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# Connecting - July 09, 2019

1 message

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# Connecting

July 09, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019,

Connecting colleague **Steve Hendren** ([Email](#)) shares:

"Reading about the AP's decision process regarding publishing the photo of the drowned father and child at the border caused me to wonder why the media seems more reluctant to show the graphic consequences of government policy decisions these days. During our war in Vietnam I recall routinely seeing graphic images that I believe helped awaken more of us to the human cost of our misguided involvement there. Perhaps some images from inside Sandy Hook Elementary would have helped us better confront the epidemic of gun violence."

Steve suggests that this might be a topic for discussion among Connecting colleagues. I agree and hope you do to - and that you'll share your thoughts. Our colleague Nick Ut's photo in 1972 of the children fleeing a napalm attack is one such photo that comes to mind, a searing reminder of the cost of war.

I look forward to your own thoughts.

**CORRECTION:** In his post Monday on Ed Shearer, **Norm Clarke** said the historic homer by Hank Aaron sailed over Pete Rose's head in right center field. He corrects to make it left center.

Have a great day!

Paul

## ***Remembering Dick Benke - mentor and intimidator***

**Paul Simon** ([Email](#)) - Dick Benke was a wonderful mentor, friend, intimidator (occasionally), colleague and all-around good guy. By intimidator, I mean he scared this AP rookie to death in Los Angeles in 1979 with his intensity, focus and relentless pursuit of detail and accuracy. That's one hell of a way to learn professionalism from a pro and I'm so much the better for it. As our roles changed through the years, eventually leading me into the ACOB slot in L.A., his professionalism and commitment never wavered.

Away from the office, at his place in Pasadena or en route to the office when we shared rides, Dick's softer side and introspection emerged in complement to the tough exterior. His humility was endearing, ever so much so as he underwent positive personal changes in his later years in Los Angeles and then in the Albuquerque bureau. Debbie and I were delighted that he and Karen were able to attend our wedding in Denver in 2000.

Among the many pleasant times with Dick, I recall in particular watching the Albuquerque Balloon Festival many years ago. As we drove away, we spotted one of the hot-air balloons descending unexpectedly into a field absent the support crew necessary for a secure landing. Dick and I jumped out, ran into the field and held tight to ropes trailing from the balloon until the cavalry arrived. Good times!

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## ***How I got into journalism***

**Mike Doan** ([Email](#)) - My mother was a typing teacher. I learned quickly when I was 10 years old, but my fingers were not very big. So I developed a heavy touch, which later earned me the nickname "Jackhammer" when I joined the AP in Portland (in 1966).

A 13-year-old friend talked about starting a newspaper together with some other kids. With my typing, we put out eight issues, printing them on a gelatin pad and selling them to neighbors. A stationery store owner donated a mimeograph machine, which worked well until one of the boys urinated I it.

I never wavered in my intent to become a journalist. I did a mix of national and local news for our paper, called the El Cerrito (Calif.) Times. I took national news from other newspapers, I wrote some local gossip, my mom donated a society column., and other kids contributed. I learned after the first edition not to start by writing the front page, because it became old news by the time I had finished the last one.

Perhaps a highlight was our visit to the police department. The cops put a few of us behind bars for a few minutes just for fun. They might have kept us there if they had known we had stolen a big stack of "Family Weekly" publications from a grocery store and inserted them into our newspaper. The El Cerrito Times lasted about a year, and then we started a singing group. (And that's what I have done in retirement.)

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## ***Typewriter once a reporter's treasure***

**Mike Holmes (Email)** - The typewriter redux story in last Thursday's Connecting made me think back to my time as Ohio news editor in the 1980s.

My old Smith Corona portable, which I'd used since high school, was on its last legs. There was a used typewriter store in downtown Columbus, so I stopped in one day hoping to find one of those big, brown Royals with green keys. That was the model typewriter we used in my first newspaper job on the Omaha World-Herald's rewrite desk.

The guy had one. As I handed him my credit card, he asked: "Are you a newspaper reporter?"

Surprised, I said yes, and asked how he knew.

"Every time we get one of these in, a newspaper reporter buys it," he said.

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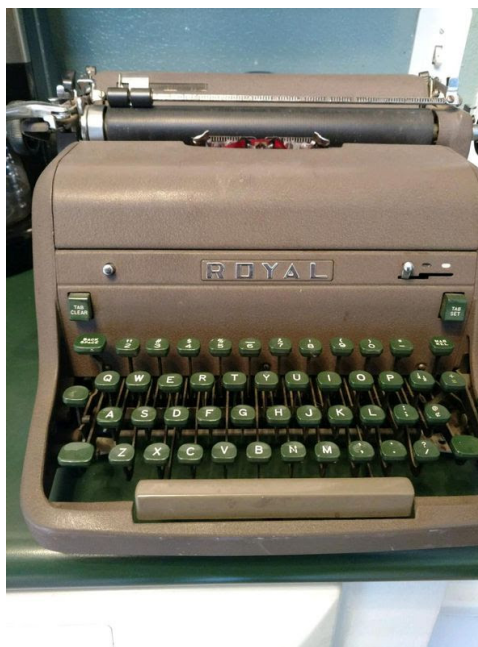
***California, New York don't have market on ill-tempered coaches, bratty athletes - try Kansas City***

**Doug Tucker (Email)** - You say ill-tempered coaches and bratty athletes in places like California and New York sometimes lose their dignity? Their cool? With shocking F-bombs and ego-bruising insults, those rascals set poor media types a-tremble, huh?

In Kansas City it's different. Managerial meltdowns in KC draw blood.

Red, runny sportswriter blood.

Ironically, the beat writer who emerged from Hal McRae's crowded office the night of April 27, 1993, looking like he just fought a pit bull for a beef steak did nothing to



touch off Mac's epic tirade. That honor belonged to John Doolittle, a radio talk show host for KMBZ. After a tough loss to Detroit that dropped the struggling Royals to 7-12, he asked did McRae consider pinch hitting George Brett with the bases loaded in the seventh.

End interview. Cue volcano. McRae came to his feet and cut loose with enough F-bombs to melt a nuclear reactor. Sweeping things off his cluttered desk, he sent tape recorders, a heavy glass ashtray, clipboards and who knows what else flying through the air.

Something - nobody is sure what - smashed into the face of Alan "Scoop" Eskew, who covered the Royals for the Topeka Capitol-Journal. He thinks it was a tape recorder. Others swear the ashtray bounced off his face.

"I got hit by an unidentified flying object," Eskew deadpanned.

Cursing, ranting, waving his arms around, McRae declared he was tired of "these dumb-a\*\* questions" and would no longer "put up with you mother-f\*\*\*\*\*."

As everyone quickly filed out of the room, McRae grabbed a rotary telephone and gave it a hurl. Scratch one television. Didn't do the phone much good either.

As fate would have it, a TV camera was filming when Scoop walked out, blood running down his right cheek.

But clearing the small office did not quell Mac's rage. He followed everybody out the door and gave his job, the media and even his players one final, profane tongue-lashing.

Eskew was not seriously hurt, although he did take something for a headache the next couple of days. After the team trainer patched up the cut, he trooped back upstairs and filed his game story.

"I thought the New York media was tough," joked pitcher David Cone, who had spent six seasons with the Mets.

During their 10-year run as contenders from 1976-85, McRae was perhaps the Royals' best and most popular player next to Brett. Always a media favorite as well, he never clashed before with Eskew.

"I'm sorry, Scoop. You weren't even the one I was mad at," he told him later.

"Mac and I got along fine and we still do," said Eskew, who is now living in Arizona.

General manager Herk Robinson apologized for the club.

Still, many people were surprised Eskew did not spend the next day interviewing lawyers.

"It never entered my mind," he says.

McRae kept his job that season and had the Royals on a 14-game winning streak when a player strike halted play the next season. One day after the commissioner announced that the season was canceled, McRae was fired.

Robinson said embarrassing off-the-field incidents had nothing to do with McRae's dismissal. But how many managers have been fired while on a 14-game winning streak? About as many as opened a gash in a beat writer's face, probably.

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## ***A reply that belongs in Bartlett's***

**Hal Bock** ([Email](#)) - Noting Norm Clarke's Hank Aaron story (in Monday's Connecting), I had several opportunities to talk with the slugger. Once, I was doing a story on players retiring too soon. Aaron was in town, promoting a book and I went to see him. We talked for a bit and then I asked if he ever felt he had left baseball too soon. His answer belonged in Bartlett's.

Aaron looked me squarely in the eye and said: "I was glad to leave all that (stuff) behind me."

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## ***More on that photo of famous lily pond of Monet***



**John Lumpkin (Email)** - Thank you to those who responded to the photograph from Giverny of the famous lily pond of Monet. It was a lucky shot because Eileen and I had no choice about timing of day of our visit, hence the lighting was happenstance at that point of our loop around the pond when the photo was taken.

I sent the photo to close friends in and out of AP with the quote from Eileen as we finished our day there and looked back at the famous landscape from Monet's house - "This is my St. Andrews," she said.

Those who know us well saluted that comment. She played the Old Course with me on my 60th birthday despite her serious misgivings about her golfing abilities. Her

participation was required because I needed to have a twosome to tee off.

Unlike her husband, she was never in one of the Old Course's 112 bunkers - she said because the caddy never showed her where they were.

As we moved around the country for AP, she would try to garden as a constant. We've been in Texas since the 80's (who knew) and the gardens are going strong.

Not sure Monet's staff could have produced any better Black-eyed Susans than in her garden this year. The bluish/purple flower in the other frame is an annual Texas native of longstanding.



P.S. - Monet's gardens were inspirational but that experience was a subordinate to the trip's main goal, Normandy, where we spent an entire day. That was so overwhelming that anything I could write or share would seem trivial or pedestrian.

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## ***POLITICO'S BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Tom Beaumont, AP national political correspondent***

**By POLITICO STAFF**

How/where are you celebrating your birthday and with whom? "Dinner with family, hopefully including my wife Paula's incredible lemon pound cake, with fresh blueberries."

How did you get your start in journalism? "After little career planning as a poli sci undergrad at the University of Wisconsin, my first job out of school was working in Madison for a longtime state lawmaker who, as it turned out, was also an awful human being. After quitting in disgust and a good bit of panic, I decided journalism could feed my political fix without having to answer to



such an ego. I went back to school, earned a master's in journalism from UW and have been fortunate to stay on this fascinating path since."

What's an interesting book/article you're reading now or finished? And why? "I'm reading David W. Blight's 2018 'Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom.' As my kids can attest, I'm a geek for Lincoln and his era, and have long been curious about his relationship with Douglass. What I'm learning is Douglass means so much more to the nation's continuing battle over race than his influence on one president. He's a deeply complex character I'm embarrassed to know so little about."



**Tom Beaumont**  
AP Photo/J. David Ake

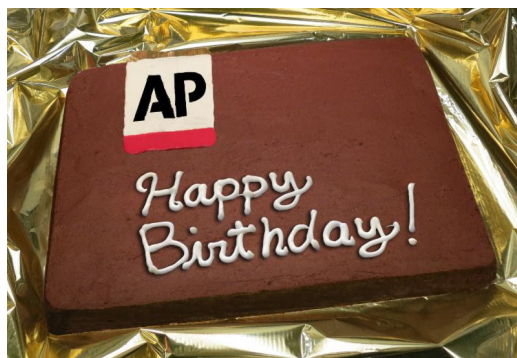
What is a trend going on in the U.S. or abroad that doesn't get enough attention? "I've been struck by the continuing assumption within some political journalism that suggests support for President Trump is a collection of policy positions that could erode with every unconventional policy move or scandal. The durability of his support, despite the Mueller report findings, trade moves that directly hurt many of his supporters and continuing allegations of sexual impropriety, two and a half years into his term continues to underscore the flaws in that assumption."

How is the Trump presidency going? "I would ask the voters in Michigan, Pennsylvania and my home state of Wisconsin, who will go a long way toward answering that question in 15 months. There are signs those states are trending Democratic. And President Trump's approval hasn't topped 50%, typically a worrisome sign for an incumbent. But, as we see regularly, President Trump has proven to be anything but typical."

What's a fun fact that people in Washington might not know about you? "I had a short but successful political career of my own. When I was in eighth grade, I was elected Hartland (Wis.) Junior High class president. I've long credited the victory to harnessing the often-overlooked sixth-grade vote, thanks to a friend's younger sister, who suggested I work my younger classmates' lunch line."

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

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bruce Richardson - [berichnj@aol.com](mailto:berichnj@aol.com)

Paul Simon - [paul4123@comcast.net](mailto:paul4123@comcast.net)

## Welcome to Connecting



Susan Montoya Bryan - [bigring07@yahoo.com](mailto:bigring07@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

***Jeffrey Epstein's arrest shows the power of one newspaper's investigation*** (CNN)

By BRIAN STELTER

New York (CNN Business) In the past year the Jeffrey Epstein case was catapulted onto the national news radar by one newspaper, the Miami Herald, and by one reporter in particular, Julie K. Brown. The paper's "Perversion of Justice" series came out last November, and Brown has stayed on the story ever since.

As soon as The Daily Beast broke the news that Epstein had been arrested on Saturday evening, fellow journalists and other observers credited Brown and thanked her for the tenacious investigation.

Law enforcement officials are also giving credit to the reporting. "We were assisted" by "some excellent investigative journalism," Manhattan US Attorney Geoffrey Berman said at a Monday morning press conference.

William Sweeney, the assistant director-in-charge of the FBI's New York office, added, "We work with facts. When the facts presented themselves, as Mr. Berman hinted at, through investigative journalists' work, we moved on it."

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

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***'Democracy ... is about to die in Youngstown'  
with closing of the local newspaper*** (Washington Post)



**Youngstown, Ohio, area residents attend a town meeting following the announcement that the Vindicator newspaper would be closing. (Jeff Swensen for The Washington Post)**

**By Margaret Sullivan**

**Media columnist**

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Mere moments after the start of the hastily called community forum, the tears started to flow.

"Gobsmacked," was how one Youngstown reader described her horrified reaction to the surprise announcement, just days before, that the city's 150-year-old daily newspaper, the Vindicator, would publish its last edition on Aug. 31.

And Mary Beth Earnhardt, who teaches journalism at Youngstown State University, briefly left the meeting room at the local history center to pull herself together.

Like many others, she feels the impending loss deeply.

"The Vindy connects us all. A community without a strong, central newspaper is missing leadership - and a big part of its identity."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***An Emotional Ed Henry Announces on Fox & Friends He is Donating Part of His Liver to His Sister*** (Mediaite)

**By Caleb Howe**

With a burst of emotion, Fox News Channel Chief National Correspondent Ed Henry told the Fox & Friends audience on Sunday morning that he'll be taking some time off. He's donating part of his liver to his sister on Tuesday.

"So, I'm going to donate part of my liver on Tuesday," he said as the show came back from commercial, his voice immediately breaking with emotion.

Henry worked through a few moments of being overwhelmed as he talked to his colleagues about what it means to donate a part of one's liver, how it is an organ that regenerates and grows back, and how doctors have evaluated him for the surgery and prepared him for it over a period of a few months already.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Is "news on the internet" the same as "news on your phone"? Here's how Pew asks*** (Nieman)

**By LAURA HAZARD OWEN**

When you read stories in The New York Times' app, does you count that as reading a story online? What about news from Twitter? Is it only "online" news if you're reading it from a computer? And, come to think of it, are the New York Times stories you read digitally really "online news" at all, or are they newspaper stories?

These are the kinds of questions that Pew grapples with when it formulates its surveys about Americans' online news reading habits. In a Medium post, Pew research associate Elisa Shearer laid out some of the ways that the organization has changed the wording of its questions over the past 20 years (it started asking about online news in the mid-1990s).

"The internet is a relatively new source of news for Americans, compared to, say, TV or radio," she writes. "As a result, it can be hard to design surveys that get at the uniquely complicated nature of online news."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***'An essential force in American history,' Chicago Defender to stop print publication*** (Chicago Sun-Times)

**By Mitchell Armentrout**

The Chicago Defender will cease print operations next week, ending a storied 114-year newspaper legacy that included driving the Great Migration of African Americans to Chicago from the South and bolstering the black electorate as a key constituency in national politics.

Wednesday marks the final physical edition from the Defender's Bronzeville newsroom, its executives announced Friday, with the outlet switching to a digital-only platform on Thursday.

"Under the print version, we could not reach people where they live and work," said Hiram E. Jackson, CEO of Real Times Media, the Detroit-based black newspaper chain that bought the Defender in 2003. "Being a digital-only outlet will help us reach

people who live on the West Side or South Side or south suburbs, giving people what they need when they want it. It makes us more nimble.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

## The Final Word

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting realizes the Fourth has passed, but believes this is worth your while.)

### ***Fourth of July Quiz: Can You Answer the Hardest Citizenship Test Questions?*** (New York Times)



A naturalization ceremony in Los Angeles last year. Mario Tama/Getty Images

By **NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS**

With your American citizenship on the line, could you answer the following question? Take a moment. Because, according to a 2011 study, this is the hardest of the 100 possible questions asked on the United States citizenship test.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Chris Connell.

## Today in History - July 9, 2019



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, July 9, the 190th day of 2019. There are 175 days left in the year.

### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 9, 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

### **On this date:**

In 1755, British General Edward Braddock was mortally wounded as his troops suffered a massive defeat during the French and Indian War (he died four days later).

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.



In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox's film storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey, destroyed most of the studio's silent films.

In 1947, the engagement of Britain's Princess Elizabeth to Lt. Philip Mountbatten was announced.

In 1962, pop artist Andy Warhol's exhibit of 32 paintings of Campbell's soup cans opened at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles.

In 1974, former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington at age 83.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, Louisiana, shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton tapped Tennessee Sen. Al Gore to be his running mate. Former CBS News commentator Eric Sevareid died in Washington at age 79.

In 1995, Jerry Garcia performed for the final time as frontman of the Grateful Dead during a concert at Chicago's Soldier Field (Garcia died a month later).

In 2001, a divided court in Chile ruled that Gen. Augusto Pinochet could not be tried on human rights charges because of his deteriorating health and mental condition, a ruling that effectively brought the 85-year-old former dictator's legal troubles to an end.

Ten years ago: The Group of Eight industrialized nations opened their summit in L'Aquila, Italy, to Group of Five developing countries Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, as well as Egypt. The Dutch government turned over dozens of antiquities stolen from Iraq to Baghdad's ambassador. Michael Phelps broke the then-world record in the 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. national championships in Indianapolis, swimming the two-lap final in 50.22 seconds.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama began a two-day visit to Texas, where he met with state officials, including Gov. Rick Perry, to discuss the influx of unaccompanied children at the U.S.-Mexico border. Modeling agency founder Eileen Ford, 92, died in Morristown, New Jersey.

One year ago: President Donald Trump chose Brett Kavanaugh, a solidly conservative, politically connected federal appeals court judge, for the Supreme Court to fill the seat left vacant by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. (Kavanaugh would be confirmed in October after a contentious nomination fight.) Starbucks announced that it would eliminate plastic straws from all of its locations within two years, citing the environmental threat to oceans. Former movie mogul Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty to new sexual assault charges involving a third woman.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 92. Former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is 87. Actor James Hampton is 83. Actor Brian Dennehy is 81. Actor Richard Roundtree is 77. Singer Dee Dee Kenniebrew (The Crystals) is 74. Author Dean Koontz is 74. Football Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson is 72. Actor Chris Cooper is 68. TV personality John Tesh is 67. Country singer David Ball is 66. Business executive/TV personality Kevin O'Leary (TV: "Shark Tank") is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 65. Actor Jimmy Smits is 64. Actress Lisa Banes is 64. Actor Tom Hanks is 63. Singer Marc Almond is 62. Actress Kelly McGillis is 62. Rock singer Jim Kerr (Simple Minds) is 60. Actress-rock singer Courtney Love is 55. Rock musician Frank Bello (Anthrax) is 54. Actor David O'Hara is 54. Actress Pamela Adlon is 53. Rock musician Xavier Muriel is 51. Actor Scott Grimes is 48. Actor Enrique Murciano is 46. Rock singer-musician Isaac Brock (Modest Mouse) is 44. Musician/producer Jack White is 44. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 43. Actor-director Fred Savage is 43. Country musician Pat Allingham is 41. Actress Linda Park is 41. Actress Megan Parlen is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kiely Williams (3lw) is 33. Actor Mitchel (cq) Musso is 28. Actress Georgie Henley is 24.

**Thought for Today: "If writers were good business men, they'd have too much sense to be writers." - Irvin S. Cobb, American humorist (1876-1944).**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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