

#### Connecting - July 18, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019,

Today's Connecting brings more of your fascinating memories of the Apollo 11 moon flight mission.

There are stories of what you were doing when the moon landing occurred - 50 years ago this Saturday - but we also bring you stories from two AP veterans (**Gene Herrick** and **Bill Chevalier**) on their coverage of the predecessor to the space flights - hot-air balloon flights - and from a journalist known for his war coverage (**Peter Arnett**) who met astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin decades later on a cruise ship.

Connecting will take a few days of vacation and return to your Inbox next Tuesday as Linda and I jump onto I-70 in the middle of a heat wave for a respite in the altitudes of Colorado. If you didn't get your Apollo 11 story to me in time, I'll stop the clock and promise to run it next Tuesday.

Have a great rest of the week. See you Tuesday.

Paul

# Your memories of Apollo 11 moon landing



#### Buzz Aldrin (left) with Peter Arnett in 1999.

Peter Arnett (Email) - As a sidebar to Connecting's recollections of the AP's excellent coverage of the Apollo 11 space mission, I offer my own encounter with the astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin 30 years after he and Neil Armstrong conquered the moon on August 20, 1969. It was aboard the Crystal Symphony cruise liner catering to the very rich, where I had signed on as a lecturer for three weeks, beginning in Hong Kong and ending in Dubai, while calling at exotic Asian ports en route. Buzz Aldrin was a fellow lecturer, required as was I to give regular performances, and his on-stage presentations were must-see, detailing his NASA team's preparations for the moon shot, his personal concerns as lift-off approached, and the uniquely dramatic moments when he and Armstrong stepped upon the moon's surface. Aldrin was well into his 60s and appeared in great physical shape. I got to know him in morning exercise walks around the deck. He was enthusiastic about promoting continued space exploration and talked of his advocacy for an eventual Mars walk. Aldrin told me that with Neil Armstrong unwilling to make public appearances, he was in continuing demand to conjure up the Apollo 11 miracle. He said shipboard cruises gave him space from a sometimes relentless schedule. But even shipboard was no escape. When we berthed at Mumbai, I asked Aldrin to join us for a visit to the fabled Indian port city. Not possible, he said, he was departing that morning for New Delhi where the Indian President was taking him on a personal visit to the Taj Mahal.

Other bold face celebrities were performing on the trip, including actor/comedian Jonathan Winters and entertainers Debbie Reynolds and Petula Clark. As a long-time fan, I particularly enjoyed the stream-of-consciousness comedic performances of Winters, with his lacerating and sometimes discomfiting take-downs of his Hollywood pals. I found it easy to get to know him and enjoyed his whispered take-downs of passengers he deemed ridiculous. The cruise entertainment director persuaded Aldrin, Winters and me to present joint stage



Peter (left) with Jonathan Winters

appearances for audience Q and As. Winters was certainly the star of those shows.

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**Myron Belkind** (Email) - It was in the early hours of July 21, 1969, in New Delhi when the Apollo 11 astronauts landed on the moon. I had gone to 9 Rafi Marg, the headquarters of United News of India, which distributed AP news throughout India. I wanted to share that moment with the UNI news staff that relayed AP news copy to the Indian media on UNI's domestic distribution network.

The UNI general manager, G.G. Mirchandani, watched as the news of the moon landing came in from the AP. And then he had hot glasses of Indian chai, that

special brand of spicy tea for which India is known, distributed to everyone gathered in the newsroom and raised a toast to the success of the Apollo 11 mission.

It was an event that brought the world together, and I have never forgotten that moment celebrated with the UNI staff that sent the AP copy throughout India.

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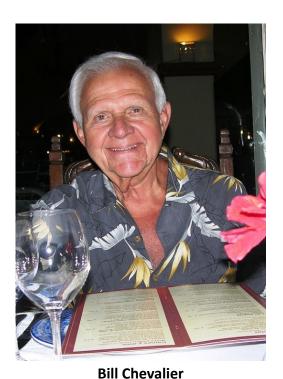
**Norm Goldstein** (Email) - On this moon landing anniversary, I hope you'll mention (at least) the AP book "Footprints on the Moon" by John Barbour. About the book:

"Footprints on the Moon," an Associated Press account of how man succeeded in freeing himself from the bonds that held him to Earth. It's a journalistic countdown leading to the day and the hour 45 years ago when astronaut Neil Armstrong took "one small step" for man on the lunar surface, the inside story of how America won its race to the moon.

Initially running 214 pages, "Footprints on the Moon" was first published by AP in 1969, after the Apollo 11 mission that took Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on their historic journey. Indeed, the book was dedicated to the three men "and their myriad technical experts who made the flight possible." John Barbour, AP's lead writer on the book, covered the nation's manned space missions, including the 1969 triumph.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Footprints" can be purchased through secondary sellers on Amazon. It was retitled and updated for the new AP book "APOLLO 11 - An AP Special Anniversary Edition" that was published June 27.

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Gene Herrick

**Gene Herrick (Email)** and **Bill Chevalier (Email)** - Like all things magnanimous, there was a beginning preceding the real event which received all of the hoopla.

A spaceship, containing human astronauts, surrounded by smoke, and a crowd of well-wishers, roaring almost as loud as the launching sounds, took off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This Saturday we will celebrate the occasion's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Neil Armstrong, the first human to set foot on the moon, an historical event on July 20, 1969, had its beginning long ago in the open pit iron mines in northern Minnesota.

My ole buddy, Bill Chevalier, a colorful writer, and I, working out of the Minneapolis Associated Press bureau, covered many of these early flights/landings. The assignments were pioneerish, interesting, and memorable. Bill is retired and living with his wife of 65 years in Portland, Oregon.

The space age really started with open basket and gondola hot-air balloon flights. One of the early ones was by M. Lee Lewis, and Cmdr. Malcolm Ross, who flew 34.5-hours in July 1958 and had a rough landing 40 miles west of Jamestown, N.D. A few others were Tracy Barnes, in an open basket, taking off from Minneapolis on May 11, 1964. Barnes said he flew to some 37,000 feet to break the previous record of 23,286. Barnes, in an attempt in April, failed when the wind ripped apart the balloon and the gondola.



Balloonist M. Lee Lewis shakes hands with Carol Sheridan, 3, , who came out to meet him in a field where he had a rough landing 40 miles northwest of Jamestown, N,D. on July 27, 1958, after a 34 ½ hour balloon flight. AP Photo/Gene Herrick

The big one was a flight by Maj. David G. Simons, in the wee hours of August 20, 1957. Earlier he put on a space suit, and climbed into the pressurized aluminum capsule in Minneapolis and hauled by truck to the open pit strip mine near Crosby,

MN. There, at the bottom of the hundreds-of-feet deep mine, in darkness, the plastic balloon was filled with helium. The deep mine protected against dangerous ground-level winds. At dawn, Simons launched, rising skyward until he hit winds that blew him East, and as the helium heated, the craft rose high and higher. At some point, the west winds caught the craft and headed back west.

The flight lasted 32 hours, not counting the time from Minneapolis, and hit an altitude of some 102,000 feet - a world record. In our AP lede, we dubbed the piece of space where the balloon flew as the Edge of Space, which wound up in many headlines around the country. The capsule and balloon touched down in a field across the Minnesota-South Dakota border.

That historic balloon flight was the beginning of the Space Age, and everything switched to the Kennedy Space Center, and its later project of putting man on the moon. Simons' capsule was a forerunner to later rocket-powered spacecraft, but served as an important part of the Air Force's intensive R & D effort to protect the lives of later astronauts.

That also was the end of Chevalier and my balloon flight coverage. We would go down into the mine part way to observe. One



Maj. David G. Simons (left) . At right are Mr, abd Mrs. Otto Winzen, His firm built the capsule and balloon.

night, a couple of the small press corps members went into Crosby and awakened a baker, and bought a birthday cake, and candles, and sang happy birthday as I blew out the candles, deep in an iron mine. The cake had beautiful white frosting, which gradually turned a reddish brown from iron ore dust, but we ate it anyway, After a launch, Chevalier and I would stay in the area until the balloon came back west. We would then follow, sometimes stopping in small towns, and sometimes lying on the trunk of my car staring into the sky as we watched the balloon. Locals walked by and stared. I often wonder why! We would then battle to get to the landing spot for interviews and pictures.

When Armstrong landed on the moon, (Who'd a thunk it possible), I spent the evening with his parents in Wapakoneta, Ohio, to get some pictures of them. Some time later, Armstrong returned home for a visit, and I was able to talk with him and get some pictures of the space and world hero.



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**Dave Lubeski** (Email) - "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed"

Those words coming from the surface of the moon on a Sunday afternoon 50 years ago were very meaningful to those of us who were actually living in Houston back then. My wife and I and another couple had an idea after we heard those words on the car radio. We drove to downtown Houston where the skyline at the time was dominated by the Humble Oil



Company's headquarters known as the Humble Building. It was not only the tallest skyscraper in Houston but the tallest west of the Mississippi. There was an enclosed observation deck on top in those days and it was open to the public. We got off the elevator and had the distinction of being closer to the astronauts on the moon than anyone else in Houston.

The Humble Building still stands and is now known as the Exxon-Mobile Building, but it's no longer the tallest building west of the Mississippi. It's not even the tallest building in Houston. Its current rank is 18th tallest in the city's downtown skyline, but for that one Sunday afternoon 50 years ago, it provided us with a bird's eye view when history was being made.

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**Ed Miller** (Email) - I remember that Jim Walters, Bill Fitzgerald (both from the NY Broadcast staff), John Bovaird and myself flew to Houston to cover the Apollo 11 flight.

We basically split into two teams so we have would have constant coverage as launch time neared. I worked with Fitzgerald, John with Jim Walters.

It was our team that was up for the actual landing. We took over the National Broadcast wire and with Bill writing and me transmitting provided the world with a minute-by-minute account. I recall at one point receiving a congratulatory message from the Broadcast people in NY saying something like: "Congrats. Well ahead of competition and friends". (The latter meaning the AAA wire).

Thinking back, it was the calmness within the Houston newsroom during those historic moments that most impressed me. We were there to do a job. We could celebrate with the rest of the country later.

Yes, I'll always remember it. And it did get John and I on the cover of AP World!!!

## **Connecting mailbox**

## A reminder of another courageous Afghan journalist

**Arnold Zeitlin** (Email) - Reading about Amir Shah in Connecting on Tuesday, I was reminded of another courageous Afghan journalist, Mohammed Ibrahim, who served as AP stringer in Kabul when I opened the first AP bureau in Pakistan in September 1969 -- almost exactly 50 years ago. Coincidentally, while going through old files this month, I came across a batch of letters Ibrahim wrote to me after he fled Afghanistan with his family fearing for their lives in 1982. At that time, the Soviet Union had intervened militarily in Afghanistan in favor of one of two Communist factions trying to run the country.

In one letter dated September 8, 1982, from a refugee camp in Islamabad, Pakistan, he wrote:

"I am here with my wife, three children and mother-in-law as refugees...my family have already experienced many hardships and difficulties, particularly when I was imprisoned for some months in May last year. Upon release from prison, I found it far more difficult and unsafe to continue living there. In order to save my life and that of my family, I managed to flee the country and take refuge here..."

Long after that letter, Ibrahim told me how he and his family clandestinely crossed the mountains on foot to enter Pakistan. They eventually came to the United States as refugees. Ibrahim worked for many years in the Dari-language section of Voice of America in Washington DC. He and his wife are retired and live in Loudon County VA, about 30 minutes from my home in Centreville VA.

I covered Afghanistan from Pakistan in what was a brief golden era of peace in that war-torn country. I recall being held up on the road while driving with my family in the Afghan boondocks because the prime minister and party were passing through. A bus load of French tourists also was held up. When the prime minister passed through, he invited us and the French party to join him under a huge tent for a meal -- the sort of gesture that I imagine would be unthinkable in today's Afghanistan.

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## AP logo sighting - AP a sponsor of Scottish Open?



**Chris Pederson** (Email) - While catching some of the Scottish Open on the Golf Channel last Friday, I was surprised to see what appeared to be the AP logo on the right shirt sleeve of every golfer. Was the AP one of the sponsors of the tournament? Upon some further checking, I learned NOT - it is the logo of watch company Audemars Piguet, a tournament sponsor.

#### Five Questions: Loveland's Marc Wilson stepped up to help TPC Colorado Championship run smoothly

#### By COLIN BARNARD, Loveland Reporter-Herald

When TPC Colorado announced last September it would host a professional golf tournament this month, the course and management team did so knowing they would need some help. After all, the clubhouse wasn't even under construction yet, staff was still new to the course and some general kinks still needed to be worked out.

They needed assistance, and they got it in the form of ample volunteers from the area. From media assistance to green-side monitors, parking attendants and everywhere in between, they allowed the inaugural TPC Colorado Championship to unfold swimmingly.



Among them was Marc Wilson, a Colorado native and chairman emeritus and founder of TownNews.com. A Loveland resident since 2011, Wilson was thrilled to lend a helping hand throughout the tournament.

Read more here.

## The AP's use of 'racist'

**EDITOR'S NOTE**: In Wednesday's Connecting, we ran an item on the AP's use of racist when describing the remarks of President Trump in describing four congresswomen of color. AP's **Lauren Easton**, director of media relations, shares the AP policy in the following:

AP announced in March new guidance to call something racist when it is and avoid using "racially-charged" or other euphemisms.

See the announcement that was made at the time: http://apne.ws/IC6fpPv

See too this **new Washington Post story** about how news orgs covered the president's weekend tweets:

Here are some of the related Stylebook entries:

**racist, racism** Racism is a doctrine asserting racial differences in character, intelligence, etc., and the superiority of one race over another, or racial discrimination or feelings of hatred or bigotry toward people of another race.

The terms racism and racist can be used in broad references or in quotations to describe the hatred of a race, or assertion of the superiority of one race over others. The townspeople saw their votes as a rejection of racism.

Deciding whether a specific statement, action, policy, etc., should be termed racist often is not clear-cut. Such decisions should include discussion with colleagues and/or others from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. In the AP, that conversation should also include senior managers.

Begin by assessing the facts: Does the statement or action meet the definition of racism? That assessment need not involve examining the motivation of the person who spoke or acted, which is a separate issue that may not be related to how the statement or action itself can be characterized.

In general, avoid using racist or any other label as a noun for a person; it's far harder to match the complexity of a person to a definition or label than it is a statement or action. Instead, be specific in describing the person's words or actions. Again, discuss with senior managers, colleagues and others from diverse backgrounds when the description may be appropriate for a person.

Do not use racially charged or similar terms as euphemisms for racist or racism when the latter terms are truly applicable.

Cases in which the term racist might be used include identifying as racist support for avowed racist organizations, statements calling another race or ethnic group inferior,

or employing negative stereotypes for different racial or ethnic groups. The video shows the candidate wearing blackface and making racist statements including, "You're not white so you can't be right."

Always use specifics to describe the words or actions in question. But do not use a derogatory term except in rare circumstances when it is crucial to the story or the understanding of a news event.

If racist is not the appropriate term, give careful thought to how best to describe the situation. Alternatives include racially divisive, racially sensitive, or in some cases, simply racial. For details, see racially charged, racially motivated, racially tinged, and other entries in race-related coverage.

**racially charged, racially motivated, racially tinged** Generally avoid using these vague phrases to describe situations in which race is or is alleged or perceived to be a central issue, but that do not meet the definition of racist or racism. As alternatives, racially divisive or racially sensitive may be clearer, depending on the context. In some cases, the term racial is appropriate: racial arguments, racial tensions. Always give specifics about what was done, said or alleged.

Do not use racially charged, racially divisive, racially tinged or similar terms as euphemisms for racist or racism when the latter terms are truly applicable. Mississippi has a history of racist lynchings, not a history of racially motivated lynchings. He is charged in the racist massacre of nine people at a black church, not the racially motivated massacre of nine people at a black church. See racist, racism, and other entries in race-related coverage.

### **Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



### *On Sunday to...* Kevin Dale -kdale@me.com John Eagan - johngator64@gmail.com

#### On Monday to... Jim Anderson - jma318@hotmail.com Lindel Hutson - lh0722@gmail.com

## Today in History - July 18, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 18, the 199th day of 2019. There are 166 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick (chap-uh-KWIH'-dihk) Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; some time later, Kennedy's car went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

#### On this date:

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began, consuming most of the city for about a week. (Some blamed the fire on Emperor Nero, who in turn blamed Christians.)

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union troops spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of black soldiers, charged Confederate-held Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. The Confederates were able to repel the Northerners, who suffered heavy losses; the 54th's commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was among those who were killed.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

In 1940, the Democratic National Convention at Chicago Stadium nominated President Franklin D. Roosevelt (who was monitoring the proceedings at the White House) for an unprecedented third term in office; earlier in the day, Eleanor Roosevelt spoke to the convention, becoming the first presidential spouse to address such a gathering.

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1986, the world got its first look at the wreckage of the RMS Titanic resting on the ocean floor as videotape of the British luxury liner, which sank in 1912, was released by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

In 1989, actress Rebecca Schaeffer, 21, was shot to death at her Los Angeles home by obsessed fan Robert Bardo, who was later sentenced to life in prison.

In 1990, Dr. Karl Menninger, the dominant figure in American psychiatry for six decades, died in Topeka, Kansas, four days short of his 97th birthday.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

In 2013, once the very symbol of American industrial might, Detroit became the biggest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, its finances ravaged and its neighborhoods hollowed out by a long, slow decline in population and auto manufacturing.

Ten years ago: The Taliban posted a video of an American soldier who'd gone missing June 30, 2009 from his base in eastern Afghanistan and was later confirmed to have been captured; in the recording, the soldier (later identified as Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl) said he was "scared I won't be able to go home." (Bergdahl was released in 2014; he was later given a dishonorable discharge and fined \$1,000 on charges of desertion and misbehavior.)

Five years ago: The United Nations Security Council held an emergency meeting a day after the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 with the loss of all 298 people on board, demanding that pro-Russia rebels who controlled the eastern Ukraine crash site give immediate, unfettered access to independent investigators. The Obama administration announced it was reopening the Eastern Seaboard to offshore oil and gas exploration.

One year ago: The 12 Thai youth soccer teammates and their coach who were trapped in a flooded cave for more than two weeks were released from the hospital. FBI Director Christopher Wray said Russia was continuing to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to sow discord in the United States. European regulators fined Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company's Android operating system to install Google's search and browser apps. California's Supreme Court decided that a measure to divide the state into three parts would not appear on the November ballot. California's Highway 1 near big Sur reopened, 14 months after it was blocked by a massive landslide.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 90. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 84. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 81. Musician Brian Auger is 80. Singer Dion DiMucci is 80. Actor James Brolin is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 79. Singer Martha Reeves is 78. Pop-rock musician Wally Bryson (The Raspberries) is 70. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 70. Business mogul Richard Branson is 69. Actress Margo Martindale is 68. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 65. Actress Audrey Landers is 63. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 62. Rock musician Nigel Twist (The Alarm) is 61. Actress Anne-Marie Johnson is 59. Actress Elizabeth McGovern is 58. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 57. Rock musician Jack Irons is 57. Talk show host-actress Wendy Williams is 55. Actor Vin Diesel is 52. Actor Grant Bowler is 51. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 48. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 47. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 47. Actor Eddie Matos is 47. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 44. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 44. Actress Elsa Pataky ("The Fast and the Furious" films) is 43. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (formerly with Eve 6) is 41. Movie director Jared Hess is 40. Actor Jason Weaver is 40. Actress Kristen Bell is 39. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 38.

Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 37. Actress Priyanka Chopra is 37. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 36. Actor Chace Crawford is 34. Actor James Norton is 34. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 33. Actor Travis Milne is 33. Bluegrass musician Joe Dean Jr. (formerly with Dailey & Vincent) is 30.

Thought for Today: "Kindnesses are easily forgotten; but injuries! what worthy man does not keep those in mind?" - William Makepeace Thackeray, English author (born this date in 1811, died 1863).

#### **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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