



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

# Connecting - April 19, 2019

1 message

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

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# Connecting

April 19, 2019

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Photo by Dodi Fromson

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April,

An exhibition of the work of our colleague **Nick Ut** has opened with a display of his finest work from a five-decade photographic career with The Associated Press that began during the Vietnam War and ended in Los Angeles.

"From Hell to Hollywood" - presented by Leica Gallery Los Angeles - opened April 11 at its gallery in West Hollywood and will continue through June 3. It features some of his most iconic photographs, from "The Terror of War" - which depicts the infamous "Napalm Girl" that won a Pulitzer Prize - to celebrity-focused images such as the O.J. Simpson case. Nick retired from the AP in 2017 after a 51-year career. Today, he continues teaching workshops, participating in speaking engagements and featuring his work in exhibitions.



Nick Ut at exhibition

His email is - [nickut72@gmail.com](mailto:nickut72@gmail.com)

In a Leica news release on the exhibition, Nick described the scene:

"In the morning there was very heavy fighting and bombing in the village so some of the media left before they dropped the napalm because they thought they had gotten enough material," Ut recollects.

"They dropped the napalm around noon.

When I first saw the napalm explosion, I didn't think there were any civilians in the village...Then I started to see people come out of the fireball and smoke...As they got closer, I switched to my Leica M2 with a 35mm f/2 lens. First there was a

grandmother carrying a baby who died in front of my camera. Then I saw through the viewfinder the naked girl running. I thought, "Oh my god. What happened? The girl has no clothes." I took almost a roll of Tri-x film of her then I saw her skin coming off and I stopped taking pictures [to help get her and the other children to a hospital]."



Our colleagues **Linda Deutsch** and **Dodi Framson** were on hand for the opening reception. Dodi sent along photos and Linda produced a story that leads today's issue.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

## 'From Hell to Hollywood' - An exhibition

### of AP photographer Nick Ut's finest work



Nick with Linda Deutsch (left) and Dodi Fromson

By LINDA DEUTSCH ([Email](#))

It was another April, 44 years ago, in a dusty tent city on Guam that I first encountered Nick Ut. In retrospect, we were both kids. He had just become the youngest photographer ever to win a Pulitzer Prize for his iconic photo of the "Napalm Girl," a picture that has been credited with helping to end the Vietnam War. I was an increasingly well-known reporter with The Associated Press in Los Angeles. And, in a life altering series of events, Nick was evacuated from Vietnam at the fall of Saigon on April 15, 1975, and I was assigned to cover the extraordinary events unfolding as he and thousands of refugees were brought by ships to the Pacific island, a temporary stopover enroute to their new lives in the United States.

This April as I stood in the glittering Leica photo gallery in West Hollywood where hundreds of guests had come to see Nick's latest photo exhibit, I was thrust back in memory to those days on Guam and to Nick's landing in Los Angeles where, in spite of his fame, he blended into the AP staff as a regular news photographer. That was where Nick and I reunited and cemented our friendship and our collaboration on many stories. His work was never ordinary.

The title of this year's exhibit: "From Hell to Hollywood," was so appropriate. There were his heart-rending Vietnam War photos that made viewers gasp. In one shot of the aftermath of a battle bright flowers in the foreground showed Nick's talent for finding the beautiful even in the ugliness of war. In recent years, since his retirement, he has produced magnificent nature photos and shots of airplanes silhouetted against the moon.

In his years at AP/LA Nick distinguished himself with celebrity images for the ages. Some photos in the exhibit were like seeing a slide show of my own career. Nick was with me at the Michael Jackson trial and the Robert Blake trial, both of which were represented by his amazing photos. His one-of-a-kind shot of O.J Simpson the night of his arrest marked the start of our collaboration at that trial. Celebrities represented in this show included an elderly Bette Davis and Paris Hilton. And demonstrating the diversity of his subjects, there was the memorable photo of President Obama leaving a helicopter laughing with his daughter.

Another news photographer attending the show told me: "We were all there that day. It was a routine arrival. But Nick was the one that got that picture."

Leica has adopted Nick as a symbol of the company. His most famous picture, The Napalm Girl, was shot with a Leica camera and he has traveled the world appearing at exhibits of his work at Leica galleries. He often uses an assortment of lenses these days to capture images. But it was clear at this show that Nick's most important tool is his amazing artist's eye and the instinct for clicking the shutter at the right time.

## **Jack Elcik - retired art director in New York Graphics - dies**



**New York graphics artist Stan Kohler is surrounded by friends and co-workers at his retirement party in June 1996. Pictured, left to right: Graphics artist Bill Castello (kneeling), Kohler; second row, Gene Schroeder, Bruce Nathan, Linda Carbone of World Services, General News Editor Jack Cappon, Dan Perks; third row, APN's Ron Berthel, Graphics artist Ed DeGasero, retired AP artist Al Simonsen, former art director Jack Elcik and Membership's Phyllis Crook. In the back are Mary Campbell and Norm Goldstein from APN. (Photo by Ed Bailey; appeared in AP World, provided by AP Corporate Archives)**

AP retiree John (Jack) Elcik died on April 14, according to his wife, Elizabeth. They lived in Middle Village, New York.

Elcik worked as art director in New York Graphics during his 35-year career that began in 1958 and continued until his retirement in 1994.

Hal Buell, retired AP photos director, said Elcik headed up the AP Newsfeatures art staff for many years, providing illustrations and graphics for the many different services that APN produced and delivered primarily via mail. His operation was separate and independent of the Wirephoto art staff.

"Jack was a delightful guy with a wonderful sense of humor and was a talented artist himself in addition to his duties managing the weekly output of his staff," Buell said. "We frequently helped each other out when the news pressures required extra art production to meet news pressures. Jack always pitched in, and we did likewise."



## A memory of Jon Wolman

**Mike Harris** ([Email](#)) - I never met Jon Wolman face to face, though we did have a sort of relationship. Both of us were born and raised in Madison, WI, and both of our families were members of Beth Israel Synagogue there. Jon was a few years younger than me, so we never shared a classroom or any friends, but our parents were friendly and I know our paths had crossed at some point.

In 2001, Dale Earnhardt, NASCAR's biggest star, was killed in a crash during the Daytona 500. I wrote the main, which got great play throughout North America. That came as no surprise since Earnhardt was a very big name nationally. But the surprise came a couple of days later when a letter arrived from Jon. In it was a clipping of my bylined story from the English language paper in Beijing and a very complimentary note from Jon, who had been in China on AP business. A while later, I somehow found out it was Jon's birthday and I sent him an email with my congratulations and a thank you for the clipping and note I also mentioned our Madison connection. Jon wrote back, saying he remembered my family and, because, of our similar upbringings had kept an eye on my career from afar.

Reading all the remembrances in Connecting, I'm sorry I never got to work with Jon. His career and the admiration of his colleagues and friends speak for themselves.

## Recalling his favorite AP assignment, nearly seven decades later

**Eldon Cort** ([Email](#)) - You've asked for favorite assignments in AP life, and as I sit at computer in Tallahassee about 67 years later, I am thinking about my career in AP.

It began when my dad, Horace Cort, photographer, said to me: "Eldon, its time you started a work career. There is a job open at AP and you begin tomorrow, Saturday." I asked, "where do I apply?" He said the job is yours. "I already signed you up for it. Just go to work at 8:30 and you will be taught from there!"

So, it began, about 67 years ago, as copy boy in Atlanta!

The interesting assignment, was about 1959, in Des Moines, Iowa. Technician Eldon was sent to Cedar Rapids to take a 6000 transmitter to a location that was involved with transmitting/receiving a signal bounced off one of the early satellites between Dallas, Texas, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



**Eldon Cort**

I arrived at the location as a 22-year old young man who had never seen a dish antenna except on news programs, on very limited TV, basically naive about the modern communications of satellites. Getting out of my car and walking into a field of multiple 30- to 60-foot antennas and just gazing and saying "WOW!, This is truly the future."



**TTY operator Eldon Cort shown with a M19 Teletype, a GE photofax in the Montgomery AP bureau.**

As memory recalls the satellite was a balloon type, reflective unit and the signals were actually "bounced" off the skin's highly reflective surface. This might have been as late as 1960, but I also did an AP stint in Raleigh, North Carolina, before transferring to Tallahassee in November 1962.

Anyway, the next several hours were spent watching others fiddle with massive arrays of electronics and listening to the old AP chirping, the transmitters made, while the signals bounced off the satellite, Special timing to utilize the highest peak of signal strength, and skewed pictures caused by the speed/distance the satellite traveled across the vast open sky surrounding us.

As I was in Cedar Rapids, the COC Al Stewart, back at the bureau, was absolutely chomping at the bits to be on the scene during this magical testing of the transition possibilities to reach out with the AP services.



I completed 50 years with AP and now retired 17 years, and looking back, "God sure got me thru a lot of stuff with a great bunch of COC's, and daddy, pushing all the time."

## Journalist who covered Columbine wonders about lives unlived



**FILE - In this April 24, 1999, file photo, students embrace each other at a makeshift memorial for their slain classmates at Columbine High School on a hilltop overlooking the school in Littleton, Colo. Twelve students and one teacher were killed in a murderous rampage at the school on April 20, 1999, by two students who killed themselves in the aftermath. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews, File)**

**By TED ANTHONY**

NEW YORK (AP) - Daniel. Rachel. Isaiah.

"You can't prove a negative," our teachers and parents sometimes tell us when we're young.

Yet when I look back upon my time in Colorado covering the almost-adults who were killed in the Columbine High School attack 20 years ago this week, all I can see are the negatives: the people who aren't there anymore. I think of their names - names I typed and said and thought of, over and over, for a time.

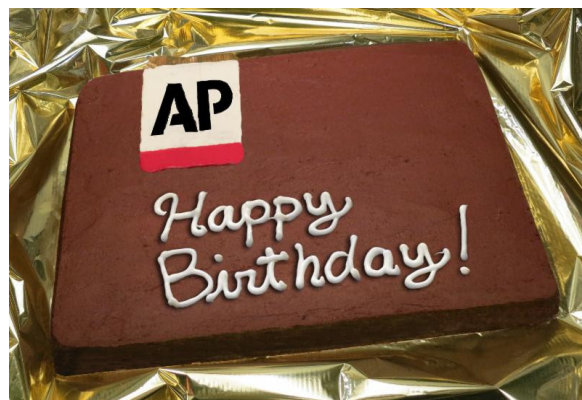
Corey. Kyle. Kelly.

Nearly half my life later, when I think of Columbine, it isn't what actually happened that occupies my mind. Instead, my brain goes to what's no longer there. It goes to the undefined, usually unnoticed holes in the fabric of today - the spaces where people I never met are missing from the world for longer than they were here. To the long, silent aftermaths where lives used to be. To the names that fleetingly became part of my moment-to-moment life and then, as for so many, receded and faded.

Cassie. Steve. Daniel again.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

John Dorfman - [jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com](mailto:jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com)

*On Saturday to...*

Ron Thompson - [rmthomfla@aol.com](mailto:rmthomfla@aol.com)

George Zucker - [glzucker@aol.com](mailto:glzucker@aol.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Marty Steinberg - [marcello.steinberg@gmail.com](mailto:marcello.steinberg@gmail.com)

## Welcome to Connecting



Marlene Johnson - [loujohnm@gmail.com](mailto:loujohnm@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***Journalist shot dead in Northern Ireland rioting***



**A car burns after petrol bombs were thrown at police in the Creggan area of Londonderry, in Northern Ireland, Thursday, April 18, 2019. (Niall Carson/PA via AP)**

**By GREGORY KATZ**

LONDON (AP) - The dissident republican group, the New IRA, was most likely responsible for the fatal shooting of a journalist during overnight rioting in the city of Londonderry, police in Northern Ireland said Friday.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland said 29-year-old journalist and author Lyra McKee died after she was shot during rioting in the Creggan area.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Hamilton said a gunman fired a number of shots at police during the unrest Thursday evening.

"We believe this to be a terrorist act," he said. "We believe it has been carried out by violent dissident republicans."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Hatred of journalists turning to violence, watchdog warns*** (AFP)

By Fiachra GIBBONS, AFP

Hatred of journalists whipped up by populist and authoritarian leaders is degenerating into violence across the world, media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) warned Thursday.

And the number of countries where journalists can work safely is plummeting, its annual World Press Freedom Index revealed.

Political leaders' hostility towards the media "has incited increasingly frequent acts of violence that have fuelled an unprecedented level of fear and danger for journalists," the report added.

"If the political debate slides towards a civil war-style atmosphere, where journalists are treated as scapegoats, then democracy is in great danger," RSF chief Christophe Deloire said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

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## ***The Must-Have When Reporting on Disasters: A Satellite Phone*** (New York Times)

Featuring Thomas Fuller

How do New York Times journalists use technology in their jobs and in their personal lives? Thomas Fuller, a national correspondent based in San Francisco, discussed the tech he's using.

As a national reporter, you often find yourself caught in breaking news situations. What tech do you use when covering mass shootings? How about when covering fires?

My previous job was Southeast Asia correspondent, and I would lug around a satellite phone on trips to remote places like northern Myanmar. When I arrived in San Francisco three years ago, I didn't think I would need it. But the California wildfires of the last two years knocked out cell coverage, especially the wine country fires of 2017.

So the satellite phone became indispensable for filing on tight deadlines. I put the phone, which is about the size of a laptop, on the roof of the car, pointed it toward the satellite and ran a cable through the window into the front seat, where I plugged into my laptop.

When I covered mass shootings, some of the people I interviewed were concerned about privacy, so to communicate securely, we used Signal, the encrypted phone app.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

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## ***Once an Endangered Species, Journalists Make a Miraculous Comeback at the Colo Capitol*** (Colorado Times Recorder)

**By Jason Salzman**

Like endangered fish that seemed destined to disappear from a once-important lake, journalists have made a miraculous comeback at Colorado's Capitol, which is now teeming with about the same number of reporters who were assigned there from the 1960s through the 1990s.

"I would have to say, yes, your perception is correct," said Charles Ashby, Capitol reporter for the Grand Junction Sentinel, when asked if his species of journalist was thriving at the Capitol, compared to the old days. "While I can't speak on how many people were around in the 60s, 70s and 80s (because I may be the Capitol dean and

Oldnewsman, I'm not THAT old), my understanding is there are about the same or maybe slightly fewer people covering the Capitol these days."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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## ***Sonoma Media Investments, owner of The Press Democrat, pays off debt***

**By JULIE JOHNSON, THE PRESS DEMOCRAT**

The media group that owns The Press Democrat announced Wednesday the company has repaid its investors and is now debt free, nearly seven years after a prominent group of Sonoma County residents purchased the newspaper with a mission to restore local ownership.

Sonoma Media Investments assembled about \$15 million in debt and equity funding in November 2012 to acquire The Press Democrat, Petaluma Argus-Courier and North Bay Business Journal for an undisclosed price from Florida-based Halifax Media Group, according to Steve Falk, the company's CEO.

Eliminating that debt will allow the company to focus its financial resources on local journalism and community involvement, Falk said.

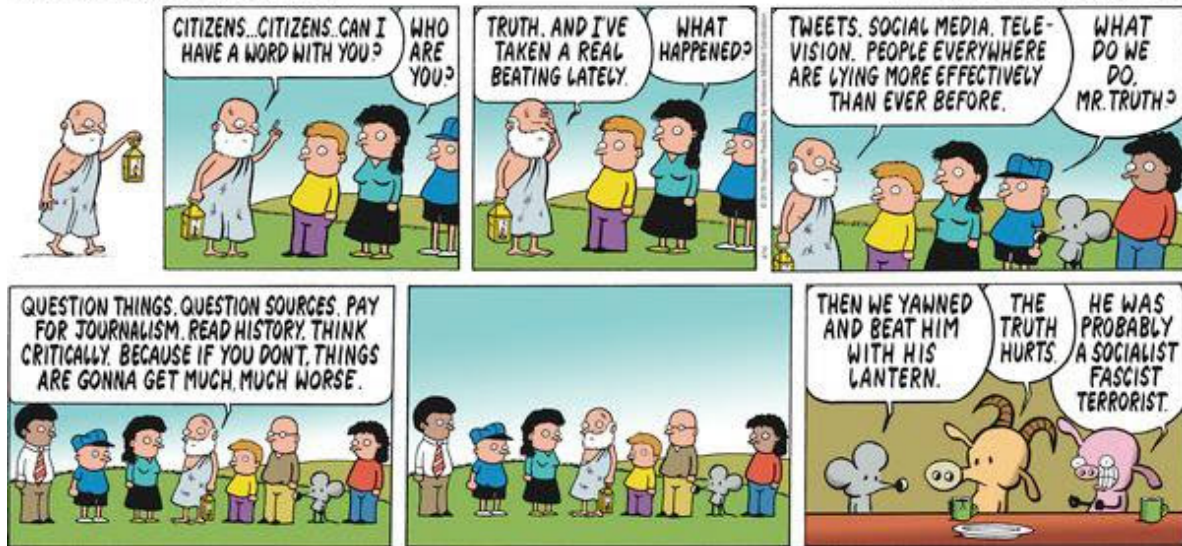
"It's an assurance that our focus on local journalism, local reporting, will continue," Falk said. "We're involved with dozens of community organizations, and that support will continue."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Marty Thompson.

## **The Final Word**

**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**

BY STEPHAN PASTIS



(Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

# Today in History - April 19, 2019

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, April 19, the 109th day of 2019. There are 256 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On April 19, 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (Bomber Timothy McVeigh, who prosecutors said



had planned the attack as revenge for the Waco siege of two years earlier, was convicted of federal murder charges and executed in 2001.)

### **On this date:**

In 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1865, a funeral was held at the White House for President Abraham Lincoln, assassinated five days earlier; his coffin was then taken to the U.S. Capitol for a private memorial service in the Rotunda.

In 1939, Connecticut became the last of the original 13 colonies to ratify the Bill of Rights, 147 years after it took effect.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but ultimately futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Harry S. Truman, bade farewell in an address to Congress in which he quoted a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1966, Bobbi Gibb, 23, became the first woman to run the Boston Marathon at a time when only men were allowed to participate. (Gibb jumped into the middle of the pack after the sound of the starting pistol and finished in 3:21:40.)

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Ingraham v. Wright*, ruled 5-4 that even severe spanking of schoolchildren by faculty members did not violate the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa in the Caribbean. (The Navy initially suspected that a dead crew member had deliberately sparked the blast, but later said there was no proof of that.)

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; about 80 people, including two dozen children and sect leader David Koresh, were killed.

In 1994, a Los Angeles jury awarded \$3.8 million to beaten motorist Rodney King.

In 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany was elected pope in the first conclave of the new millennium; he took the name Benedict XVI.

In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv), a 19-year-old college student wanted in the Boston Marathon bombings, was taken into custody after a manhunt that had left the city virtually paralyzed; his older brother and alleged accomplice, 26-year-old Tamerlan (TAM'-ehr-luhn), was killed earlier in a furious attempt to escape police.

Ten years ago: The Summit of the Americas wrapped up in Trinidad and Tobago; afterward, President Barack Obama held a news conference in which he defended his brand of world politics, saying he "strengthens our hand" by reaching out to enemies of the United States. Author J.G. Ballard, a survivor of a Japanese prison camp who reached a wide audience with the autobiographical "Empire Of The Sun," died in London at age 78. Felix "Doc" Blanchard, football superhero for Army and winner of the 1945 Heisman Trophy, died at his central Texas home at age 84.

Five years ago: The captain of a ferry that sank off the coast of South Korea, leaving more than 300 dead, was arrested on suspicion of negligence and abandoning people in need. (Lee Joon-seok was later sentenced to 36 years in prison; he was acquitted of a homicide charge which could have carried a death sentence.) Ten months after their capture in Syria, four French journalists crossed the border into neighboring Turkey to freedom, though dozens more remained held in the country's chaotic civil war. Country music singer Kevin Sharp, 43, died in Fair Oaks, California.

One year ago: Raul Castro turned over Cuba's presidency to Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, the first non-Castro to hold Cuba's top government office since the 1959 revolution led by Fidel Castro and his younger brother Raul. Democratic Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois brought her 10-day-old daughter to the Senate floor one day after senators approved a new rule permitting it; Duckworth was the first senator to have given birth while serving in the Senate. Walter Leroy Moody, age 83, was executed by lethal injection in Alabama for the mail-bomb slaying of a federal judge in 1989; Moody became the oldest prisoner put to death in the U.S. in modern times. Authorities in Minnesota ended their investigation into the death of music superstar Prince from an accidental overdose without charging anyone in the case.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elinor Donahue is 82. Rock musician Alan Price (The Animals) is 77. Actor Tim Curry is 73. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 72. Actor Tony Plana is 67. Former tennis player Sue Barker is 63. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser Jr. is 57. Actor Tom Wood is 56. Recording executive Suge Knight is 54. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 52. Actress Kim

Hawthorne (TV: "Greenleaf") is 51. Actress Ashley Judd is 51. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 51. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 49. Actress Jennifer Esposito is 47. Actress Jennifer Taylor is 47. Jazz singer Madeleine Peyroux (PAY'-roo) is 45. Actor James Franco is 41. Actress Kate Hudson is 40. Actor Hayden Christensen is 38. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 38. Actress-comedian Ali Wong is 37. Actress Victoria Yeates is 36. Actress Kelen Coleman is 35. Actor Zack Conroy is 34. Roots rock musician Steve Johnson (Alabama Shakes) is 34. Actor Courtland Mead is 32. Tennis player Maria Sharapova is 32.

**Thought for Today: "Never one thing and seldom one person can make for a success. It takes a number of them merging into one perfect whole." - Marie Dressler, Canadian actress (1869-1934).**

## Connecting calendar



**June 20** - 25-Year Club Celebration, 5:30 - 8 p.m., AP headquarters, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY. RSVP by May 10. RSVP online [here](#). Any questions may be directed to [recognition@ap.org](mailto:recognition@ap.org)

**August 17** - Albany AP bureau reunion (including other upstate bureaus), 1-5 p.m., Marc and Carla Humbert residence on Tsatsawassa Lake, [68 Marginal Way, East Nassau, NY](#). Contact: Chris McKnight ([Email](#)).

## 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](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

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