

Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - February 14, 2019

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com
To: pjshane@gmail.com

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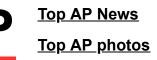
Connecting

February 14, 2019









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U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar wipes snow from her hair after announcing she is running for president of the United States, at Boom Island Park, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019, in Minneapolis. (Anthony Souffle/Star Tribune via AP)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning!

Connecting colleague **Steve Loeper** notes that U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar honored a certain AP reporter from Minnesota during her snowy presidential announcement on Sunday:

"My dad, whose here with us today at age 90, got a two-year degree from Vermillion Junior College, and then finished up at the University of Minnesota. He became a journalist.

"As a young Associated Press reporter he called the 1960 presidential race for John F. Kennedy. He covered the 1968 conventions. He interviewed everyone from Mike Ditka to Hubert Humphrey to Ronald Reagan to Ginger Rogers. Freedom of the press wasn't some abstract idea to dad. He embraced it. He lived it."

Klobuchar, Minnesota's three-term senior U.S. senator, announced she is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020. Her father, Jim Klobuchar, worked as a staff writer for the Associated Press in Minneapolis from 1953 to 1961. He later wrote for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis for three decades, and now writes an occasional column for The Christian Science Monitor.



Amy Klobuchar, father in 2018 Twitter selfie.

My apologies for running a month-old

Today in History in yesterday's edition. One of you who wrote accused me of trying to prolong this miserable winter. As one who has been slip-sliding on ice on my Ollie walks, no way!

Have a great Valentine's Day - and enjoy a couple Valentine's greetings in the Final Final Word.

Paul

Remembering Chuck Green



Here's a photo of Correspondent Chuck Green and the San Antonio staff in September, 1962. From left: mechanic-operator Gilbert Baldarrama, field maintenance man Aubrey Keel, operator Alicia (Mrs. Aubrey) Keel and Green. (Photo courtesy AP Corporate Archives)

Mike Johnson (Email) - Chuck and I worked together on the World Desk in New York as we waited for a foreign assignment. We were good friends, drank beer together and talked of our ambitions to do well for The AP. Chuck was a strapping lad who had a disarming manner about him that made him very likeable. He wore his cowboy boots to work, maybe the only guy in the newsroom who dared. I remember telling Claude Erbsen that Chuck was a great journalist who pretended to be a cowboy. He didn't fool me.

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Marty Thompson (Email) - Doug Tucker paid an inspiring tribute to his cousin with his account of Chuck Green's life published in Tuesday's Connecting.

Green's life makes a riveting story, and Tucker captured it well.

The story that might have become World War III

Mike Johnson (Email) - It was a tense period in Europe. Trouble was brewing in Prague but no one in the West took it seriously. A biography of Alexander Dubcek appeared in *Pravda* when he was appointed head of the Communist Party there in January 1968. Dubcek was replacing the unpopular Antonin Novotny. That was that, we thought.

I remember the bland official photo. Dubcek looked so young and callow. His biography gave nothing away. He was a Party loyalist, period. We expected no change.

I wrote the AP story in two paragraphs and moved on to something else. Hardly any paper picked it up.

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As we now know, Prague Spring followed, bringing freedom of expression to the people, but at the time it all appeared manageable. Moscow had the tanks and rockets and a huge army always ready to roll.

Five uneasy months passed, and in June, Moscow Bureau Chief Henry Bradsher assigned me to spend a week in Sweden traveling with Alexei Kosygin, Premier of the Soviet government. It was a ceremonial trip intended to worry Washington. Sweden was a socialist country too, and if Moscow could draw it closer to the East Bloc camp, it would strengthen the Soviet hand.

I saw it in a different light. For me, a young AP reporter, this was a major opportunity. I might get a chance to ask Kosygin what remedies he might be planning for the situation in Czechoslovakia. At the end of his five-day visit, I turned up at a surprise press conference along with a hundred reporters in a posh hotel ballroom in Stockholm. Brash and fearless at 28, I stood up and asked to Kosygin for



Alexei Kosygin

assurances that there would be no attempt to control the Czechoslovaks by military means. He dodged the question with the standard guff about fraternal countries and how they all loved socialism, but each time he intended to say "Sweden" he accidentally said "Czechoslovakia". "I'm very happy to be here in Czechoslovakia,"

said at one point. He apparently was so preoccupied didn't know where he was. The journalists were stifling snorts and giggles.

Finally an aide whispered to him that he was actually in Sweden, and he apologized.

This was proof, of sorts, that the Soviet leadership was focused on one thing: the events in Prague. We all jumped on the story with both feet. With my Swedish AP colleague Finn Persson, I had cased the press conference venue for a pay phone (we had no cellphones then) and bolted for the phone booth as soon as the press conference adjourned.

I dialed the Stockholm AP office and breathlessly dictated the story. We didn't take time to write breaking news. We were expected to grab the phone and dictate perfect sentences and paragraphs as fast as the deskman on the other end could type them.

Meanwhile, Moscow had announced that a meeting of the Warsaw Pact military alliance for East Europe was being organized in Poland in a couple of days. Kosygin had indirectly signaled that high-level military planning was under way, and it made headlines everywhere.

At Arlander Airport in Stockholm, I showed up for Kosygin's departure and managed to shout a question at him in Russian: "What's your next stop?" He gave me a withering glance, recognizing my youthful looks from the press conference the previous day, and shot back, "Warsaw. And if you don't believe me, ask the stewardess.

"No, no, I believe you," I said, provoking a sly smile from him.

This may have been the shortest interview in the history of journalism but I took some satisfaction at embarrassing a man who was famous for keeping his cool. It became an AP bulletin within minutes.

A couple of months later, in mid-August, I was awakened at 5 a.m. by the newly appointed AP bureau chief, Jack Bausman (Bradsher had moved on to a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard) hammering at my door. All communication with the outside world had been cut off, he told me. No international telephone calls, no AP wire, no Telex. It was clear to us that the invasion was under way, the first military action in Europe since the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956.

As the sun rose in Moscow, I was immersed in translating three solid pages in Pravda explaining to the Soviet people that regrettably a counter-revolution was being put down in Prague.

In our little AP bubble, the most important thing was different -- we had beaten Reuters and UPI by several hours.

Peter Rehak, Prague correspondent for The AP wrote the AP bulletin that alerted Washington the previous night. NATO intelligence had been caught napping. Secretary of State Dean Rusk was testifying at a Senate hearing when an aide interrupted him to pass along a copy of Peter's bulletin, and Rusk immediately headed for the White House. The U.S. decided not to intervene -- fortunately for all of us. That might well have triggered World War III.

Peter told me some years later he became aware of the invasion when he heard jet fighters screaming overhead en route to the Prague airport. "I knew this wasn't the night flight to Dubrovnik," he said. He switched on Radio Prague and heard the dreaded news that the Russians had landed and seized the airport.

When I got back to my apartment on Kutuzovsky Prospekt at the end of the day, Jacqueline told me our Russian maid had been in weeping openly -- not because of the invasion but because Moscow Radio had used its special chimes to alert the public of an important announcement coming. These chimes and the announcer's distinctive baritone voice brought back memories of World War II and bulletins from the front. The maid was choked up and started babbling about how much she missed Stalin.

Things were never simple in Moscow.

Connecting mailbox

Remembering a younger Allan Block in Gainesville

Dennis Conrad (Email) - I read with amusement about the Guild and its problems with the Block ownership at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, specially John Robinson Block, the publisher, and his twin brother, Allan Block, chairman of Toledo-based Block Communications. (See Wednesday's Connecting)

Some 40 years ago, when I was a young journalist employed at the then-New York Times Co.-owned Gainesville (Fla.) Sun, a slightly younger Allan Block, also worked there. He had recently graduated from Ivy League Penn and, as I best can recall, majored in Russian, not journalism. He was there about a year, rotating between different Sun departments. I can still visualize him doing paste up! He was dressed in his coat and tie!! The editors told us the Times' Sulzberger family and the Block media baron family in Toledo were friendly. As a favor to help Allan prepare for his

role as the leader of the next generation of Block media barons, he was given the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of newspapering at a Times property. During my time at the Sun, we also had a son of Sidney Gruson, the then vice chairman of the New York Times Co. and NYT foreign affairs columnist Flora Lewis, and a daughter of A.M. Rosenthal, then NYT executive editor.

Time flies!!!

P.S. In 1978, or so, Punch Sulzberger paid us a visit in the Sun newsroom. Hilariously, when I turned around in my chair to stand up to greet him, I somehow fell to the floor and his feet. I joked that he need not worry about workmen's comp. Years later, when he came back to visit the new Gainesville Sun building...with members of the NYT board of directors, including former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance...I brought my Time Magazine cover from the 1970s that had Punch on the cover. Punch autographed it for me, and so did Vance, as it turned out that same issue had a story about him in the Carter Administration.

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More on the real or imagined biases in news media

Jim Spehar (Email) - I've read with great interest the musings of Connecting colleagues reacting to the Letter to the Editor forwarded by Adolphe Bernotas and Paul Shane's subsequent missive regarding real or imagined biases in traditional news media, including the AP. They've included very different thoughts from two of the former bureau chiefs I worked for and with in Colorado, Mike Short and Joe McGowan. It's a subject I have also broached periodically in my weekly editorial page columns.

I also remember standing with Jim Hood in the back of a Washington Hilton ballroom at an AP Broadcasters convention in the early 1980s, listening to Ted Turner outlining his vision for CNN and wondering aloud while recalling our joint experiences in allnews radio "how the hell is he going to fill 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year?"

We've found out. CNN's success spawned competitors such as Fox News and MSNBC. Later evolutions have given us online sites too numerous to mention, some practicing journalism, others something quite different. Talking heads on all the cable networks offer a relatively cheap and easy way to fill time and often inject false equivalencies. Stories that earlier might have been handled in 250-400 words in print or in a minute or two on broadcast outlets now consume days. Talk show hosts, liberal and conservative, add to the noise.

The end result is each of us now have outlets providing us with our own set of facts matching our individual political and social biases. Rather than being challenged by seeking out and comparing opposing viewpoints, many simply term them "fake news" and return to their comfort zone. Politicians of all stripes have thrown gasoline on the fires throughout the Clinton, George W. Bush, Obama and Trump administrations.

Some lament that opinionated news stories have reached a peak lately. My own views are more aligned with Mike's than those of Joe. Here's my post-State the Union thinking outlined in a few graphs from last Sunday's opinion column:

"It'd be nice to think the President's call for unity and bipartisanship might begin a new era of collaboration and problem-solving in Washington and across the country. But we should keep in mind words of wisdom from Ralph Waldo Emerson.

"What you do, " Emerson said, "speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you say."

Most likely we'll see from the President ongoing distortion (if you're against a wall you don't care at all about border security). disinformation (an average or nearly a dozen lies or misstatements every day since his inauguration), distraction (mis-direction designed to avert attention from personal issues), division (picking fights with longtime allies, pitting Americans against one another), and disparagement (the only President in modern memory to resort to personal attacks and name-calling).

That reporters from the AP and other outlets persist in accurately reporting these sorts of things ought to be cause for celebration rather than concern. Perhaps the supposed neutrality some apparently think is missing might be provided by those robot "writers" we've also been reading about.

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How to buy 'Support Quality Journalism' shirt

Bill Wertz (Email) - in response to colleagues how to purchase a shirt - Support Quality Journalism - featured in Tuesday's Connecting, Click here for a link Spreadshirt provided for reorders of the newsboy/Support Quality Journalism shirt. Those using the link will have to enter new shipping and billing addresses and a different size if necessary. Those with superior design skills than I possess may want to start from scratch and come up with something even better!

Support Quality Journalism

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Connecting sky shot - Versoix, Switzerland



Chris Connell (Email) - Here's a view from Versoix (a few miles outside Geneva) of Mont Blanc as the sun set.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jim Bagby - jbagby3@kc.rr.com

Stories of interest

Washington Post Finds Itself in the Middle of the Jeff Bezos Story (New York Times)

By Edmund Lee

Jeff Bezos says owning The Washington Post is a "complexifier" for him. The newspaper could say the same about him.

The paper has flourished under Mr. Bezos' ownership. Since he bought the newspaper in 2013 for \$250 million, The Post has added over 200 people to its newsroom, which now numbers 900 journalists, and won plaudits and awards for its coverage of, among other subjects, the Trump administration. The paper has more than 1.5 million digital subscribers, and the business has been profitable for the past three years.

But the newsroom entered tricky editorial terrain last week when it became a factor in an apparent extortion attempt against Mr. Bezos, while also having to independently cover the events around its owner.

The drama featured a litany of classic tabloid elements that would challenge any newsroom - a marriage-busting affair documented by The National Enquirer, Hollywood agents with ties to political figures, secret rendezvous at high-end hotels and sexting - let alone one whose owner sits at the center of the controversy.

Read more here.

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Trump Tweeted a Photo of Iranian Protest. He Didn't Ask the Journalist Who Took It. (New York Times)



A protest at Tehran University in December 2017. President Trump used the image this week without permission, said Yalda Moayeri, the Iranian photojournalist who took the photo. Credit: Yalda Moayeri

By Thomas Erdbrink

TEHRAN - All her life Yalda Moayeri, a 37-year-old photojournalist from Iran, has struggled with men. She has dealt with mansplaining colleagues, Iranian censors and the country's security forces. Some created obstacles, others pressured her. She always fought back.

Now she's tangling with President Trump, who used a photograph she shot without permission for his own political purposes.

On the 40th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, celebrated on Monday, Mr. Trump tweeted an iconic image taken by Ms. Moayeri. The image - taken under dangerous circumstances - shows an unidentified protester in Tehran, her left fist raised while surrounded by smoke, during demonstrations in 2017.

Mr. Trump took aim at Iran's leaders, who he, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John R. Bolton all indirectly say must be changed.

Read more here. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Journalist and Duterte critic posts bail after libel arrest



Maria Ressa, the award-winning head of a Philippine online news site Rappler, talks to

the media after posting bail at a Regional Trial Court following an overnight arrest by National Bureau of Investigation agents on a libel case Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 in Manila, Philippines. Ressa was freed on bail Thursday after her arrest in a libel case. (AP Photo/Bullit Marguez)

By BULLIT MARQUEZ

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The award-winning head of a Philippine online news site that has aggressively covered President Rodrigo Duterte's administration was freed on bail Thursday after her arrest in a libel case.

National Bureau of Investigation agents served the warrant against Maria Ressa late Wednesday afternoon and escorted her from the Rappler Inc. office to NBI headquarters, where she stayed overnight in an office. The move against Ressa, who was one of Time magazine's Persons of the Year last year, was denounced by her outfit, Rappler Inc., and media watchdogs as a threat to press freedom. Duterte's government said the arrest was a normal step in response to a criminal complaint.

"What we're seeing is death by a thousand cuts of our democracy," Ressa told reporters after posting bail in the Manila regional trial court that issued a warrant for her arrest.

She accused the government of abusing its power and of using the law as a weapon to muzzle dissent. "I'm appealing to you not to be silent ... you have to express outrage."

Read more here.

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Don't make it so complicated (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

Hold on now, don't go directly to Twitter to yell at me. I understand that a lot of the things local news has to deal with are complicated: corporate owners, readers with new behaviors, ad revenue, Facebook.

It's easy to forget that sometimes, simple things that local newsrooms do the best can still work. The Student Spotlight project from The Daily Dispatch in Henderson, North Carolina is a great example. The short version is this: This small newspaper that serves a poor county got sponsorship to feature hard-working local students. In its first year, the project broke even. This year, it will bring in a profit.

You can read more about the project here, but first, some quick lessons:

You don't have to have a big staff or a lot of resources to try something new. The Daily Dispatch has 14 people, including the guy who gets the papers from the presses.

Read more here.

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Newspaper drops 'Non Sequitur' cartoon over Trump insult

BUTLER, Pa. (AP) - At least one newspaper says it has dropped the syndicated cartoon "Non Sequitur" after a vulgar message to President Donald Trump appeared in it.

The Butler Eagle in Pennsylvania reported Sunday that the "shot at President Donald Trump" will cost cartoonist Wiley Miller "his place in the Eagle's Sunday comics."

A scribbled message in one panel of that day's cartoon appears to begin with "We fondly say go ..." followed by the message to Trump.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

The night artists: Nashville's loyal pressmen face their final deadline (Tennessean)



Wayne Dale installs a new roll of newsprint as the Tennessean pressmen print the Thanksgiving Day paper Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn. (Photo: Larry McCormack / The Tennessean)

By Brett Kelman, Nashville Tennessean

It is the day before Thanksgiving, and deep inside The Tennessean building on Broadway, a great mechanical beast has begun to stir. The machine is fed 32 tons of recycled paper from spools half as large as a car and slurps up black ink piped in from 4,200-gallon vats in a basement two floors below.

The stale air stinks like roofing tar. The floor is slippery with a faint inky dew. A blue wall of machinery, as large and loud as a passing train, starts to churn and hiss, stamping aluminum against rubber and rubber against paper until a ribbon of printed pages flies by in a blur.

After a chaotic moment, the beast spits out its first newspaper. Then another. Then another. Then dozens and hundreds and thousands more, piled together on a narrow conveyor belt that leads into a soundproofed room where six pressmen in ink-stained work shirts wait anxiously.

They grab copies and flip through the pages, checking for defects.

"OK, guys," shouts Mark Epling, a longtime supervisor. "This is our last chance to get it right."

Read more here. Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

The Final, Final Word





Today in History - February 14, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2019. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Feb. 14, 2018, a gunman identified as a former student opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School near Fort Lauderdale, Florida, killing 17 people in the nation's deadliest school shooting since the attack in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years earlier.

On this date:

In 1663, New France (Canada) became a royal province under King Louis XIV.

In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union as President William Howard Taft signed a proclamation.

In 1913, labor leader Jimmy Hoffa was born in Brazil, Ind.; college football coach Woody Hayes was born in Clifton, Ohio; sports broadcaster Mel Allen was born in Birmingham, Ala.

In 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

In 1949, Israel's Knesset convened for the first time.

In 1876, inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray applied separately for patents related to the telephone. (The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled Bell the rightful inventor.)

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (she lived until November, 1990).

In 2013, double-amputee and Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa; he was later convicted of murder and is serving a 13-year prison term. American Airlines and US Airways announced an \$11 billion merger that turned American into the world's biggest airline.

In 2017, a former store clerk was convicted in New York of murder in one of the nation's most haunting missing-child cases, nearly 38 years after 6-year-old Etan Patz (AY'-tahn payts) disappeared while on the way to a school bus stop.

Ten years ago: Savoring his first big victory in Congress, President Barack Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address to celebrate the just-passed \$787 billion economic stimulus bill as a "major milestone on our road to recovery." Jazz drummer Louie Bellson, who'd performed with Duke Ellington and Bellson's late wife, Pearl Bailey, died in Los Angeles at age 84.

Five years ago: Drawing a link between climate change and California's drought, President Barack Obama said the U.S. had to stop thinking of water as a "zero-sum" game and needed to do a better job of figuring out how to make sure everyone's water needs were satisfied. An attempt by the United Auto Workers to organize employees at a Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, fell short in a 712-626 vote. Jim Fregosi, a former All-Star who'd won more than 1,000 games as a manager for four teams, died in Miami at age 71.

One year ago: Stormy Daniels' manager said the porn star now believed she was free to discuss what she said was a sexual encounter with Donald Trump; she believed that Trump lawyer Michael Cohen had invalidated a non-disclosure agreement. After initially appearing to cast doubt on allegations that former aide Rob Porter had abused two ex-wives, Trump declared that he was "totally opposed to domestic violence." South African president Jacob Zuma, whose tenure had been marked by scandals, resigned after being ordered to do so by his party, the African National Congress.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 98. Actor Andrew Prine is 83. Country singer Razzy Bailey is 80. Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is 77. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 76. Movie director Alan Parker is 75. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 75. Former Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., is 72. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 71. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 71. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (doo-SAY') (Beausoleil) is 68. Actor Ken Wahl is 62. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 60. Actress Meg Tilly is 59. Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly is 59. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 58. Actress Sakina Jaffey is 57. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 56. Actor Zach Galligan is 55. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 55. Rock musician Ricky Wolking (The Nixons) is 53. Former tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 52. Actor Simon Pegg is 49. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 47. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 47. Former NFL quarterback Drew Bledsoe is 47. Actress Danai Gurira is 41. Actor Matt Barr is 35. Actress Stephanie Leonidas is 35.

Actor Jake Lacy is 33. Actress Tiffany Thornton is 33. Actor Brett Dier is 29. Actor Freddie Highmore is 27.

Thought for Today: "To find a man's true character, play golf with him." - P.G. Wodehouse (1881-1975).

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.

Paul Stevens Editor, Connecting newsletter paulstevens46@gmail.com

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