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Connecting - February 03, 2020

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SPECIAL EDITION

MONDAY FEBRUARY 3 2020

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Kansas City Chiefs' players pour a cooler of Gatorade on head coach Andy Reid, during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game against the San Francisco 49ers, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla. The Chiefs' defeated the 49ers 31-20. (AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 3rd day of February 2020,

This comes to you from a joyous Kansas City after the Chiefs fought back from a 10-point deficit against the San Francisco 49ers to win their first Super Bowl in 50 years, 31-20, on Sunday night in Miami. The Comeback Kids set an NFL record by overcoming at least a 10-point deficit in all three of their playoff victories.

Today's Connecting Profile focuses on our colleague, **Beth Grace**, one of my favorite people, who headed the Albany and Kansas City AP bureaus as chief of bureau during her career with The Associated Press.

I got to know Beth when she succeeded me in 2003 in Kansas City, becoming the first woman in the century-plus history of the bureau to be chief of bureau, and we've maintained a friendship since she left AP and I retired. (Oh, and one more thing: that newspaper-toting Golden who greets new Connecting members including three today is Beth's late and great dog **Dudley**.)

The Iowa caucuses take place today throughout the Hawkeye State and AP's **Lauren Easton** reviews in this piece, shared with you earlier, on how the AP will call the Iowa winner. Click [here](#) to read.

Have a great week!

Paul

Connecting profile

Beth Grace



Beth Grace - Three knocks from the antique gavel and we all rise. From the East, the Master gathers the brethren into a circle, arms across their chests, all hands clasped. An honored brother is summoned to lead the closing charge, admonishing his brethren to love each other, treat all people kindly and give to those in need. The response - a sort of "amen" - is thunderous: SO MOTE IT BE!

What on earth am I doing here? I am the lone female in a sea of apron-clad Freemasons in an aging lodge deep in the heart of the Tar Heel State, North Carolina. In the three years since I became communications director of the North Carolina Masonic Foundation and editor of the statewide newspaper, the North Carolina Mason, I am delighted to find that I have somehow become a welcome fixture in an all-male fraternity. Well, mostly. Not all brothers are on board - some still give me the side-eye, wondering exactly how a "girl" came to be employed by the 36,000-member Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free & Accepted Masons of North Carolina. But most brothers are fine with me writing about them; some have even declared me their favorite Mason.

Life after The Associated Press has taken a few turns. Most have been great; some, not so much. But all have been interesting, and all have changed me.

I joined the AP in Columbus, Ohio, in 1985, so wet behind the ears, I sloshed when I walked. My first day was rough. I got up at about 4 a.m., terrified about what was about to happen. I drove downtown from my apartment hours early, found a parking place and drew a little map for myself to where I parked - I figured my brain would be mush by the time I headed home. (Why yes, I did get lost going home. Thanks for asking.) I found my way to the bureau, on the 3rd floor of The Columbus Dispatch building. It was not ... uh ... fancy. It was actually ink-stained, probably from the old LaserPhoto machine I sat next to every day. Well, I THINK it was ink. Could have been any number of things, not the least of which was accumulated tar from the cigarettes most of us smoked.

The bureau was staffed by some of the world's funniest humans. I marveled at Andrea Weisgerber (later Rader) taking flawless broadcast dictation like lightning, lit cigarette dangling, phone mashed up to one ear. News Editor Dale Leach kept the banter going, while whipping through copy with the expertise of a surgeon. Best editor I ever saw. Don't tell him I said that. There'll be no living with him. They made me write briefs and take dictation from some radio guy in Athens for something called "Buckeye Sound." I learned how to log on and off. ("You done good," the screen said.) At one point of the day, COB Jake Booker wandered by on his way back from the coffee machine. How, he asked, was it going? I looked up at him, deer-in-the-headlights style, and said, "I have absolutely no idea." Happily, he opted not to fire me and I went on to a 19-year career with the finest newspeople on the planet. I worked in Columbus for 14 years, rising to news editor and then assistant bureau chief.



AP was first to document a resurgence of Klan activity in the '80s in southeastern Ohio, cashing

Wanderlust took over then and I headed north to Albany as COB. Three years of 10-foot snows - in May - sent me packing to Kansas City, Mo. That was my last AP stop, working as Missouri and Kansas COB with the wonderful Paul Stevens, who had to work with the likes of me, Cliff Schiappa and Jim Clarke. And he had to live with the nickname "Swoony" Paul after a female member declared at an awards banquet that all the women in the newsroom swooned when he walked in to visit. After that, Cliff, Jim and I would fake-swoon every time he walked into our offices. It got old ... for him. We loved it. I'll probably do it again the next time I see him.

in on farmers desperate to save their family farms. This shot of the Imperial Wizard of the Ohio KKK was from a rally that ended with a cross burning and shots fired as a Columbus TV reporter prepared to file a live report. (AP Photo)

But back to the men in aprons. I left the AP in 2005, moved to North Carolina to become executive director of the NC Press Association. I loved the work and the people. I got to stump for the very best of causes - newspapers, good journalism and open government - for nine years. It was an exceptional journey from newperson to news advocate. I left NCPA the end of 2014 and found my way - through a friend who had taken a development contract with the NC Freemasons - to a dual role with the NC branch of the world's oldest fraternity. I now edit the 16-page bimonthly newspaper that has a circulation of about 40,000. And I'm communications director for the NC Masonic Foundation, which raises funds to support the two fraternal charities: the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, NC, and Whitestone, a Masonic and Eastern Star senior community in Greensboro. I live in Raleigh, not far from the Grand Lodge. I work mostly from home but put in time each week at the Grand Lodge. All my friends think it's a scary building full of secrets. But it's actually a really nice building, full of men who proudly say that Masonry is not a secret organization, it's an organization that has some secrets. And to be honest, those secrets mostly are found in ritual ceremonies held to induct new members. (Believe me - I have snooped.) Many ceremonies and rites are public, which is how I can cover them.

The work I do now is immensely rewarding, creative, and fun. I am happy at my work and joyful in my life. But truth be told, when I think back to working for AP - most often as I lounge about watching TV on election nights, with NOTHING to do but soak it all in - I know that I was part of journalistic history, that I worked with a team of dedicated professionals with big hearts and sharp minds, and that together, we changed the world, word by word. AP still does it, with integrity, accuracy, credibility and truth. May it always be so. As my Masonic colleagues might say: So mote it be!

Beth Grace's email is - bgrace763@gmail.com

And these shots of Beth from her days in...

Columbus bureau



Beth Grace memories from Columbus days: Front row, from left: Beth Grace, Andrea Rader, Keith Robinson, Deb Martin; 2nd row, from left: Dale Leach, Jake Booker, Anne FitzHenry, Howard Goldberg, Rich Harris; 3rd row, from left: Mark Riffle, John McCarthy, John Nolan, Bob Lewis.

Kansas City bureau



When AP CEO Tom Curley came to Kansas City in December 2003 to speak to Kansas-

Missouri members, the bureau invited him to take part in a touch football game. Always the athlete and competitor, he accepted immediately. Participants, front row from left: Rob Sandler, Tim Curran, Kia Breaux, Sarah Nordgren, Libby Quaid and Beth Grace. Standing, from left: David Carson, Tom Curley, Bill Draper, David Scott, Paul Stevens, Jim Salter, Jim Suhr, David Lieb and Jim Clarke.

Connecting mailbox

About those mice that roared

Sue Price Johnson ([Email](#)) - I read with delight the nugget about the Mouse computers. I was thrilled when ours was installed in Raleigh. My brother Chuck worked for Digital at the time and I called him to say that we were getting a DEC system. "Which one?" I told him it was a PDP8E. (Why THAT is taking up usable brain cells is really ridiculous!) His response: "Wow. We discontinued that several years ago." Oh well, it was new for us and that's all that counted.

That same brother is now chief product officer for a company called Tu Simple. They're putting autonomous big rigs on the road.

And...

Doug Pizac ([Email](#)) - Back in my early days with AP the Los Angeles CoB held a staff contest to name its new mouse computer system. I won the nice restaurant dinner prize with "Algernon" from the sy-fy book Flowers for Algernon about a lab mouse that underwent surgery to increase his intelligence. Our mouse was supposedly designed to increase our reporting intelligence as I recall.

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A shaky start on Day One at the AP

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - It was a rocky beginning that left me feeling pretty lowdown. But my AP career was salvaged by the kindness and tutoring of an editor with a heart.

After a year-and-a-half as a copy-boy in the Boston bureau, I was given my first writing position as low man on an AP team covering the Maine Legislature. My previous writing experience was pretty thin: obits and community items for my home-town weekly, and occasional regional pieces at the bureau.

My initial assignment at Augusta (on my first day there, as I recall these 67 years later) was to look through a box stuffed with hundreds of legislative proposals and dig out newsworthy items. I thought I had found a good candidate, tapped out maybe 300 words, and nervously handed it to Bill Langzettel, whom I had heard was a pretty tough editor.

He took a look, blue-penciled everything between the first couple and last couple of grafs, and - without a word - handed it to the puncher. Convinced, perhaps unreasonably, that my writing career had just suffered a fatal wound, I felt like going back to my room, packing and heading out of town. But later in the evening, as I was staring mindlessly out of the state house newsroom window, Bill came over and invited me to join him for dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

Then he said something like, "Don't worry kid, you'll be O.K."

Thanks to that good guy, and what I learned from him over the next several months, I was O. K. for the remainder of my AP years.

Best of the Week

Coordinated effort delivers strong, quick all-formats coverage of migrant caravan



AP Photo by Moises Castillo

When a caravan of migrants tried to cross from Guatemala into Mexico, an AP team showed in real time how effective a coordinated multiformat effort can be in covering breaking news.

From the moment a caravan of Central American migrants set out from Honduras and crossed through Guatemala toward a series of standoffs with Mexican authorities on Jan. 20, the AP was there, documenting every step of the way. Knowing that Mexican authorities were determined not to let the migrants pass, editors deployed cross-format teams to cover the caravan from both the Guatemalan and the Mexican sides of the border. That effort put the AP far ahead of the competition on the day the situation came to a head.

When the migrants went to the Suchiate River to cross toward Mexico, text reporters were able to shoot compelling live video via Bambuser, the live-streaming technology, to supplement live content produced by video stringers. Photographers quickly filed images, while AP's video journalists also worked the story.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP Exclusive: NFL's Saints allegedly do damage control for Catholic Church on abuse crisis



AP Photo/Matthew Hinton

New York-based federal law enforcement reporter Jim Mustian never gives up on a story.

Sticking with a case he began covering at another news organization in another state more than two years ago, he landed a jaw-dropping exclusive for the AP: That a trove of hundreds of confidential emails has surfaced allegedly showing executives of the NFL's New Orleans Saints doing public relations damage control for the area's Roman Catholic archdiocese amid its clergy sexual abuse crisis.

Mustian, a Louisiana native who was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting at The New Orleans Advocate, began covering the high-profile clergy abuse case of longtime deacon George Brignac for that newspaper more than two years ago and continued to break news on it after coming to the AP in late 2018.

Read more [here](#).

Welcome to Connecting



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Stories of interest

After NPR dust-up, Pompeo defends press freedom abroad

By MATTHEW LEE

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (AP) - For the past four days, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been calling for authoritarian governments in eastern Europe and Central Asia to ease restrictions on press freedom despite criticism for his own treatment of journalists at home.

In Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan over the weekend and again on Monday, Pompeo raised human rights issues, including freedom of the press, with his interlocutors and denied any double-standard was at play.

Pompeo defended his unhappiness with a National Public Radio interviewer who asked him last month about the ouster of the former ambassador to Ukraine. Further, he said his conduct, which the journalist said included berating her with profanities once the interview was over, did not demonstrate a lack of respect for a free press.

Pompeo responded in an official statement that the interviewer had "lied" to him, and he called her conduct "shameful." He said the incident was "another example of how unhinged the media has become in its quest to hurt" President Donald Trump and his administration. NPR said it stood by its journalist's reporting.

Read more [here](#).

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High-profile Iowa poll won't be released

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) - The Des Moines Register, CNN and its polling partner have decided not to release the final installment of its presidential preference poll, fearing its results may have been compromised.

Carol Hunter, the executive editor of the Iowa newspaper, posted the announcement Saturday night at the same time the results of the highly anticipated survey were supposed to be released.

Hunter said that one of the poll respondents reported concerns earlier in the day, which raised questions about the integrity of the results.

"It appears a candidate's name was omitted in at least one interview in which the respondent was asked to name their preferred candidate," Hunter wrote in an article posted on the Register's website.

"While this appears to be isolated to one surveyor, we cannot confirm that with certainty. Therefore, the partners made the difficult decision to not to move forward with releasing the Iowa Poll."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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The end comes for another local newspaper, 165 years after it began (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

They're closing up the office now, with its musty odor of moldering newsprint and decrepit bound copies stacked neck-high. On Thursday, the last Montgomery Sentinel rolled off a press, 165 years after its birth.

The newspaper once carried ads for slaves and chronicled the news from both the Civil War and the civil rights movement. It survived the Great Depression and muddled through the Great Recession. But the paper, with editions serving Maryland's two largest counties, Montgomery and Prince George's, couldn't survive Facebook and Google and Instagram. And so now it is gone, the latest to fall in America's vast newspaper famine.

The story has become humdrum, so routine that newspapers barely stir themselves to report on all the deaths in their family. The civic commemorations are brief, too, if they happen at all. The numbers are dry: More than 1 in 5 newspapers, mostly weeklies like the Sentinel, have dropped dead over the past 15 years.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Anne Cox Chambers, wealthy newspaper heiress, dies at 100



In this Nov. 13, 2009 file photo, U.S. billionaire media proprietor Anne Cox Chambers, center, smiles after being awarded "Commandeur de la L'gion d'Honneur" at the Culture Ministry, in Paris, Friday Nov. 13, 2009. The family of Anne Cox Chambers says the newspaper heiress has died. Her nephew, Jim Kennedy, announced her death to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, her flagship newspaper. (AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

By JEFF MARTIN

ATLANTA (AP) - Anne Cox Chambers, a newspaper heiress, diplomat and philanthropist who was one of the country's richest women, died Friday at the age of 100.

Chambers' nephew James Cox Kennedy announced her death to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, her company's flagship newspaper.

"Aunt Anne was a wonderful, kind and elegant lady who cared deeply about her family, her company and her country," said Kennedy, who served as Cox Enterprises chief executive officer from 1988 to 2008 and continues as chairman. "She took the responsibility of good fortune very seriously and gave back to the best of her ability to the many causes she cared about."

Chambers, a director of Cox Enterprises Inc., promoted Jimmy Carter's political career and served as U.S. ambassador to Belgium during his presidency.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

Remembering Wick Temple



WICK TEMPLE

1937-2003

VICE PRESIDENT, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Newsman - Chief of Bureau - Sports Editor - Managing Editor
Director of Human Resources - Director of Newspaper Membership*

*"Despite all the changes the years have brought,
two things have remained the same for us: AP's values,
and the trust of the staff and members in those values,
and in those who safeguard them."*

-Wick Temple, personal note to COBs, Oct. 17, 2002

*"AP people share an assumption that their work is a calling,
that what they do makes a difference for the good.
They are right to think that."*

-Frank Batten, AP chairman, 1982-87

In fondest memory of Wick Temple:
our true north, our adviser, our trusted friend

From AP's domestic chiefs of bureau as of Feb. 1, 2003

DOROTHY ABERNATHY, RICHMOND	GEORGE GARTVES, DENVER	JOHN LUMPKIN, DALLAS
JULIE AICHER, ALBUQUERQUE	BETH GRACE, ALBANY	JOCELYN NOVECK, NEW YORK
BILL BEECHAM, SALT LAKE CITY	SALLY HALE, TRENTON	EVA PARZIALE, COLUMBUS
ED BELL, BOSTON	TENA HARALDSON, SIOUX FALLS	CHARLOTTE PORTER, NEW ORLEANS
JOHN BOLT, CHARLESTON	CLAY HASWELL, SAN FRANCISCO	DAVE PYLE, MINNEAPOLIS
DAVID BRISCOE, HONOLULU	CHARLES HILL, DETROIT	JIM REINDL, CHICAGO
BRYAN BRUMLEY, PORTLAND	MIKE HOLMES, OMAHA	KEITH ROBINSON, INDIANAPOLIS
DENISE CABRERA, BALTIMORE	ELAINE HOOKER, HARTFORD	ROBERT SHAW, LITTLE ROCK
LARRY CAMPBELL, ANCHORAGE	T. LEE HUGHES, MILWAUKEE	JOHN SHURR, COLUMBIA
KRISTI CHEW, DES MOINES	LINDEL HUTSON, OKLAHOMA CITY	PAUL STEVENS, KANSAS CITY
GARY CLARK, ATLANTA	SANDY JOHNSON, WASHINGTON	LINDA STOWELL, PHILADELPHIA
SUE CROSS, LOS ANGELES	JOHN KUGLIN, HELENA	KEVIN WALSH, MIAMI
STEVE ELLIOTT, PHOENIX	LARRY LAUGHLIN, CONCORD	DAVID WILKISON, LOUISVILLE
FRANK FISHER, JACKSON	DALE LEACH, SEATTLE	SUE PRICE WILSON, RALEIGH
KENT FLANAGAN, NASHVILLE		

Saturday, Feb. 1, marked the 17th anniversary of the death of Wick Temple, one of the most respected journalists and executives in the AP. This plaque was commissioned by AP domestic chiefs of bureau and presented to the AP for display at a 2003 memorial for Wick, with a copy made for his wife Margy McCay. Many Connecting members are among the list of chiefs on the plaque. And some are no longer with us. For many of us, Wick was our True North.

Today in History - February 3, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2020. There are 332 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship SS Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo in the Labrador Sea; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. (Four Army chaplains on board gave away their life jackets to save others and went down with the ship.)

On this date:

In 1690, the first paper money in America was issued by the Massachusetts Bay Colony to finance a military expedition to Canada.

In 1877, the song "Chopsticks," written by 16-year-old Euphemia Allen under the pseudonym Arthur de Lulli, was deposited at the British Museum under the title "The Celebrated Chop Waltz."

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, the same day an American cargo ship, the SS Housatonic, was sunk by a U-boat off Britain after the crew was allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1969, "Candid Camera" creator Allen Funt and his family were aboard an Eastern Airlines flight that was hijacked to Cuba. (Fellow passengers who recognized Funt thought the whole thing was a stunt for his TV show.)

In 1988, the U.S. House of Representatives handed President Ronald Reagan a major defeat, rejecting his request for \$36.2 million in new aid to the Nicaraguan Contras by a vote of 219-211.

In 1991, the rate for a first-class postage stamp rose to 29 cents.

In 1994, the space shuttle Discovery lifted off, carrying Sergei Krikalev (SUR'-gay KREE'-kuh-lev), the first Russian cosmonaut to fly aboard a U.S. spacecraft.

In 1998, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker, 38, for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984. A U.S. Marine plane sliced through the cable of a ski gondola in Italy, causing the car to plunge hundreds of feet, killing all 20 people inside.

Ten years ago: A suicide bomber killed seven people in northwestern Pakistan, including three U.S. soldiers. Motivational speaker James Arthur Ray was arrested on manslaughter charges after three people died following a northern Arizona sweat lodge ceremony he'd led in Oct. 2009. (Ray was convicted of three counts of negligent homicide and spent nearly two years in prison.) Actress Frances Reid, 95, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: An evening rush-hour commuter train with 750 people aboard slammed into a SUV at a crossing in Valhalla, New York, killing the vehicle's driver and six people on the train. A video released on militant websites purportedly showed a Jordanian pilot who was captured by the Islamic State group being burned to death.

One year ago: In the lowest-scoring Super Bowl ever, featuring just one touchdown, the New England Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams, 13-3. Grammy-nominated rapper 21 Savage was arrested in Georgia by immigration authorities, who said it was a targeted operation over his expired visa; the rapper is a British citizen who moved to the U.S. when he was 7. (21 Savage spent 10 days in a detention center in southern Georgia before being released.) The wreckage of the plane carrying soccer player Emiliano Sala was located two weeks after it disappeared from radar over the English Channel; Sala and the pilot were both killed.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., is 87. Football Hall of Famer Fran Tarkenton is 80. Actress Bridget Hanley is 79. Actress Blythe Danner is 77. Football Hall of Famer Bob Griese is 75. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 73. Singer Melanie is 73. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 70. Actress Pamela Franklin is 70. Actor Nathan Lane is 64. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 64. Actor Thomas Calabro is 61. Rock musician/author Lol Tolhurst (The Cure) is 61. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 59. Actress Michele Greene is 58. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 56. Actress Maura Tierney is 55. Actor Warwick Davis is 50. Actress Elisa Donovan is 49. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 44. Actress Isla (EYE'-luh) Fisher is 44. Musician Grant Barry is 43. Human rights activist Amal Clooney is 42. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 38. Actor Matthew Moy is 36. Rapper Sean Kingston is 30. Actor Brandon Micheal (cq) Hall is 27.

Thought for Today: "Your friend will argue with you." [-] Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer (1918-2008).

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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