers who would not speak to those who worked during the strike for months afterward. It was a long time before the healing from this event was over.

## **Tables turned: Former AP correspondent interviewed by student**



**Arnold Zeitlin** ([Email](#)) - I returned home Christmas day from three weeks in Guangzhou, China, where I have been teaching since 2002 in an English-language journalism program at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. I met a journalism class of first- and second-year students in a joint program with the university and a



British university, Central Lancashire. The students in this program spend two years at the Guangzhou university, then complete their studies in Britain where they obtain a British diploma.

I discussed my career in the news business. The students were assigned to write an account of the talk. I'm sharing the best of the reports, which I thought was quite good for a student who was writing in a language that was not her native tongue. Some of the quotes are even accurate. Read it below.

## **Arnold Zeitlin: A living "dinosaur" of journalism**

**By SOPHIA SUO**

As an American journalist with more than 50 years of experience, Arnold Zeitlin came back to Guangdong University of Foreign Studies yesterday, the college where he once taught, and delivered a meaningful lecture to students of international journalism.

Having served two famous American news agency-Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI), and having witnessed the rise and fall of print media, Arnold humorously described himself as a "dinosaur", which means he has the very right to speak in terms of what makes an excellent journalist.

Looking back at his career in AP, Arnold deemed it as "a great opportunity to learn". According to Arnold, journalism requires constant learning throughout the career and learning while reporting is one of its attractive points. "Unlike most news agencies, reporters in AP get to cover all kinds of stories. The more I worked on different topics, the more I learned."

"By principle, journalists are supposed to be observers, not participants, so that the news they write can stay objective." Said Arnold. However, a story happened during his stay in Pakistan still haunts him today, because of the decision he made out of this principle. When entering a village where two sides of the civil war engaged, Arnold ran into a man shot by gun and there was a woman tending him. Having no idea where to find help and how to speak their local language, Arnold just left after taking a photo of that man.

"When I raised my camera, the woman moved his body a bit and showed his wound directly towards me, so that I could take a better shot," Arnold stopped for some seconds, "If I were given a second chance, I would chose to get involved and do everything within my power to help."

"Developing sources of news is a difficult but inevitable part for journalists. When establishing a new relationship, the key is to show interest in everything your target do and that's how to make people feel flattered." Speaking of this, Arnold shared his experience concerning one Pakistani politician-Bhutto, who later became his most crucial source in Pakistan. "Every time when Bhutto spoke in public, I would show up in the front line, making sure he could see me.

"Thanks to my stay in different countries, I could not only write about all those exciting stories, but also get to witness historical moments like US withdrew from Vietnam directly." Arnold then ended the lecture with a conclusive sentence: "If you want to earn lots of money, it might not be the best option to become a journalist. But if you want an unforgettable career like me, journalist is definitely the right choice."

## Connecting mailbox

### *Linda Deutsch modestly omitted an honor*

**Mel Opotowsky** ([Email](#)) - Linda Deutsch modestly omitted her involvement in getting the California First Amendment Coalition started, and years later receiving its life-time achievement award. (See Linda's profile in Monday's edition.)

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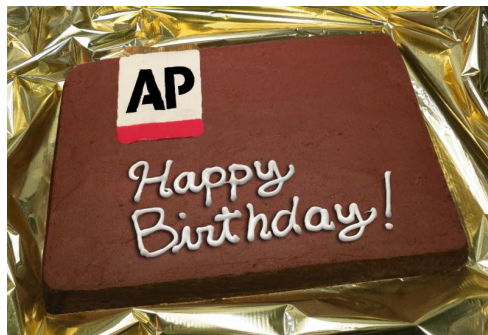
### *Seeking a hand with fixing teletype machine*

**Adolphe Bernotas** ([Email](#)) - Jeff Rapsis (who worked at the Manchester Union Leader) is building an aviation museum in Manchester, N.H. He is looking for a teletype mechanic to fix a Model 28 machine. There's a story about it on the front page of today's Concord Monitor and below is an excerpt from his email to me. If you know someone who might be able to help Jeff or guide him to someone who might know someone etc., please pop him an email at [jrapsis@nhahs.org](mailto:jrapsis@nhahs.org)

Excerpt: We have two Teletype, Inc. Model 28 machines that to my untrained eye seem substantially intact. We're looking for someone who might have serviced this type of machine back in the day, and who would have the know-how to get them

running again. If there's anyone in the AP/UPI world that could give us a hand, that would be fantastic.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Kevin Walsh - [walshtraveling@gmail.com](mailto:walshtraveling@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Maureen Johnson - [dalruadh@gmail.com](mailto:dalruadh@gmail.com)

Audrey Woods - [audrey.woods5@btinternet.com](mailto:audrey.woods5@btinternet.com)

## Stories of interest

## ***Wikileaks tells world's press what not to say about Assange*** (The Times)

By JOHN SIMPSON

The words "private" and "confidential" have had little deterrent effect on Julian Assange during his long career leaking other people's secrets.

It was no small irony, then, that the terminology sat atop a 5,000-word email from his Wikileaks site ordering journalists not to report 140 "false and defamatory" allegations about its founder. It was perhaps then doubly ironic that the instruction was so widely ignored by the email's recipients that Wikileaks put the entire thing on the internet for all to see.

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

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## ***A gloomy vision for "fake news" in 2019: Low-trust societies, the death of consensus, and your own lying eyes*** (Nieman)

By JOSHUA BENTON

Our end-of-year "Predictions for Journalism" package has grown and grown and grown since its first iteration back in 2011. For the 2019 iteration, we published more than 200, and it's possible I am literally the only person alive to have read all of them.

So today and over the next few days, we'll be running what I'm calling Prediction Playlists - collections of predictions centered around a particular theme. Hopefully they'll give you a point of entry into what can be an intimidating pile of #content. Today's theme: fake news. (Or: "FAKE NEWS!")

Will the quality of information we use to make political choices get any better in 2019? Or are we at the doorstep of an even worse era of "fake news" and other

mis-, dis-, and malinformation? These predictors looked at the big picture and, more often than not, came away less than perfectly optimistic.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Arkansas law requiring state contractors pledge not to boycott Israel has court challenge***

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Attorneys for an Arkansas newspaper asked a federal judge Friday to block a law requiring that contractors pledge not to boycott Israel, saying it forces businesses to give up their free speech rights in order to receive state money.

U.S. District Judge Brian Miller heard arguments in the Arkansas Times' lawsuit challenging the state's 2017 anti-boycott law. Miller said he hoped to rule soon on whether to block the law, which the Times and the American Civil Liberties Union argue is unconstitutional. The law requires contractors to reduce their fees by 20 percent if they don't sign the pledge.

The Times' lawsuit says the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College refused to contract for advertising with the newspaper unless the Arkansas Times signed the pledge. The paper isn't engaged in a boycott against Israel.

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

## **Today in History - January 9, 2019**



## By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2019. There are 356 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 9, 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union, the same day the *Star of the West*, a merchant vessel bringing reinforcements and supplies to Federal troops at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, retreated because of artillery fire.

### On this date:

In 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1908, French philosopher and feminist Simone de Beauvoir was born in Paris.

In 1913, Richard Milhous Nixon, the 37th president of the United States, was born in Yorba Linda, California.

In 1914, the County of Los Angeles opened the country's first public defender's office.



In 1916, the World War I Battle of Gallipoli ended after eight months with an Ottoman Empire victory as Allied forces withdrew.

In 1931, Bobbi Trout and Edna May Cooper broke an endurance record for female aviators as they returned to Mines Field in Los Angeles after flying a Curtiss Robin monoplane continuously for 122 hours and 50 minutes.

In 1945, during World War II, American forces began landing on the shores of Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines as the Battle of Luzon got underway, resulting in an Allied victory over Imperial Japanese forces.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat of Communist imperialism.

In 1972, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes, speaking by telephone from the Bahamas to reporters in Hollywood, said a purported autobiography of him by Clifford Irving was a fake.

In 1987, the White House released a January 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 1997, a Comair commuter plane crashed 18 miles short of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, killing all 29 people on board.

In 2001, Linda Chavez withdrew her bid to be President-elect George W. Bush's Secretary of Labor because of controversy over an immigrant in the U.S. illegally who'd once lived with her.

Ten years ago: The Illinois House voted 114-1 to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY'-uh-vich), who defiantly insisted again that he had committed no crime. (The Illinois Senate unanimously voted to remove Blagojevich from office 20 days later.) President-elect Barack Obama announced he had picked retired Adm. Dennis Blair to be the national intelligence director and Leon Panetta to head the CIA. A Saudi supertanker, the Sirius Star, and its crew of 25 were released at the end of a two-month standoff in the Gulf of Aden after pirates were reportedly paid \$3 million in ransom. (Five pirates were said to have drowned with their share of the money when their boat overturned.)

Five years ago: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie fired one of his top aides, Deputy Chief of Staff Bridget Anne Kelly, and apologized repeatedly for his staff's "stupid"

behavior, insisting during a news conference that he had no idea anyone around him had engineered traffic jams as part of a political vendetta against a Democratic mayor. A chemical plant spill into West Virginia's Elk River contaminated the water supply for Charleston, forcing more than 300,000 water customers in nine counties to stop using tap water. Activist poet-playwright Amiri Baraka, 79, died at a hospital in Newark, New Jersey.

One year ago: Downpours sent mud and boulders roaring down Southern California hillsides that had been stripped of vegetation by a gigantic wildfire; more than 20 people died and hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed. Breitbart News Network announced that Steve Bannon was stepping down as chairman after his public break with President Donald Trump. Former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio (ahr-PY'-oh) announced that he would run for the Senate seat being vacated by fellow Republican Jeff Flake; Arpaio had been spared a possible jail sentence when Trump pardoned him for disobeying a judge. (Arpaio finished third in an August primary won by Rep. Martha McSally.)

Today's Birthdays: Author Judith Krantz is 91. Football Hall of Famer Bart Starr is 85. Actress K. Callan is 83. Folk singer Joan Baez is 78. Rockabilly singer Roy Head is 78. Rock musician Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) is 75. Actor John Doman is 74. Singer David Johansen (aka Buster Poindexter) is 69. Singer Crystal Gayle is 68. Actor J.K. Simmons is 64. Actress Imelda Staunton is 63. Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberto Menchu is 60. Rock musician Eric Erlandson is 56. Actress Joely Richardson is 54. Rock musician Carl Bell (Fuel) is 52. Actor David Costabile is 52. Rock singer Steve Harwell (Smash Mouth) is 52. Rock singer-musician Dave Matthews is 52. Actress-director Joey Lauren Adams is 51. Comedian/actor Deon Cole is 48. Actress Angela Bettis is 46. Actor Omari Hardwick is 45. Roots singer-songwriter Hayes Carll is 43. Singer A.J. McLean (Backstreet Boys) is 41. Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, is 37. Pop-rock musician Drew Brown (OneRepublic) is 35. Rock-soul singer Paolo Nutini is 32. Actress Nina Dobrev is 30. Actor Basil Eidenbenz is 26. Actress Kerris Dorsey is 21. Actor Tyree Brown is 15.

**Thought for Today: "One's lifework, I have learned, grows with the working and the living. Do it as if your life depended on it, and first thing you know, you'll have made a life out of it. A good life, too." - Theresa Helburn, American theatrical producer (1887-1959).**

## 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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