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Connecting - July 29, 2019

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Mon, Jul 29, 2019 at 9:05 AM

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Connecting

July 29, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 29th day of July 2019,

Congratulations are in order for **Garth Burns** of the Kansas City Technical Center who will retire Wednesday from The Associated Press after a career of three decades.

Garth is team manager for the combined Desk and VMS teams. He was hired at the time when our colleague **John Reid** was vice president of AP Technology. **Garth** and his wife **Debbie** have been great AP ambassadors at numerous events involving the AP in Kansas City and I salute his service to the company.

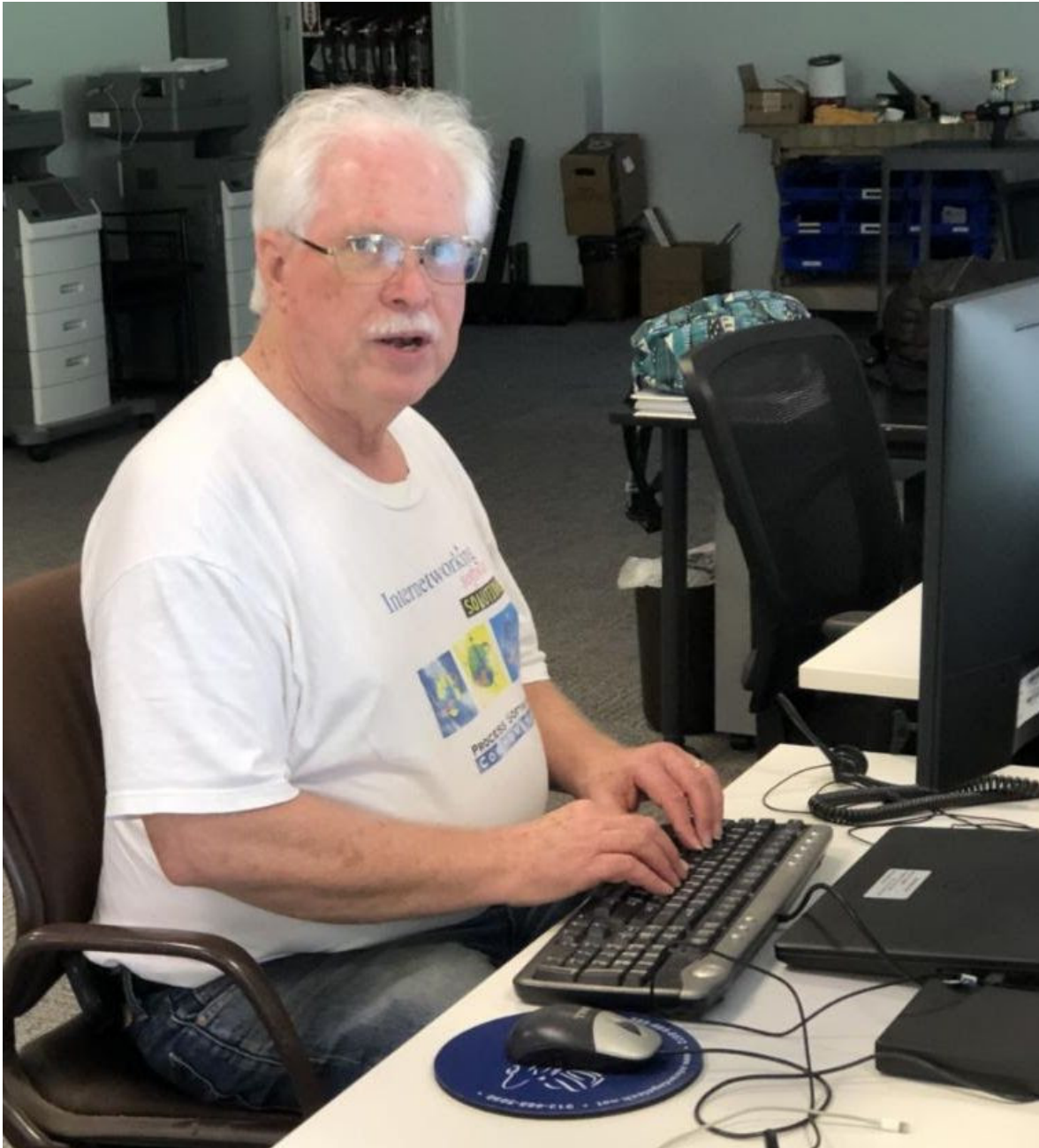
The oldest living graduate of the University of Florida journalism program is **Allen Alexander**, at 96 years of age, and about 12 of those years were spent working for the AP in New York headquarters and the Charlotte bureau. We bring his story to you in today's edition.

And, friends and colleagues of longtime AP sports writer **Ed Shearer** gathered Saturday to say their farewells. AP sports writer **Paul Newberry** shares a story.

Here's to a great week ahead!

Paul

Connecting profile
Garth Burns



How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

I heard from one of the DEC (Digital Equipment Corporation) Field Engineers that AP was looking for a Systems Manager in Kansas City. I had worked with several DEC engineers from my work at a few other DEC/VAX sites. I interviewed with Bud Weydert and Steve Graham in Kansas City, probably in Herb Mundt's office because Bud hadn't moved to Kansas City yet. They sent me to New York for a second interview. I interviewed with Walid Sharara (Manager of systems managers) and Rob Friedman (head of the VAX Desk development team). I also talked with John Kiernan and was introduced to many of the people in AP Technology in NY at 50 Rock. I also met John Reid, VP of technology.

The week I got the job offer from AP also had an over from a Consulting company in Kansas City. This was at a time that the economic forecasts were predicting the economic downturn which became recession by 1991. I figured that in a recession, consultants would be the first to be dropped by companies. On the other hand, it was sure to be big news.

My very first days were in New York at 50 Rock. I was sent there for two weeks of orientation. I started on 30-APR-1990. That same week the AP announced they were leasing additional space across the street in the Avenue of Americas building. Desk and Markets developers were moved into that space for a few years. On Wednesday that week, John Reid hosted an open house to let people see the new space. I went up to John Reid and thanked him for throwing me such a nice birthday party.

When I returned to KTC I was amazed at the breadth of technology the AP encompassed. It ranged from a Markets wire still using 5-bit Bardot code to Satellite news delivery. It ranged from a last few Model 15 teletype printers and DEC PDP-8 computers to the latest VAX computers. I'd only heard about Bardot code in a History of Computing class at KU. I'd used a PDP-8 for an assigned project in an Engineering Computer class.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

When I came to the AP, I had 3-4 years of programming experience and 10-11 years of experience managing DEC computer systems from PDP 11/32 running RSX to VAX 8600 cluster running VMS. I joined the system managers team to help manage a growing number of VAX computers and VAX clusters. In mid-1990 we began the main effort to convert the editorial systems over to the new VAX Desk platform. The first rollout had occurred in late 1989 when the Columbus hub had moved offices and feared moving their old Mouse computers (PDP-8). We started with KAN hub bureau and converted all the US. Bureau except the Northeastern bureaus because Technology ran out of budget to buy the networking hardware in the 1990 budget year. In the next few years Rob Friedman and his developers converted the NY publishing systems to the Desk and then the International systems to the Desk. At the same time, the Markets developers team rolled out a pair of new financial markets software applications, the VAX based Markets Back End and Front End systems which replaced DEC PDP-11 systems and the Markets Grand Central Stocks (GCS) and the Sybase database for markets data which replaced a DECsystem20 (a true mainframe computer from the 1980's.) with VAX computers.

During the 1990's I also led the team that converted the Elections computer systems from Motorola 6800 mini-computers to Sun SunOS UNIX beginning with the 1992 General Election and on through upgrading to Sun Solaris systems by 2000. At the

same time, the number of VAX computers increased to over 200 and the number of system managers dropped to about six or seven.

In 1998-1999 I pushed to upgrade the many 32-bit VAX computers to the newer DEC Alpha systems. With this upgrade, we were able to reduce the VMS node count from about 200 VAXen to about 40 Alphas.

In about 2002 I was named the team manager for the combined Desk and VMS teams.



At a retirement party for Garth Burns - from left: Brad Martin, Mark Steers, Tom Young, Dan Juric, Garth Burns, Monte Wachter, Sarah Burns, Debbie Burns, Scott Green and Reggie Wallace.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

No changes that I can think of. The system manager teams' members were all cooperative and capable. We were able to move technology ahead steadily. We had enough challenges to keep things interesting without being overwhelmed.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

I like the challenge of doing a large complicated jigsaw puzzle. All my brothers and sisters do too. We learned that from my mother.

I loved doing whatever activity my daughter took an interest in while growing up, being encouraging and enabling her to reach her goals.

I've also been active with a pair of groups at church for over 20 years each, the Environmental Stewardship team and a book study group Christian Classics. We've read a wide range of classics from 7th Century Boethius to Dante's Divine Trilogy, to many books from the middle ages (our two group leaders are Medievalists at KU) and up to 20th Century C .S. Lewis.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

We've had several great ones camping around the U.S, and a two-week trip to Europe was great.

But the one with the most memories was the two-week camping/road trip through Colorado, Utah, Arizona to the Grand Canyon North Rim, and back to Colorado. Along the way we stayed a night at a llama ranch, saw a conjunction of Jupiter and the moon from the desert (with our telescope brought from home for the occasion), camped three nights at the North Rim and rode the Durango Silverton Steam Railroad and saw all the National Parks along the route.

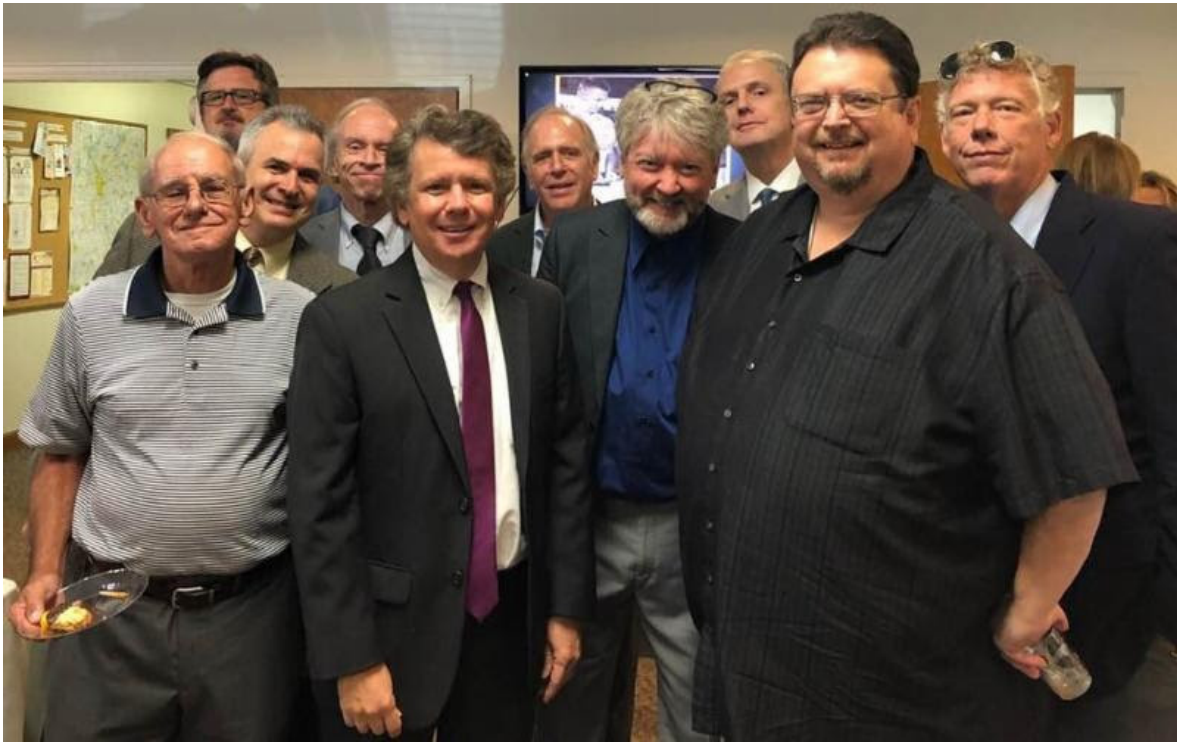
Names of your family members and what they do?

Deborah Burns, my wife of 44 years, currently an Episcopal Deacon at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lawrence Kansas.

Sarah Burns, our daughter, pediatric nurse at KU Hospital.

Garth Burns' email is - gbperson@sbcglobal.net

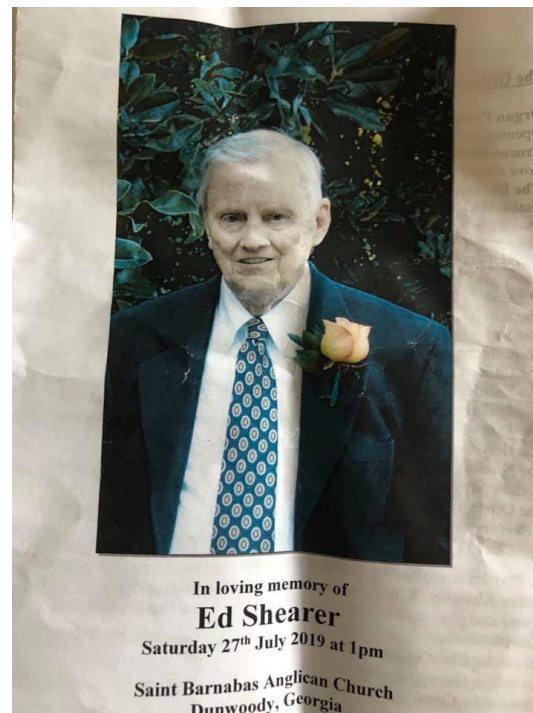
Atlanta journalism community gathers to say farewell to Ed Shearer



Paul Newberry ([Email](#)) - We bid a fond, bittersweet farewell to the great Ed Shearer on Saturday. Atlanta's journalism community was well-represented, a fitting testament to Ed's life. Among those pictured: Charles Odum, George Henry, Tom Saladino, Mark Bradley, Tom Stinson, Kevin Barnes, Glen Serra, John Bazemore and Robert Byrd. Not pictured but also in attendance: Don Schanche, Debbie Newby, Johnny Clark, Brian O'Shea and David Davidson.

Ed, a longtime sports writer with the AP who covered the Olympics, Super Bowl, World Series and Hank Aaron's 715th homer but left his most lasting mark as the "SEC Seer," a prognosticator of Southern football known throughout the nation, died in late June. He was 82.

Working at the AP for more than 40 years, Ed covered a range of sports but was most passionate about college football. In an era when many states did not have a full-time AP sports writer, he traveled the region extensively covering the biggest game of the week. He also was a regular at major postseason games such as the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans and the Senior Bowl all-star game in Mobile.



In loving memory of
Ed Shearer
 Saturday 27th July 2019 at 1pm
 Saint Barnabas Anglican Church
 Dunwoody, Georgia

John Hunter, Ed's son-in-law, gave the eulogy. He lives in Portland Oregon.

Ed will be laid to rest in Jackson, Louisiana, alongside Mary Jane, his wife of more than 50 years, during a ceremony October 5.

Once worked for AP in New York, North Carolina

ALUMNI: At 96, Oldest-Living CJC Graduate has Stories to Tell



At the Chapel Hill meeting of the North Carolina AP Club in 1953. From left: Bob Bunnelle, general executive; Paul Hansell, chief of bureau for North and South Carolina; Noel Yancey, Raleigh correspondent; General Manager Frank Starzell; Allen Alexander, Raleigh bureau newsman; and Rudy Faircloth, Raleigh bureau photographer. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

By Lenore Devore, B.S. Journalism 1984

College of Journalism and Mass Communications

University of Florida

Allen Alexander was a sophomore at the all-male University of Florida when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. The then-history and political science major remembers that Sunday, and the next day, when he was talking with several students about how long they thought the war would last - six days, six months, six years.

"We had no idea," recalled Alexander, B.A. Journalism 1945. "Warren Felkel, a physics major, said all bets were off if a nation develops an atomic bomb. We had never heard of that. He explained atomic energy. It truly was an eye opener at the time."

The war prompted Alexander, the oldest living graduate of the College, to take a year off from College. The experiences he gained during that year led him back to UF to get his degree.



Born on Feb. 22, 1923, Alexander grew up in Flushing, N.Y. During the winter of 1939, his family moved to Punta Gorda, Florida, where he graduated from high school. At the time, any male high school graduate in the state could attend UF. But he decided to return to New York for the summer.

"Then I said, 'I need to go to college,' " Alexander said. "I sent a telegram on a Tuesday asking UF if I could enroll. They said yes, but the deadline is Saturday at noon. That gave us just enough time for me to get bundled up, get a suitcase and a shoebox full of sandwiches. I got on the train. I arrived in the middle of Gainesville, population about 15,000, at 10 a.m. Saturday. UF enrollment was about 3,600. I got in."

A135 (AGENCIES OUT)
 (ADVANCE FOR AMS OF SUNDAY, OCT. 14--NOTE DATE--FROM AP NEWSFEATURES)

 SEGREGATION OUT

 FORT BRAGG ARMY SCHOOL
 QUIETLY BREAKS SOUTH'S
 WHITE-NEGRO CLASS TABOO (680)

 (PICTURES SERVICED)

 BY ALLEN ALEXANDER
 (ADVANCE) FORT BRAGG, N.C., OCT. 13 (AP)-QUIETLY AND WITHOUT FANFARE,
 WHAT ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE SOUTH'S FIRST UNSEGREGATED ELEMENTARY
 SCHOOLS ARE OPERATING ON THIS HUGE ARMY POST.
 AN ARTILLERY POST WITH ABOUT 40,000 SOLDIERS, FORT BRAGG
 HAS TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN OF POST PERSONNEL. TOTAL
 ENROLLMENT IS 1,175 WHITE STUDENTS AND 33 NEGRO. THE POST'S 67 HIGH
 SCHOOL CHILDREN, NONE OF THEM NEGRO, ATTEND NEARBY FAYETTEVILLE HIGH
 SCHOOL.
 SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE SCHOOL BEGAN SEPT. 6 FORT BRAGG PARENTS LEARNED
 THEIR SCHOOLS WOULD BE UNSEGREGATED. AND THAT ONE OF THE SCHOOLS'
 43 TEACHERS WOULD BE A NEGRO. THE NEGRO TEACHER HAS 25 KINDERGARTEN
 CHILDREN. ALL BUT ONE ARE WHITE.
 MRS. MILDRED POOLE, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ON THE POST, SAID SHE HAD
 ONLY ONE COMPLAINT AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT THE SCHOOLS WOULD COMPLETELY
 ABOLISH SEGREGATION.
 "AN OFFICER'S WIFE TEARFULLY PHONED ME," MRS. POOLE SAID, "AND SAID
 HER HUSBAND HAD FORBIDDEN HER TO SEND THEIR DAUGHTER TO SCHOOL WITH
 NEGROES. HE WAS GOING TO SEND HER BACK HOME WITH THE CHILD."
 MRS. POOLE SAID SHE TOLD THE WOMAN, "I HOPE THE CHILD WON'T LOOK
 BACK 25 YEARS FROM NOW AND BE ASHAMED TO SAY YOU WOULDN'T LET HER GO
 TO SCHOOL WITH THESE CHILDREN." SHE HEARD NO MORE OF THE MATTER.
 "FOR ALL I KNOW," SHE SAID, "THE CHILD IS ATTENDING ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS."
 POST AUTHORITIES REPORT NO OTHER COMPLAINTS.
 BRIG. GEN. PEARSON MENOHER, DEPUTY POST COMMANDER, SAID "WE
 HAVEN'T HAD ANY REACTIONS, YET."

12 1951
 educ

AP NEWSFEATURES
 PLEASE RETURN

At the end of his junior year, he decided to leave UF and landed a job with the Associated Press Photo Library at Rockefeller Center in New York. "Every day we got cartons of photos from all over the world, mostly the war zones. We had to store photos so you could retrieve them."

While working there, he met people in the newsroom, including bureau chief Sam Blackmon, whom he told he wanted to become a reporter. Blackmon said: "When you get your degree in journalism, send me a letter and I'll look at it." "

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

Reporters Committee, AP continue fight against FBI's FOIA non-compliance

By SIMREN VERMA

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

In 2007, the FBI posed as an Associated Press editor during an investigation of a 15 year-old student suspected of sending anonymous bomb threats to school administrators at his high school outside Seattle, Washington. The undercover agent sent the student a link to a fake AP news story in order to deliver surveillance malware to the student's computer. The student did not immediately respond to the undercover agent's e-mails, and only clicked the link after the agent, posing as a journalist, assured him that journalists "are not allowed to reveal their sources." The student clicked the link, downloading the malware that identified his location to authorities.

When use of this investigative technique was discovered in October 2014, it was questioned by high-ranking members of Congress, members of the public and the press, who expressed concern that the use of this technique endangers the media's credibility. The New York Times published a letter to the editor from former FBI Director James Comey that "defended the FBI's use of media impersonation as an investigative technique."

Since then, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the AP have been fighting to obtain information regarding the FBI's practice of impersonating members of the news media through the Freedom of Information Act. Separately, the Reporters Committee has been litigating another FOIA matter seeking access to records related to the FBI's impersonation of documentary filmmakers.

Below is a timeline of the events and actions that have occurred since 2007, leading up to the latest motion to challenge the FBI's withholding of records filed by the Reporters Committee and the AP on July 25.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting mailbox

Connecting in classroom? - Why limit it there?

John Wylie (Email) - What a wonderful idea, but why limit it to the classroom.? It should be a teaching tool at professional conferences, too, especially for the bean counters who fail to understand a couple of key things:

1) People read newspapers and their related online media for well written, significant, that explains complex issues in gripping, understandable terms and is reliably accurate and unbiased. They want opinion pieces that express opinions firmly (not the mush that passes for editorials in too many publications) and provides well-written commentary on all sides of an issue while ensuring the viewpoints differ but the basic data does not -unless good evidence is provided why it should.

2) Warren Buffet was right when he said newspapers are toast because of the dearth of ROP display, because people often read that before the news. Those fortunate enough to be in groups that cross generational lines may have noticed - the curtains and mirrors used by Oz the Great and Powerful have vanished, and consumers are realizing that when they shop on line they are generating not just junk mail (both the electronic in all forms and snail by the ton) but junk phone calls and even people showing up at their doors. Their privacy vanishes, along with the safety of their personal information. Newspapers need to use that advantage to promote the ROP that once supported us well as a boon and investment for both the advertiser and consumer.

3) Newspapers need to let readers know that we are using the good advances in technology - does anyone really want to go back to the 66-or-so wpm teletype machines? Of course not. We need to and are adapting, but not in the ways that are thriving

So it is time to start the Connecting School of Journalism. As soon as we have a real house again (they now say 11 more months) I'll be glad to jump in wherever need--hope others feel the same.

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Another idea on what to do with old AP printers? What's yours?

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - I thoroughly enjoyed Kelly Kissel's note (Friday Connecting) about how he converted an M-15 printer to a liquor cabinet. It gave me an idea of what to do with the old AP printer I snagged in Des Moines in the 80s and that followed us to Albuquerque, New Jersey and finally to Tucson (much to my wife's chagrin.) I still find the printer cool but have never found quite the right use for it.

I like the case but also find the inner workings fascinating. I marveled at AP techs breaking down the printing mechanisms and putting them back together to get them working properly. My wife suggested dumping the case, cleaning up the inside and building a plexi-glass box to encase and display the keys, motor, etc. somewhere (likely our loft/office.) For now it remains in the garage, where it seemingly has been in our various moves over three decades.

I'd be interested to know what else retirees have done with their printers.

Probably good AP policy prohibited liquor in its offices for other than approved events. There might have been a whole collection of M-15 liquor cabinets.

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Here's another AP Radio promo ad

The Professional

Mark Huffman captures history

While earning his BA in history at the University of Kentucky, Mark worked at WVLC in Lexington. His appetite for history in the making led him to jobs in news management for WNOE in New Orleans and KTSA in San Antonio.

Now, as AP Radio's evening newscaster, Mark relates today's news and later recounts it as history. In 1977 and '78, he compiled major news events into APR year-end documentaries. In December of this year, he'll produce "World in Sound," an album of the year's key stories. We like that. We're like Mark Huffman.

Professional.

AP Radio

Associated Press
Radio Network (212) 262 4011



for local sales. Hilton Inn, St. Louis.

July 12—National Association of Broadcasters license renewal workshop. Tamaron, Durango, Colo.

■ **July 13**—Day-long briefing covering topics of major national concern by White House Office of Media Liaison for Radio-Television News Directors Association members. Old Executive Office Building, Washington.

■ **July 13**—Annual Friday the 13th party. Memphis chapter of American Women in Radio and Television. Ms. Kitty's, Memphis.

July 14-15—UPI Broadcasters of Louisiana annual meeting. Maison Dupuy hotel, New Orleans.

June 14-16—National Gospel Radio Seminar. Holiday Inn-Clayton Plaza, St. Louis. Contact: Dave Wortman, P.O. Box 22912, Nashville 37202; (615) 256-2241.

July 15-18—Community Antenna Television Association annual convention. The Abbey on Lake Geneva, Fontana, Wis.

July 15-18—New York State Broadcasters Association 18th executive conference. The Otesaga hotel, Cooperstown, N.Y.

July 15-19—CATA Cable Operators Seminar '79, sponsored by Community Antenna Television Association. The Abbey on Lake Geneva, Wis. Registration: CCOS '79, 429 N.W. 23d, Suite 106, Oklahoma City 73107.

■ **July 16-18**—Arbitron Television Advisory Council meeting. Radisson South, Minneapolis.

July 17—Deadline date for FCC comments on proposal to eliminate cable rules dealing with syndicated program exclusivity and importation of distant signals (Dockets 20988, 21284). Replies are due August 16.

July 17—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Hilton Inn, Des Moines, Iowa.

July 17—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Alameda Plaza, Kansas City, Mo.

July 17—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Sheraton Inn, Scranton, Pa.

July 17—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Red Lion Motel, Harrisburg, Pa.

July 19—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Little America, Little America, Little America, Little America.

July 19—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Commodore Hotel, Ohio.

July 19—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Hilton Inn, Washington, D.C.

July 19—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn.

July 19—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Hilton hotel, Hilton hotel, Hilton hotel, Hilton hotel.

July 22-24—California Broadcasters Association annual meeting. NBC Press Club, San Francisco. Speak July 24. Del Monte Hotel, San Francisco.

July 23—Deadline for reply into future role of low-power radio and television translators.

July 25—Radio Advertising Bureau Idearama-Plus for local sales. Captain Cook Hotel, Las Vegas.

July 25-26—Wisconsin Broadcasters Association annual summer meeting. Pi Sigma Epsilon, Milwaukee.

July 25-29—Rocky Mountain Broadcasters Association convention. Hyatt Lakeside, Reno, Nev.

August

Aug. 9-10—Arkansas Broadcasters Association summer convention, sales seminar. Rockwell Hotel, Little Rock.

■ **Aug. 10**—Kansas Broadcasters Association sports seminar. Royals and Royals, Kansas City, Mo.

Aug. 15-19—Fifth annual convention of Community Broadcasters Association. Olympia College, Olympia, Wash.

Aug. 16—National Association of Broadcasters 55th annual membership meetings. Century Plaza hotel, Los Angeles.

June 24-27—Public Broadcasting Service's annual membership meetings. Century Plaza hotel, Los Angeles.

June 25-29—National Association of Broadcasters joint board meeting. NAB headquarters, Washington.

Sept. 6-8—Radio Television News Directors Association international conference. Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas. 1980 conference will be Dec. 3-5 at Diplomat hotel, Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Fla.

Sept. 9-12—National Association of Broadcasters radio programming conference. Stouffer's Riverfront Tower, St. Louis.

Sept. 16-19—Broadcasting Financial Management Association 19th annual conference. Waldorf-Astoria, New York. Future conferences: Sept. 14-17, 1980, Town and Country hotel, San Diego; Sept. 20-23, Sheraton-Washington.

Sept. 24-Nov. 30—Start of World Administrative Radio Conference for U.S. and 153 other member nations of International Telecommunication Union. Geneva International Conference Centre and ITU headquarters, Geneva.

■ **Oct. 5-7**—Mutual Broadcasting System affiliates convention. Washington Hilton, Washington.

Oct. 7-10—National Radio Broadcasters Association annual convention. Washington Hilton hotel, Washington. Future conventions: Oct. 5-8, 1980, Bonaventure hotel, Los Angeles; Sept. 20-23, 1981, Marriott hotel, Chicago.

Oct. 21-26—Society of Motion Pictures and Television Engineers 121st technical conference and equipment exhibit. Century Plaza hotel, Los Angeles.

Nov. 11-15—National Association of Education-

al Broadcasters 55th annual membership meetings. Century Plaza hotel, Los Angeles.

Nov. 12-14—Television Broadcasters Association annual meeting. Omni hotel, Washington. Nov. 10-12, 1980, Hilton hotel, Washington; Nov. 16-18, 1981, Hyatt Regency, Washington.

Nov. 14-17—Society of Professional Broadcasters national convention. Sigma Delta Chi national convention. Astoria, New York.

■ **Jan. 20-23, 1980**—National Association of Broadcasters convention. Washington.

Feb. 16-21, 1980—National Association of Broadcasters Television Program Executive Committee annual conference. San Francisco Hilton. Future conferences: Feb. 13-18, 1981, New York Hilton; Feb. 13-18, 1982, Las Vegas Hilton.

April 13-16, 1980—National Association of Broadcasters annual convention. Future conventions: Las Vegas Hilton, Dallas, April 4-7, 1982; Las Vegas Hilton, March 18-21, 1983; Atlanta, March 18-21, 1984; Kansas City, April 7-10, 1985; Kansas City, April 7-10, 1986; Atlanta, April 5-8, 1987; Atlanta, April 10-13, 1988.

■ **May 18-21, 1980**—National Association of Broadcasters annual convention. Washington Hilton, Washington.

■ **June 3-7, 1980**—29th annual convention of American Women in Radio and Television. Palacio del Rio and San Antonio, Tex. Future convention: Sheraton Washington hotel, Washington.

■ **Sept. 20-24, 1980**—Broadcasting Convention, National Association of Broadcasters and Exhibition Centre, Brighton, England.

Major Meetings

Mark Huffman (Email) - I'm responding to Dave Lubeski's challenge to other AP Radio staff to come up with their ad in the Broadcasting Magazine series.

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AP sighting in downtown Philadelphia





John Epperson ([Email](#)) - AP covers the news world and in downtown Philadelphia, we pave the streets as well it appears. Scene from coffee shop window with street repairs out front.

AP Photo of the Day



Russian police have arrested hundreds in central Moscow during a protest demanding that opposition candidates be allowed to run for the Moscow city council. | Pavel Golovkin/AP Photo

Best of the Week

AP hours ahead as Trump moves to end nearly all asylum at southern border



Along the border in Tijuana, Mexico, people wait to apply for asylum in the United States, July 16, 2019. Dozens of immigrants lined up at a major Mexico border crossing, waiting to learn how the Trump administration's plans to end most asylum protections would affect their hopes of taking refuge in the U.S. AP Photo / Gregory Bull

Washington-based homeland security reporter Colleen Long earned a key scoop - one that set the news agenda for days and left the competition scrabbling to catch up - when a source alerted her to a change in rules for those seeking asylum at the southern border: The rule effectively ended asylum for people coming from Central American countries and changed decades of U.S. policy.

Long's deep knowledge of immigration policy meant she was alert to the major implications of the lengthy and complex new ruling, and she immediately realized the real-world consequences of the change, which has since been challenged in court.

Following the tip, she also knew that she had a window of opportunity to drive her advantage home before the law was announced early the next morning. She worked late into Sunday evening to prep the story based on what she knew, got more details and guidance from sources, and was in the office early the next morning, ready to file. Then it was a matter of logging into the Federal Register and refreshing her screen until the instant the new rule was posted.

Long's story caught other news organizations completely off guard and left major outlets, including The Washington Post, to cite the AP for hours as they struggled to

catch up in a busy news cycle. Or as Colleen succinctly puts it: "I guess while everyone was looking left, I was looking right."

For her expertise on immigration policy, diligent reporting and outstanding speed of delivery on a story of vital interest, Colleen Long earns AP's Best of the Week.

Best of the States

When worlds collide: FOIA reveals ousted Iowa official's fixation with Tupac Shakur



Emails obtained by the AP show that the director of Iowa's Department of Human Services, Jerry Foxhoven, shown at left in a 2013 file photo, routinely sent messages to employees lauding the music and lyrics of the late Tupac Shakur, shown in 1996, weeks before he was shot to death. Foxhoven was abruptly fired after sending another such email to all 4,300 agency employees, asking them to mark Shakur's birthday by listening to one of his songs. The governor's office denied that Foxhoven had been fired over the Shakur content, but no official reason has been offered for the dismissal. Photos: LEFT: Charlie Litchfield / The Des Moines Register via AP; RIGHT: AP / Frank Wiese

When Gov. Kim Reynolds abruptly fired the head of the Iowa Department of Human Services, she refused to say why. The dismissal of director Jerry Foxhoven came as a shock to legislators who liked the official even as they clashed with him over his work to privatize the \$5 billion Medicaid program and make other changes in the state's largest agency.

Within days of the firing, Iowa City correspondent Ryan J. Foley got a startling tip from a reliable source: The ouster may have been due to Foxhoven's over-the-top fondness for Tupac Shakur. The suggestion that an obsession with the late rapper led to Foxhoven's dismissal seemed bizarre, but as Foley checked into it he found the same speculation from three more sources. One suggested Foley file a FOIA for all emails to and from Foxhoven with the words Tupac and 2Pac during his two-year tenure.

Foley managed the rare feat of connecting state government to a 1990s rap icon.

To Foley's surprise, the agency released 350 pages of records that documented how Foxhoven hosted "Tupac Fridays" to listen to his music, routinely shared Shakur lyrics with employees, and marked the anniversary of Shakur's death and birthday every year. The documents showed that some had complained about his Shakur missives, but they continued. Reynolds asked Foxhoven to resign the day after he had sent a mass email to all 4,300 DHS employees telling them to commemorate Shakur's birthday by listening to one of his songs.

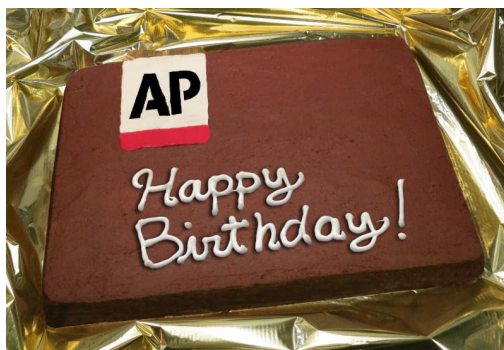
Over several days, the governor's spokesman wouldn't comment specifically whether Foxhoven's missives about Shakur prompted the director's removal, but he didn't deny the emails were among the many factors that led to his ouster.

Foley's story caused a nearly instant sensation in Iowa, as members gave the news big play online, on broadcasts and in print. But the response was equally large among national outlets that credited the AP for the scoop while giving their own spin on the story. Those weighing in included The New York Times, theGrio website, Esquire, Fox News, Poynter's daily news roundup and the Daily Beast. NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell me!" devoted a "Bluff the Listener" segment to the story.

Days later the governor's office finally released a statement denying Foxhoven had been fired over his love of Shakur, but the governor still wouldn't explain her actions. Foxhoven later told the AP his dismissal followed a dispute over shifting an agency employee to the governor's office, and Democrats are now calling for hearings on the matter as the state auditor moves ahead with an investigation. Amid the turmoil, a Des Moines T-shirt shop has started selling a new shirt: IOWA NEEDS TUPAC.

For investigating a tip rather than laughing it off, and then writing a story that managed the rare feat of connecting state government to a 1990s rap icon, Foley wins this week's Best of the States award.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Jeannie Eblen - jkeblen@sunflower.com

Stories of interest

Ebony and Jet photo archive sale sparks relief, anxiety



FILE - In this Dec. 10, 2001 file photo Linda Johnson Rice, president and chief operating officer of Jet magazine, looks over awards and recognitions won by the magazine in its 50-year lifetime at Jet's Chicago headquarters. The sale of the photo archive of Ebony and Jet magazines chronicling African American history is generating relief among some who worried the historic images may be lost. But it's also causing some to mourn the fact that the prints won't fully be in the hands of an African American-owned entity. (AP

Photo/Ted S. Warren, File)

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS and SALLY HO

The sale of the photo archive of Ebony and Jet magazines chronicling African American history is generating relief among some who worried the historic images may be lost.

But it's also causing some to mourn since the images, including photos of Emmett Till in 1955 after he was killed and ones documenting the rise of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., won't fully be in the hands an African American-owned entity. Ebony and Jet, for more than half a century, stood as the epitome of a black-owned business.

"You have to do what you have to do," Roy Douglas Malonson, publisher of the Houston-based African American News & Issues newspaper, said. "But it's sad because we lose control forever."

The Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation, The J. Paul Getty Trust and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation are buying the archive for \$30 million as part of an auction to pay off secured creditors of Johnson Publishing Company.

Read more [here](#).

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Trump attacked Baltimore. The city's newspaper wrote a scathing response. (Washington Post)

By Hannah Knowles

The paper of the city that President Trump attacked didn't mince words.

"Better to have a few rats than to be one," the Baltimore Sun's editorial declared in its headline.

On Saturday evening, the editorial board of a paper that has been a city fixture since 1837 joined the wave of Maryland residents and leaders condemning Trump's tweets calling Rep. Elijah E. Cummings's district a "rat and rodent infested mess" where "no human" would want to live. The scathing piece, which drew responses across the world and which the Sun expects will help break records in readership and subscriptions, highlights Baltimore's strengths and accuses the president of deploying "the most emotional and bigoted of arguments" against a Democratic African American congressman from a majority-black district.

"We regularly mock some of the things [Trump] does, but I think to call the president of the United States a rat or a vermin...that's a new place to go," Sun editorial writer Peter Jensen, who rushed to the office on his day off to write the piece, told The Washington Post. "But my gut instinct as I was writing the editorial was that that was the inescapable conclusion."

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

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A judge threw out Covington teen Nick Sandmann's \$250 million defamation lawsuit against The Washington Post (Business Insider)

By MICHELLE MARK

A federal judge on Friday threw out a \$250 million lawsuit against The Washington Post over its coverage of a widely scrutinized confrontation earlier this year between a Kentucky high-school student and a Native American activist.

Nick Sandmann, the student who filed the lawsuit, argued in his lawsuit that The Post had defamed him in seven articles and three tweets by portraying him as hostile or aggressive towards the activist, Nathan Phillips.

A video of the pair went viral in January showing Sandmann, wearing a Make America Great Again hat, staring down Phillips at the Lincoln Memorial as a group of Sandmann's peers chanted and smiled. The clip initially drew widespread outrage and prompted critics to condemn the mostly white group of students for apparently intimidating a person of color.

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

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The comma touch: Jacob Rees-Mogg's aides send language rules to staff (Guardian)

By Jacob Rees-Mogg

A list of rules has been sent to Jacob Rees-Mogg's staff asking them to stop using words such as "hopefully" and demanding that they use only imperial measurements and give all non-titled males the suffix Esq.

Aides to the new leader of the House of Commons sent out the list shortly after Rees-Mogg's appointment to the role by the new prime minister on Wednesday night.

Among the words and phrases considered unacceptable were: "very", "due to" and "ongoing", as well as "equal", "yourself" and "unacceptable". Rees-Mogg's aides also barred the use of "lot", "got" and "I am pleased to learn".

The guidance, obtained by ITV news, was drawn up by the North East Somerset MP's constituency team years ago, but has now been shared with officials in his new office.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

The Final Word

The Mosquitoes Are Coming for Us (New York Times)

By Timothy C. Winegard

It has been one of the most aggravating sounds on earth for more than 100 million years - the humming buzz of a mosquito.

She gently lands on your ankle and inserts two serrated mandible cutting blades and saws into your skin, while two other retractors open a passage for the proboscis. With this straw she sucks your blood, while a sixth needle pumps in saliva that contains an anticoagulant that prevents that blood from clotting. This shortens her feeding time, lessening the likelihood that you splat her across your ankle.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - July 29, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 29, the 210th day of 2019. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (The couple divorced in 1996.)

On this date:

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader ("fuehrer") of the National Socialist German Workers Party.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1965, The Beatles' second feature film, "Help!," had its world premiere in London.

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen. (Among the survivors was future Arizona senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who narrowly escaped with his life.)

In 1968, Pope Paul the Sixth reaffirmed the Roman Catholic Church's stance against artificial methods of birth control.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In 1980, a state funeral was held in Cairo, Egypt, for the deposed Shah of Iran, who had died two days earlier at age 60.

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in Sept. 2003.)

In 1997, members of Congress from both parties embraced compromise legislation designed to balance the budget while cutting taxes.

In 2004, Sen. John Kerry accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Boston with a military salute and the declaration: "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

In 2017, U.S. and South Korean forces conducted joint live-fire exercises in response to North Korea's second launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile; experts said the North Korean launch showed that a large portion of the United States was now within range of North Korea's arsenal.

Ten years ago: Microsoft and Yahoo announced a 10-year Internet search partnership under which Bing would replace Yahoo Search, as the companies agreed to take on the overwhelming dominance of Google in the online advertising market. Federal authorities arrested more than 30 suspects, including doctors, in a major Medicare fraud bust in New York.

Five years ago: Spurred to action by the downing of a Malaysian airliner over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, the European Union approved dramatically tougher economic sanctions against Russia, including an arms embargo and restrictions on state-owned banks; President Barack Obama swiftly followed with an expansion of U.S. penalties targeting key sectors of the Russian economy. Mississippi's effort to close its last abortion clinic was blocked by a federal appeals court.

One year ago: President Donald Trump tweeted that he was willing to see the government shut down over border security issues, including money for a U.S.-Mexico border wall. Pitcher Sean Newcomb of the Atlanta Braves was within one strike of a no-hitter before Chris Taylor singled for the Los Angeles Dodgers. (After the game, the 25-year-old Newcomb apologized for racist, homophobic and sexist tweets he had sent as a teenager; he described the tweets as "some stupid stuff" he said with friends.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 87. Actor Robert Fuller is 86. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 83. Actor David Warner is 78. Actress Roz Kelly is 77. Rock musician Neal Doughty (REO Speedwagon) is 73. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 70. Actor Mike Starr is 69. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 66. Style guru Tim Gunn is 66. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 66. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 66. Actor Kevin Chapman is 57. Actress Alexandra Paul is 56. Actor/comedian Dean Haglund is 54. Country singer Martina McBride is 53. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 52. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 51. Actor Tim Omundson is 50. Actor Ato Essandoh is 47. Actor Wil Wheaton is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 46. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 46. Actor Stephen Dorff is 46. Actor Josh Radnor is 45. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 42. Actress Rachel Miner is 39. Actress Allison Mack is 37. Actress Kaitlyn Black is 36. Actor Matt Prokop is 29. Actress Cait Fairbanks is 26.

Thought for Today: "Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together." - Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890).

Connecting calendar



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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