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Connecting - July 03, 2019

1 message

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Wed, Jul 3, 2019 at 8:54 AM

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Connecting

July 03, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 3rd day of July 2019,

In Tuesday's Connecting, **Gene Herrick** filed a remarkable post on his memories of witnessing the accidental strafing of British troops as an AP photographer during the Korean War, coming within an eyelash of being shot by an enraged soldier and then

putting down his camera to carry a stretcher for a wounded soldier. If you missed it, I recommend you take the time to go back and read. It got responses from:

Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - What a vivid, haunting story by Gene Herrick about covering an accidental U.S. strafing of British troops in Korea in 1950. As much as anything I've ever read, he depicts war's surreal, random nature. I'm awed by the courage he showed, both in handling the circumstances of that day and examining them honestly so many years later.



Gene Herrick

Andrew Selsky ([Email](#)) - Thank you to Gene Herrick for sharing his haunting story about the Korean War in Tuesday's Connecting. I can see how his memories about that day remain as vivid as if it happened yesterday.

Sylvia Wingfield ([Email](#)) - THANK YOU, GENE HERRICK for going "down into the depths" of soul and memory to share a very moving story from the Korean War. It is a remarkable account from a day of random devastation.

Doing anything special to celebrate the Fourth of July? Share it with me so I can share it with you all in the morning before we head to our traditional celebration in Branson USA. (If you were born on the 4th of July, let me know that too...my records aren't the best.)

The only Connecting colleague I know who is a Catholic nun, **Sister Donalda Kehoe** ([Email](#)) of Dubuque, Iowa, wrote to share this holiday advice:

An old, anonymous piece of advice good only at this time. "The one who goes forth with a 'fifth' on the fourth, will have a hard time going forth on the fifth."

Our Mailbox for today is full and varied, and so with no further adieu...

Have a great day!

Paul

On moving or not moving a tragic photo

Bob Daugherty ([Email](#)) - Writing on the dilemma of moving a tragic image such as the bodies of the migrant father and his daughter:

I recall a story that broke late one night in Indianapolis when I had been on AP staff for just a few months. A massive gas explosion occurred during a Holiday on Ice show at the Fairground Coliseum. I arrived at the scene at about the same time the firemen did. The very first frame I made showed a woman who had lost her clothing except for undergarments (including a girdle). Firemen were trying to extricate her from the concrete rubble.



Incidentally, more than 75 people were killed. That was the first image I sent. It was chosen as the most illustrative of the story at the moment. We later transmitted covered bodies on the ice awaiting the coroner. It never occurred to me that the pictures should not be sent. For the next 43 years I always felt that we (the AP) should never get into the business of "censoring" images that were important to a story. We should always let our members and clients decide to use or not.

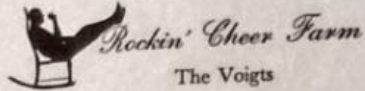
As a footnote: It was interesting to note that my local paper chose not to use the image of the dead father and daughter. It was difficult to find a story and image that strayed beyond the city limits.

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Chris Stanfield ([Email](#)) - I was getting ready for work this morning and got irritated with my daughter who was delayed in getting ready for a road trip with her mother. This man woke up the other day willing to risk his life and the life of his daughter for a perceived better life in a foreign land. There are laws and rules to follow for entering our country, but what have we become if we hold them more important than human life itself? I am heartbroken, frustrated and sad. As men, we want to fix things. We want to fix everything! Our pride gets in the way all too often and when we only see things in black and white, young girls and fathers end up dead on the shores of the Rio Grande. Other migrants - lucky enough to reach dry land - end up in cages. The art of compassion and listening have escaped us, clouded by our blood-thirst to be right in every debate under the guise of liberty, protection and freedom. I am a patriot through-and-through and conservative to the core ... but this has to stop. Life and love should win out. Every. Single. Time.

On the discrimination suit against the AP

Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) - I was going through some files Tuesday and came across the attached letter I received after I was named news editor in Atlanta.



Blackshear, Ga. 31516
Route 3
Phone 912-449-5271

August 8, 1980

Ms. Peggy Walsh
News Editor, AX
The AP
30 Pryor, SW
Atlanta, Ga., 30303

Dear Peggy:

As bureau chief in Pittsburgh away back yonder, 14 years before you were born, I presided over a staff of 15 with nary a skirt to swish by or soprano voice to try to rise above the then damn' loud chatter of the old style teletype machines.

And today I think I was the loser because of the absence.

It was good to read yesterday of your promotion. My wife "made it" twice: as one of the first contingent of WAAC in WWII, she came out a major; as a stenotype reporter doing verbatim stuff at up to 250 words a minute, she "integrated" the courthouse at Harrisburg, the first woman court reporter there in its 185-year history. She had to be at least twice as good as the nearest man in either job--and I suspect your situation isn't much different; I'll gamble that you're a damn' good reporter/editor. My compliments to you. And your next way station on the road up??? If I hear about it you'll get another letter of congrats then.

Sincerely,

William Voigt, Jr.

In light of Monday's Connecting piece on the discrimination suit against AP, the letter from Mr. Voigt, who I never had the pleasure of meeting, speaks volumes. A man ahead of his time. No wonder I kept it.

It would be interesting to find out about his tenure as bureau chief in Pittsburgh.

EDITOR'S NOTE: According to Corporate Archives records: William Voigt (b. 10/13/1901) joined the AP in Oklahoma City in 1931. From 1931 to 1935 he was in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. In 1935 he spent a few months in Kansas City and New York, and then served as COB in Pittsburgh, 1935-36. He resigned in October 1936.

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Karol Stonger (Email) - I had stopped working at the AP when the women filed their discrimination suit, but I shared in the winnings for which I was grateful. More than that, I was proud of them for moving forward with the equal pay, equal opportunity issues. We had all suffered discrimination, though I don't think AP saw it as such. When I joined AP in Indianapolis in 1964, I was hired at the beginner salary negotiated by the union. Anything beyond union pay was on merit. I'm sure most merit raises were deserved, but one path to a bigger paycheck, according to 7th floor reasoning: "We gave him a raise because he just had another kid."

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Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - That was a fine Poynter piece by my union sister and colleague Martha Waggoner on how the union for AP staffers with seven courageous women opened the company to females and minorities. Such narratives are especially important because from time to time someone waxes rhapsodic about how the AP has been oh so enlightened in hiring and promoting people of color and women.

Historically the facts are different. The AP fought the union and the heroic female plaintiffs viciously (as Waggoner's story underscores), obstructing, blocking, distracting, forcing the Guild to spend thousands of dollars in staffer union dues on legal bills to preserve the status quo - a company run and staffed mostly by white guys. Grim talks in the union's councils often concerned whether it was worth spending down the local's treasury into near bankruptcy in what seemed an endless, years-long struggle. Our giant of a labor and civil rights lawyer, Sidney Reitman, who told us, "If you abandon this, you will never see me again."

How pleasant in Martha Waggoner's piece to see familiar names and conversations of colleagues and friends - Maureen Connolly, Rachelle Cohen and Virginia Sherlock.

Ginny Pitt Sherlock, a friend and one of those heroic women put it well to Martha, that despite advances in the news biz, not all is well:

"I'd love to say that everything's fine now," Sherlock said. "But it's not. Women and minorities are still not at the same pay level. I can say with some measure of satisfaction that huge steps have been taken. ... But c'mon, what is it, 40 years? We can do better."

Another memory of Dick Benke

Brian Bland (Email) - Dick Benke was one of the first people I met when I joined the AP 40 years ago in Los Angeles. Like all great editors, he was a teacher; you read the lede he (re)wrote for your story, and you learned. He went against type, though - he laughed easily and found humor in most situations. He was one of the few people I recall who arrived at work every day empty-handed - no briefcase or bag of any kind. He'd sit down, stuff a full pack of gum in his mouth and start working.

But no one's perfect. One time we had a phone discussion about the structure of the story I'd just called in. I believe I tried to steer Dick away from some change in wording he wanted to make. He wrote it anyway, and, unfortunately, introduced an error, which someone else told me about during another call. When I returned to the office later, I was surprised Dick wasn't there. I walked to his desk. Curled up in a ball in the well of the desk was Dick, in mock terror, saying something like, "Don't hit me! Don't hit me!" If I didn't know it before, I knew then we were friends.

When I turned 40 (a looong time ago), I planned a good-sized party at my apartment for around 8 p.m. on a Friday. I suggested Dick and writer John Antczak come over right after their day shifts ended, rather than add to their drive by going home first. They arrived around 6 p.m. - and left about eight hours later, the last two to leave what turned out to be a fine party indeed. The traffic gods smiled, and they made it safely to their respective homes 20 miles away in Pasadena.

I'm sure Antczak would agree that Dick played a major role in making John the outstanding desk man he became, with all the writing, editing and organizing that implies.

I last saw Dick in 2007 when he returned to Pasadena from his Albuquerque home to talk about his book, *City of Stone* (University of New Mexico Press). The event was at famed Vroman's Book Store. The intricate and clever plot involves a lost cache of gold, cattle rustling, and events in both World Wars. My signed copy has a

prominent spot in my bookcase; it reminds me of a time and a friend I remember with a smile.

RIP, Dick.

On confrontations in the locker room

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - Hal Bock's encounter with Yankees manager Ralph Houk (July 1 CONNECTING) reminded me of a confrontation I had with Mets manager Yogi Berra after they had lost both games of a doubleheader to the visiting St. Louis Cardinals on June 30, 1974. Here's how it evolved:

In the bottom of the ninth inning in the second game, with the score tied 3-3, New York's Cleon Jones hit what appeared to be a game-winning two-out single to right field. Reggie Smith charged the ball and tried for a diving catch but trapped it. Umpire Chris Pelekoudas gave the "safe" sign that it was a hit, the Mets ran off the field and the Cardinals charged the umpire to protest the call. (Replays, not in use then to review close calls, showed Pelekoudas was correct.) The umpires gathered, conferred, then overruled Pelekoudas, saying Smith had caught the ball, ending the inning.

Berra was apoplectic but their decision stood and the Mets had to return to the field. Berra then brought in relief pitcher Tug McGraw, who had given up a pair of late-inning runs in the Mets' 5-2 first-game loss. He gave up two more in the 10th inning of the nightcap and the Mets lost 5-3.

In his clubhouse office afterward, Berra went berserk, unleashing a profanity-laced tirade that went on and on, and every reporter's question triggered another outburst.

Eventually Berra seemed to calm down, the subject of the call exhausted. So I, who did not regularly cover the Mets the way the beat writers did, asked him, "Why'd you bring in McGraw again?"

Berra replied, "Who the f--- are you."

I told him, he studied my long hair and beard for an instant, and said, "Yeah, you look like you work for the f----- Associated Press."

"Well, I do and I just wondered why you brought in McGraw?"

"Well, that's a stupid f----- question."

"I don't think so. He got hit hard in the first game and ..."

Berra got up from behind his desk and started to come at me but one of the beat writers stuck an arm out to block him and shouted, "Don't, Yogi. He's okay."

I never got an answer to my question and, unlike Hal, I never got an apology.

The only other time I was threatened was the night of Sept. 3, 1979, after New England had lost 16-13 to the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers in the season-opening Monday night NFL game. I approached Patriots cornerback Raymond Clayborn and started to ask a question, he said not to bother him, I said, "I just want to ..." and he wheeled on me, cocked a fist and said, "Get your f----- ass out of my f----- face or I'll f----- ..." I did what he suggested.

During the following week Clayborn got into fights with several teammates and the next Sunday, after the Patriots routed the Jets 56-3, he threatened several reporters. Will McDonough of the Boston Globe tried to calm things down. Clayborn poked him in the eye and McDonough landed a punch that sent Clayborn flying into a locker. McDonough and I were called to NFL headquarters to testify about Clayborn's behavior; he ultimately was fined \$2,000.

And then there's this: In the early 1980s, when the Jets' defense was known as the New York Sack Exchange, I wanted to interview defensive lineman Joe Klecko who, at 6-foot-3 and 263 pounds, was nine inches taller and 100 pounds heavier than I was. What I didn't know, and what several beat writers standing nearby didn't tell me when I approached his locker, was that Klecko didn't do interviews. So I stood behind him and when he turned around and saw me he said, pleasantly, "What do you want?"

"I just want to ask you a few questions."

"No you don't."

"Yes I do."

Klecko stared at me.

"No you don't."

I think my heart stopped.

"No I don't."

I walked away to the howls of the other writers, glad I hadn't just had a coronary.

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Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - Hal Bock's story about baseball manager Ralph Houk going off on him brought back a couple of memories for me about my days covering the Cleveland Indians for the AP in the late 70s.

There was a Yankees-Indians game that came down to the last inning and, uncharacteristically, in those days, the Indians wound up winning. After writing my quick lede, I ran for the clubhouses for some quotes. When I got to the Yankees clubhouse, it was quiet as a mouse. I walked into the manager's office and found three or four Yankees beat writers standing quietly in front of Billy Martin's desk. I stood there for a moment and then dived in, asking a pretty innocuous question about why he chose a particular reliever to bring in in the ninth. The Yankees writers visibly cringed and Martin blew his stack, leaping up and threatening to beat the s@#t out of me. I was more than a bit alarmed, but I remember saying quietly, ``I didn't mean anything by it. I just wondered what your thinking was." Much to everyone's surprise, Martin sat back down, scrunched up his face like he was thinking it over and gave me a short but thoughtful answer. I left quickly after that, with the Yankees writers staring after me like I had achieved a miracle.

The next night, the Yankees won and, when I got to Martin's office, he stopped in the middle of a comment to a Yankees writer, smiled and said, ``Any questions tonight?" After that, he was always very cordial with me. Strange man. But at least my facial features stayed intact.

Another manager that threatened to rearrange my features was Dick Williams, a fiery guy who managed a number of teams including the Los Angeles Angels. I don't remember the question I asked that set him off that night in Cleveland Stadium, but I do remember him hovering over me with his fists clenched and his face red as a

beet. Fortunately, he calmed down as quickly as he fired up and, later, came into the clubhouse to apologize.

A couple of years later, I was about to head to Montreal to cover the Formula One race when I got a call from NY Sports saying, "As long as you're going to be in Montreal anyway, how about covering a couple of late season games between the Montreal Expos and the Philadelphia Phillies, two teams battling for a playoff berth?" I didn't even think about seeing Dick Williams, now the Expos manager, again until I walked into his office in old Jarry Park before the first game. He was chatting with some other writers and I stood at the back of the room, waiting my turn. Eventually, he looked up and we made eye contact. He suddenly stood up and wheeled around his desk, strode up to me with his hand out and a big smile on his face. "Hey Cleveland, what are you doing here?" It was a nice moment

So, in the end, the two managers who threatened me, wound up among the friendliest I dealt with in my brief time covering MLB.

From the lenses of our colleagues



Steve Graham ([Email](#)) - Balancing Rock at Utah's Arches National Park this past Saturday struck me as a reminder of journalists' need for balanced reporting ... and

how far the errant can fall.

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Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - I shot the Star Trail The Milky Way in Joshua Tree, California.

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John Lumpkin ([Email](#)) - This was from our recent trip to France - a visit to the gardens and home of Monet in the village of Giverny.

Stories of interest

Cartoonist loses job after image depicting Trump ignoring dead migrants to play golf

(Independent)



By Alessio Perrone

A cartoonist says he has been dropped from a series of newspapers after his image depicting Donald Trump ignoring dead migrants to play golf went viral.

Michael de Adder, a freelance political cartoonist in Canada, says he was let go by all major newspapers in the southeastern Canadian province of New Brunswick after his cartoon was shared by thousands on Twitter and Facebook.

The cartoon shows Trump standing next to a golf cart, club in hand, staring at two migrants who lie face down in the water and asking: "Do you mind if I play through?"

For the image, Mr de Adder drew extensively on the shocking photo of the El Salvadoran father and daughter who were found dead in the waters of the Rio Grande last week, a haunting testimony of the dangers migrants go through when they try to cross the US-Mexican border.

Read more [here](#).

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Dear New Orleans' newly merged newspaper - please just pick a name (Poynter)

By Kristen Hare

Reporting on New Orleans' oldest newspaper always included one clunky caveat - it wasn't The Times-Picayune. It was NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune, and it was owned by Advance Local.

On Monday, the Times-Picayune officially got absorbed into The Advocate, and the tradition of newspapers having many names carried on. Now, it's The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate. You'll find all three brands listed at the top of [nola.com](#). Monday's first merged edition included them, too, with the Times-Pic on top.

That's a change from the original plan of leading with The Advocate, editor Peter Kovacs told WWLTV's Eric Paulsen on Saturday. "We spent a long time this week listening to Times-Picayune readers and subscribers and there's a lot of respect....," Kovacs said.

Read more [here](#).

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From Stonewall to the AIDS crisis to trans controversy, The Washington Blade has covered LGBTQ issues for 50 years (Poynter)

By Tiffany Stevens

This year, The Washington Blade is celebrating its golden anniversary not just during pride month, but throughout the entire year. Just 10 years ago, however, it seemed uncertain whether the nation's oldest surviving LGBTQ newspaper would make it to its fifth decade.

In 2009, the newspaper's parent company, Window Media, declared bankruptcy. Along with The Blade, the Atlanta-based company shut down The Southern Voice, The South Florida Blade, and other LGBTQ publications.

Blade veteran Lou Chibbaro said the news about the nation's LGBT paper of record, where he has spent most of his career, was abrupt. Staff were not given advance notice of the owner's decision.

"At the time, we were in the National Press Building," Chibbaro said. "We got one day's notice. We had to empty out our desks and leave the office."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 3, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 3, the 184th day of 2019. There are 181 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 3, 1976, Israel launched its daring mission to rescue 106 passengers and Air France crew members being held at Entebbe Airport in Uganda by pro-Palestinian hijackers; the commandos succeeded in rescuing all but four of the hostages.

On this date:

In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

In 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops failed to breach Union positions during an assault known as Pickett's Charge.

In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.

In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk from the Germans.

In 1950, the first carrier strikes of the Korean War took place as the USS Valley Forge and the HMS Triumph sent fighter planes against North Korean targets.

In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of The Doors died in Paris at age 27.

In 1979, Dan White, convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the shooting deaths of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison. (He ended up serving five years.)

In 1987, British millionaire Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand became the first hot-air balloon travelers to cross the Atlantic, parachuting into the sea as their craft went down off the Scottish coast.

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.

In 1996, Russians went to the polls to re-elect Boris Yeltsin president over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov in a runoff.

In 2003, the U.S. put a \$25 million bounty on Saddam Hussein, and \$15 million apiece for his two sons. (The \$30 million reward for Odai and Qusai Hussein went to a tipster whose information led U.S. troops to their hideout, where the brothers were killed in a gunbattle.)

In 2013, Egypt's first democratically elected president, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military after just one year by the same kind of Arab Spring uprising that had brought the Islamist leader to power.

Ten years ago: In a surprise announcement, Sarah Palin said she would resign as Alaska governor, effective July 26, 2009. Vice President Joe Biden visited Baghdad, where he pressed Iraqi leaders to do more to foster national reconciliation and offered U.S. assistance in achieving that goal.

Five years ago: Hurricane Arthur struck North Carolina as a Category 2 storm with winds of 100 mph in the late evening, taking about five hours to move across the far eastern part of the state, but causing far less damage than feared.

One year ago: The Trump administration said it would not encourage schools to use race as a factor in the admissions process, rescinding guidance from the Obama era that was meant to promote diversity.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Tom Stoppard is 82. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 80. Actor Michael Cole (TV: "The Mod Squad") is 79. Attorney Gloria Allred is 78. Folk singer Judith Durham (The Seekers) is 76. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 76. Country singer Johnny Lee is 73. Humorist Dave Barry is 72. Actress Betty Buckley is 72. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (Little Feat) is 71. Actress Jan Smithers is 70. Actor Bruce Altman is 64. Talk show host Montel Williams is 63. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 61. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure) is 59. Actor Tom Cruise is 57. Actor Thomas Gibson is 57. Actress Hunter Tylo is 57. Actress Connie Nielsen is 55. Actress Yearley Smith is 55. TV chef Sandra Lee is 53. Singer Ishmael Butler is 50. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 50. Actress-singer Shawnee Smith is 50. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 49. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is 48. Actor Patrick Wilson is 46. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 44. Actress Andrea Barber is 43. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 43. Actor Ian Anthony Dale is 41. Actress/comedian Jule Klausner is 41. Actress Elizabeth Hendrickson is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 40. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 39. Actress Olivia Munn is 39. Actress Shoshannah Stern is 39. Rock singer-songwriter Elle King is 30. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 28. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 24.

Thought for Today: "I suppose it can be truthfully said that Hope is the only universal liar who never loses his reputation for veracity." - Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, politician (1833-1899).

Connecting calendar



July 27 - Services for **Ed Shearer**, a longtime AP sportswriter, will be held Saturday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, [4795 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338](#). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: **Lazarus Ministries**, [2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318](#). The family said that so we can thank you, please have acknowledgments sent to: [130 Kimberly Rd, Canton, GA 30115](#). A family contact is Sheri Browne - sheribrowne@att.net

August 6 - A scattering of ashes for former AP Concord and Indianapolis bureau chief **Dave Swearingen**, who died in 2018, will be held Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Reid State Park, [375 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548](#). Those attending should meet at the Todd's Point Parking lot and will head over to Half Mile Beach. While there is no formal service, brief remarks will be made. Dave's son Tim can be reached at timswearingen71@gmail.com

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.



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