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Connecting - October 03, 2019

1 message

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Thu, Oct 3, 2019 at 9:03 AM

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Connecting

October 03, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 3rd day of October 2019,

Paul Albright's story on newspaper carriers - called "newspaper boys" back in the day - has prompted him and several of his Connecting colleagues to share their experiences of delivering newspapers.

If you have your own story to share, please send it along. Do youth carriers still make deliveries today, especially in smaller communities? I'd love to hear from anyone who can tell us the answer - and how it works.

Have a great day!

Paul

Your memories of delivering the news to doorsteps

Paul Albright (Email) - In preparing the article on the 1952 "newspaperboy" postage stamp for Wednesday's Connecting, I was reminded of my futile effort to become a delivery boy. As a high-schooler in the early '50s, I approached my parents for permission to deliver newspapers. I don't recall now if my pitch was for delivering the morning "Rocky Mountain News" (before school) or the evening "Denver Post" (after school). To my great disappointment, my father vetoed the idea. I think it was because he figured I couldn't handle both my school work and the newspaper deliveries. He probably was correct! But a few months later, I was hired as a weekend copy boy at the Rocky Mountain News, thus getting my foot inside the newspaper business at age 16.

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Mike Doan (Email) - At the end of my paper route for the Oakland Tribune, I used to stop and browse for magazines and newspapers at the store with the best newsstand in El Cerrito, Calif. Trouble was, it was a liquor store. The owner, not understanding why a 12-year-old would be in a liquor store, assumed I was stealing candy, and once he made me empty my pockets. My dad straightened him out, and later I even ran a few errands for the man.

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Jim Limbach (Email) - I began my "news career" at the age of 9 as a carrier for the "Spectator" a weekly Joliet, Ill., tabloid that was delivered to people whether they paid for it or not. The Spectator was best known as the employer of Molly Zelco, who apparently paid dearly for following the great journalistic tradition of pissing off the wrong people. See [link](#).

When I turned 10, I got into the Big Leagues, delivering two Chicago afternoon papers: the Herald-American and the Daily News (both now defunct). To accomplish this, one needed a bike capable of supporting a wire basket large enough to contain a month's worth of groceries.

When I was 12, my employer must have seen my potential as I was promoted to delivering two 7 day-a-week papers Chicago morning papers: the Tribune and the Sun-Times.

As taxing as slogging through rain, snow, and snarling dogs was, the hardest part of the job was collecting. Hearing excuses for not paying the bi-weekly tab (\$0.75) turned out to be a great lesson in creative writing. It also presented fodder for explaining to the distributor why you didn't make your quota.

All things considered, I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

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Steve Paulson (Email) - Regarding the life of a paperboy, I too got my start as a newspaper carrier, and it wasn't an easy job.

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Yes, that's the postman's creed, and it also applies to newspaper carriers. No days off, no vacations because a temporary carrier couldn't remember hundreds of names and addresses, and I hated Thanksgiving because the newspaper was filled with ads for Christmas shoppers and each paper weighed five pounds. If someone missed their paper (or it was stolen by a neighbor) I had to ride my bicycle back and make sure they got their nightly news. If they wanted their paper on their doorstep, I walked it to their door.

It wasn't all bad. It was a great introduction to the business world and I made a fair amount of money for my college fund. I also made it a point to do my collections on Christmas Eve because some of the tips were enormous.

I switched to journalism when I got to know a photographer at the Orlando Sentinel and he sold me a camera, with the understanding that he would teach me how to take pictures, develop film, make prints and slap them on a rolling drum to send to the office. Thus a new career was born.



I'm including a picture of me and other Orlando Sentinel carriers who won a trip to New York in 1965 for getting new subscriptions. I am in the middle behind the second newspaper counting from the left with a bit of a dour look. I'm sure the New York Daily News headline "Bringing News to Millions" needs to be modified, at least for the print version. I also won a trip to Washington, D.C., where we met J. Edgar Hoover and toured the White House.

All in all, a great training ground for journalists.

Connecting mailbox

His football photo shooting led to an AP career

Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Gene Herrick's memory continues to amaze me. What a wonderfully detailed description of his years on football sidelines as an AP photographer. Reading his posting (in Wednesday's Connecting) caused me to look back at my first experience during the autumn ritual that mesmerizes this country.

My first football game at the University of Missouri in 1977 found me sitting in the stands of a huge stadium, as big as any professional stadium I'd ever seen. Yeah, the game was good, I suppose, but I was paying far more attention to the photographers working the sidelines. When I saw my good friend and fellow j-schooler Charlie Cancellare making photos on the field, I was determined to be standing on the grass of Faurot Field by the next game. Turns out he had befriended St. Louis Post-Dispatch photographer Scott Dine who gave him a field pass.

A few phone calls to AP St. Louis staffer Fred Waters and Kansas City staffer John Filo helped me score a pass and for the next two seasons I was stringing for AP. It was during those games I got to know St. Louis stringer James Finley who seven years later would be hired as the AP staff photographer in St. Louis to replace Waters on the same day I would be hired in Kansas City replacing Peter Leabo.

Without a darkroom at the stadium, Waters, always wearing a sport coat and tie, would shoot the first quarter then hustle over to the Columbia Daily Tribune to process and print two black and white photos for Sunday AMs and one Monday opener for PMs. Finley and I would make it to the Tribune after the game with our film to add to the report if needed. Waters would also regale us with stories of his experiences in Asia from decades earlier which seemed to put college football into its proper perspective.

As for Cancellare, he would follow in his Uncle Frank's footsteps (known for his image of Dewey Defeats Truman) for an exciting career with UPI in Dallas, Brussels, Beirut and Washington DC. He later became an attorney on Long Island, but passed away too soon.

The late 70s were amazing years to learn the craft not only on the football field, but in all aspects of life, thanks to the generosity of my j-school professors, fellow students, and AP staffers.

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Connecting sky shot - Brooklyn



Brenda Smiley ([Email](#)) - They're back. Peachy streamers. Clouds soon to fold into the horizon, as Lady Liberty awaits to light the night.

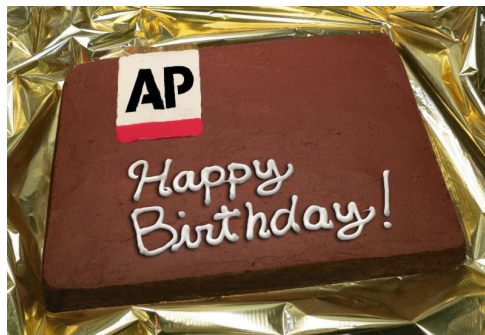
New-member profile: Brianna Valentin

Brianna Valentin ([Email](#)) - joined the AP from Ketchum, a global communications consultancy firm, in August 2019. She completed communications, editorial, marketing and media relations internships at MSNBC and Financial Times, as well as a public relations firm and a design agency. She has a B.A. in Communications with a concentration in journalism from Marist College. As communications associate, Brianna will assist in managing AP's digital communications channels, create content to help keep



AP staff connected and informed and support the various needs of AP departments.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Richard Horwitz - rh.mail@mac.com

Mark Hamrick - hamrickusa@gmail.com

Stories of interest

***Wriggling out of accountability:
Misinformation, evasion, and the informational
problem of live TV interviews*** (Nieman)

By MICHAEL J. SOCOLOW

First, it happened on Fox News. Chris Wallace asked White House adviser Stephen Miller about the president's decision to use private lawyers "to get information from the Ukrainian government rather than go through...agencies of his government."

Miller's response began "Two different points..." when Wallace cut him off. "How about answering my question?" Wallace asked.

Miller, changing the subject, ignored Wallace. Wallace's question was never answered.

Then it happened again. Jake Tapper hosted Congressman Jim Jordan on his CNN show State of the Union. As the interview closed, Jordan simply started ignoring Tapper's questions and giving his talking points instead. The interview concluded with a visibly frustrated Tapper signaling disappointment about his guest's avoidance of simple and direct questions.

Read more [here](#).

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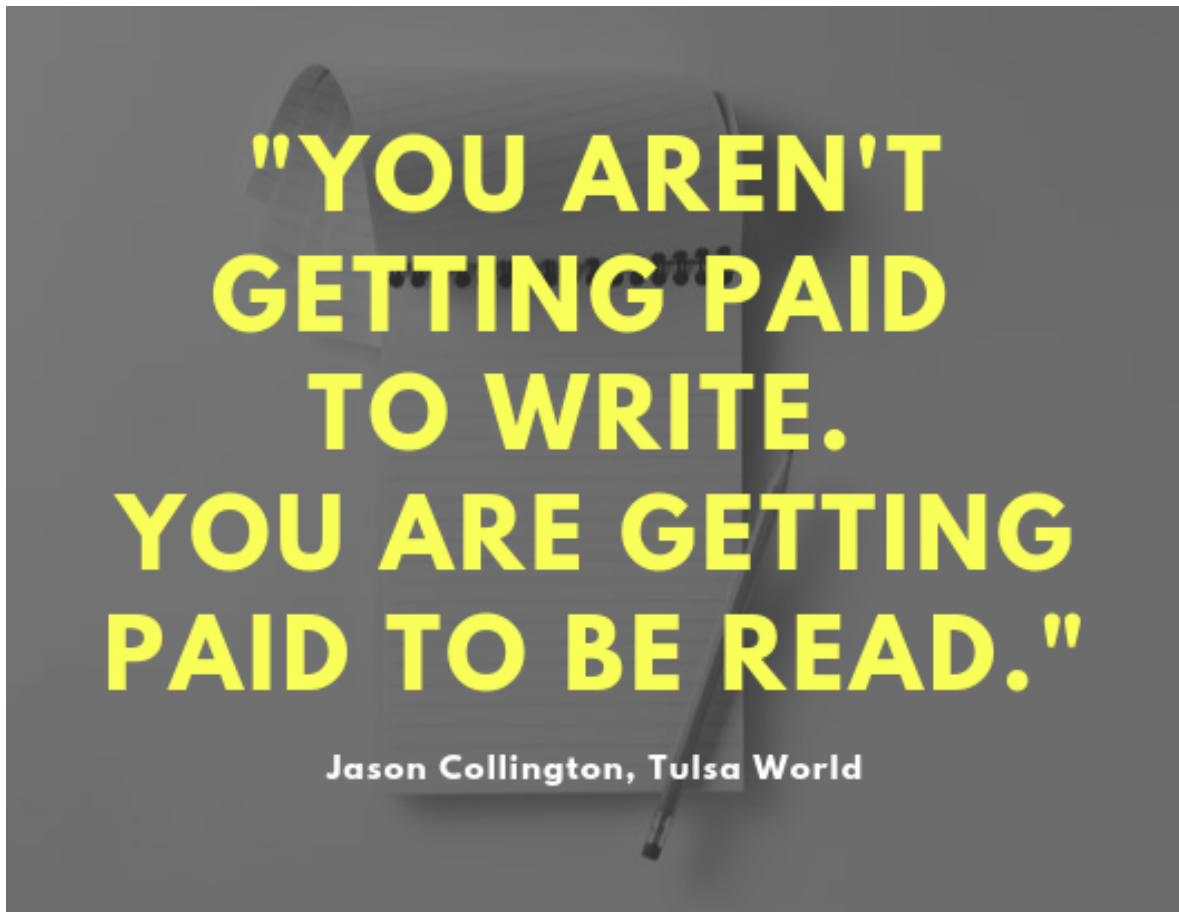
A quote I wish I'd heard at the beginning of my career (Poynter)

By **KRISTEN HARE**

A few weeks ago, my editor and I sat in a Detroit hotel room for a run-through of a presentation. She brought snacks. And White Claws. Barbara Allen and I had planned out our talk for the Society of Features Journalists' annual conference months before, and we'd designed it weeks before.

Our snacks-and-drinks session was the final practice.

It's also when Barbara added in a quote from Jason Collington, the deputy managing editor of the Tulsa World, that I wish I'd heard at the beginning of my career.



We highlighted Jason's wise words today in a story because it captured the heart of our talk - great reporting and writing are essential, but not where your job ends.

Our story has four tips.

Your audience matters

Headlines matter

Analytics matter

All the little stuff matters

Read more [here](#).

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Opinion journalism drives subscription traffic, McClatchy finds, so it's expanding (Poynter)

By Rick Edmonds

In early 2017, as editorial pages were coming to be the latest focus of newsroom job cuts, the Kansas City Star went the opposite direction - it expanded its editorial and column offerings.

Parent McClatchy is now pleased enough with the results to ask editorial page editor Colleen Nelson to catalyze similar changes in the chain's 29 other newsrooms. Still leading the Star's editorial board, Nelson now carries the added title of Opinion Editor for the entire company.

There has been much to admire in the Star opinion group's output, including three major national awards in two years.

But there was an even more important business rationale for Nelson's expanding portfolio: At the Star, analytics have shown that opinion pieces have become a major driver of traffic.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Tucker.

The Final Word

Impartiality Is the Source of a Newspaper's Credibility (Wall Street Journal)



By Walter Hussman Jr.

America has a vital interest in good journalism. But journalism confronts serious challenges. The advertising-based business model that supported it for more than a century has been disrupted. More than 1,800 U.S. newspapers have closed in the past 15 years—mostly weeklies, but also 75 dailies. Many surviving midsize metropolitan newspapers are shadows of what they once were. They have significantly reduced their news staffs and pages.

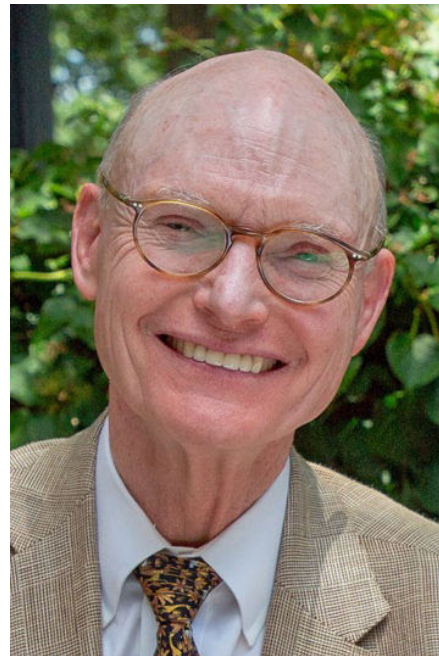
Yet journalism faces another serious challenge: a loss of public trust. A recent Gallup poll shows that of 15 American institutions, newspapers and television news are both near the bottom in the public's confidence. While news organizations claim they are fair and objective, and many try hard to be, Americans perceive widespread bias in news reporting.

Two years ago I heard a prominent journalist say she doesn't believe in the "false equivalency" of presenting both sides, and that she sees her job as determining the truth, then sharing it with her audience. That's not what I learned in journalism school in the 1960s.

I decided then that I needed to let our readers know that we didn't agree with those statements. I

also needed to let them know what journalistic principles we *do* endorse. So I drafted a statement of core values. For the past two years, every day we publish this statement on page 2 of all 10 daily newspapers our company publishes, including the flagship Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

During the 19th century, few news organizations existed other than newspapers. Generally they were highly partisan. Around the turn of the century most newspaper publishers came to believe they could get more readers by being fair and objective. When radio and television came along, they pursued the same goals.



Walter Hussman Jr.

But with the internet it was a different story. It is full of not only one-sided information, but plenty of disinformation. So far in the 21st century, we seem to be reverting to 19th-century ideas about news and partisanship. While cable-news networks have all done good journalism, they also feature highly opinionated commentators and shows. The problem is that there isn't a sharp delineation between news and opinion, creating the perception that CNN, MSNBC and Fox News each have their own agenda. If community journalism in America doesn't survive its economic challenges and we end up with three national newspapers, it is important that the public's perception of those newspapers not mirror their perception of the cable networks.

The solution is for reporters, editors and news executives to look inward, and not only to recommit ourselves to being fair, objective and impartial in our reporting, but to convince the public we are doing it. We also need to separate and clearly label news and opinion.

The best way to do it is through transparency-by publicly stating our core values. But we need to do more. Journalism schools need to adopt similar statement of core journalistic values. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's journalism school, one of the best in the nation, has decided to do that with an announcement Tuesday. We believe in this so strongly that our family, which has been in the newspaper business 110 years, has made its largest donation ever and is lending our name to the school.

My hope is that more journalism schools, and more news organizations, will adopt a similar statement of core values so the public can hold us accountable to our principles. This offers the best hope for re-establishing Americans' trust in journalism.

Our Core Values

Impartiality means reporting, editing, and delivering the news honestly, fairly, objectively, and without opinion or bias.

Credibility is the greatest asset of any news medium, and impartiality is the greatest source of credibility.

To provide the most complete report, a news organization must not just cover the news, but uncover it. It must follow the story wherever it leads, regardless of any preconceived ideas on what might be most newsworthy.

The pursuit of truth is a noble goal of journalism. But the truth is not always apparent or known immediately. Journalists' role is therefore not to determine what they believe at that time to be the truth and reveal only that to their readers, but rather to report as completely and impartially as possible all verifiable facts so that readers can, based on their own knowledge and experience, determine what they believe to be the truth.

When a newspaper delivers both news and opinions, the impartiality and credibility of the news organization can be questioned. To minimize this as much as possible there needs to be a sharp and clear distinction between news and opinion, both to those providing and consuming the news.

"A newspaper has five constituencies, including first its readers, then advertisers, then employees, then creditors, then shareholders. As long as the newspaper keeps those constituencies in that order, especially its readers first, all constituencies will be well served."-Walter Hussman, 1906-88

Mr. Hussman is publisher of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

Walter Hussman Jr. served on the board of The Associated Press from 2000 to 2009. Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Bobbie Seril.

Today in History - October 3, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 3, the 276th day of 2019. There are 89 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history:

On Oct. 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

On this date

In 1226, St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan order, died; he was canonized in 1228.

In 1789, President George Washington declared Nov. 26, 1789, a day of Thanksgiving to express gratitude for the creation of the United States of America.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler declared in a speech in Berlin that Russia had been "broken" and would "never rise again." "The Maltese Falcon" - the version starring Humphrey Bogart and directed by John Huston - premiered in New York.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of Economic Stabilization.

In 1955, "Captain Kangaroo" and "The Mickey Mouse Club" premiered on CBS and ABC, respectively.

In 1961, "The Dick Van Dyke Show," also starring Mary Tyler Moore, made its debut on CBS.

In 1967, folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie, the Dust Bowl Troubadour best known for "This Land Is Your Land," died in New York of complications from Huntington's disease; he was 55.

In 1995, the jury in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles found the former football star not guilty of the 1994 slayings of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman. (However, Simpson was later found liable for damages in a civil trial.)

In 2001, the Senate approved an agreement normalizing trade between the United States and Vietnam.

In 2003, a tiger attacked magician Roy Horn of duo "Siegfried & Roy" during a performance in Las Vegas, leaving the superstar illusionist in critical condition on his 59th birthday.

In 2008, O.J. Simpson was found guilty of robbing two sports-memorabilia dealers at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room. (Simpson was later sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was granted parole in July 2017 and released from prison in October of that year.)

In 2017, President Donald Trump, visiting Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, congratulated the U.S. island territory for escaping the higher death toll of what he called "a real catastrophe like Katrina"; at a church used to distribute supplies, Trump handed out flashlights and tossed rolls of paper towels into the friendly crowd.

Ten years ago: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hit back at President Barack Obama's accusation that his country had sought to hide its construction of a new nuclear site, arguing that Tehran reported the facility to the U.N. even earlier than required. Eight U.S. soldiers were killed, 22 wounded, when their outpost in Afghanistan's Nuristan province was attacked by hundreds of militants.

Five years ago: An Internet video was released showing an Islamic State group militant beheading British hostage Alan Henning, the fourth such killing carried out

by the extremist group being targeted by U.S.-led airstrikes.

One year ago: The Federal Emergency Management Agency conducted its first-ever national wireless emergency alert test, causing electronic devices across the country to sound, with a message that carried the subject, "Presidential Alert." (Some people got as many as four alerts on their phones, while others didn't get any.) Researches at Columbia University presented evidence that astronomers for the first time may have found a moon outside our solar system, orbiting a planet as big as Jupiter about 8,000 light-years away. Peru's Supreme Court overturned a medical pardon for former President Alberto Fujimori and ordered the 80-year-old to be returned to jail to serve out a long sentence for human rights abuses.

Notable birthdays

Composer Steve Reich is 83. Rock-and-roll star Chubby Checker is 78. Actor Alan Rachins is 77. Former Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., is 76. Magician Roy Horn is 75. Singer Lindsey Buckingham is 70. Jazz musician Ronnie Laws is 69. Blues singer Keb' Mo' is 68. Former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley is 65. Civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton is 65. Actor Hart Bochner is 63. Actor Peter Frechette is 63. World Golf Hall of Famer Fred Couples is 60. Actor-comedian Greg Proops is 60. Actor Jack Wagner is 60. Actor/musician Marcus Giamatti is 58. Rock musician Tommy Lee is 57. Actor Clive Owen is 55. Actress Janel Moloney is 50. Singer Gwen Stefani (No Doubt) is 50. Pop singer Kevin Richardson is 48. Rock singer G. Love is 47. Actress Keiko Agena is 46. Actress Neve Campbell is 46. Actress Lena Headey is 46. Singer India Arie is 44. Rapper Talib Kweli is 44. Actress Alanna Ubach is 44. Actor Seann William Scott is 43. Actress Shannyn Sossamon is 41. Rock musician Josh Klinghoffer (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 40. Actor Seth Gabel is 38. Rock musician Mark King (Hinder) is 37. Actor Erik Von Detten is 37. Singer-musician Cherrill Green (Edens Edge) is 36. Actress Tessa Thompson is 36. Country singer Drake White is 36. Actress Meagan Holder is 35. Actor Christopher Marquette is 35. Actress-singer Ashlee Simpson is 35. Rapper A\$AP Rocky is 31. Actress Alicia Vikander is 31. Actor Noah Schnapp ("Stranger Things") is 15.

Thought for today

"Life has got a habit of not standing hitched. You got to ride it like you find it. You got to change with it." - Woody Guthrie, American folk singer-songwriter (1912-1967).

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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