



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

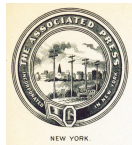
# Connecting - February 12, 2020

1 message

**Paul Stevens** <paulstevens46@gmail.com>  
Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com  
To: pjshane@gmail.com

Wed, Feb 12, 2020 at 8:49 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



# Connecting

February 12, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)

[Top AP photos](#)

[AP books](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)

[The AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)

Colleagues,

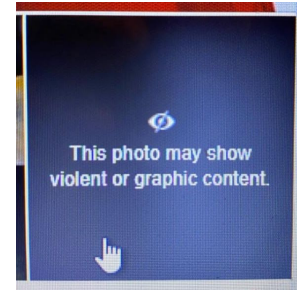
Good Wednesday morning on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020,

Call my congressional representative. Make a contribution. These are two of the thoughts shared by Connecting colleagues to the story in Tuesday's issue that the Defense Department plans to cut some federal spending for Stars & Stripes.

Colleagues **Jim Carlson** served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam and **Lyle Price** served in Korea - and both knew firsthand the value that the newspaper had to fellow soldiers. Connecting would welcome your thoughts.

We bring you more on the iconic photo "The Falling Man" taken by AP photographer **Richard Drew** on 9/11 - including word that a song was produced that is based on the photo.

And we pose a question regarding how Facebook censors elected to "hide" the photo by blacking it out and stating, "This photo may show violent or graphic content." When you click on the blacked-out image, then the original image is shown on your Facebook page. Censorship may be too strong a word, since you do have the option to view the photo. Would the same happen with **Nick Ut's** Napalm Girl or **Eddie Adams'** Vietcong execution photo - both Pulitzer Prize winners. What are your thoughts?



Have a great day!

Paul

## Two solutions to plans to cut federal spending for Stars & Stripes: Congress and contributions

**Jim Carlson** ([Email](#)) - I will be contacting my congressional representatives, and anyone else I can think of, to protest the plan to cut some federal spending for Stars and Stripes newspaper.

During my Vietnam service in 1969-70, it was a welcome sight to see a news source with some independence that did not ignore all the turmoil surrounding the war. I had worked my way into being a stringer for my Army infantry battalion, and once in a while I got one of my stories in the Stars and Stripes.

I think the troops appreciated getting more of a true view of the news, compared with the typical military publications, and I know I certainly did.

It would be a shame to reduce the availability of a trusted news source to those serving in the military. We don't want them cut off from that kind of news and relying only on what their superiors tell them from on high, do we? I don't.

The same goes for the broadcasts of Armed Forces Radio. I learned of the Kent State shootings that way while riding on an APC near the Cambodian border.

-0-

**Lyle Price (Email)** - Whoa, I want to put a "95" on this one, re Tuesday's Connecting on projected military cutback on Stars & Stripes funding and an allegation that this esteemed and venerable publication allegedly isn't a good way in modern times for the military to communicate with its troops.

I read the Stars & Stripes on a daily basis as a GI in 1955-56 stationed in South Korea (a few years after the war's end) and that publication was the only English language newspaper available in the country, where I put in stints at Inchon, Pusan, and an artillery outfit in a wilderness not far south of the DMZ. Whether that solitary status of English newspapers is still the case, beats me; I'll check later to see if the NYT has a Tokyo or Seoul international edition. However, I doubt the S&S practice of reporting military news (and civilian) news from many Asia locales has changed - and I would guess that its pages are still tailored to the interests of US troops throughout Asia. S&S also did a good job of covering key news from the USA - known to GIs serving abroad as "the land of the big PX."

The only other English-language newspaper I saw in Korea besides some GI efforts was the Chicago Tribune, whose publisher sent copies to all service personnel from Chicago who requested them. They'd arrive in big bundles at Army Post Offices. The Armed Forces Radio Service had spot newscasts delivered by GIs. It didn't include USA network stuff that I ever heard. That era was also prior to military TV availability in Korea.

I was assistant editor of the two-page mimeographed daily Porthole News during my time at Inchon and contributed one (1) sports story to the S&S Asian edition published in Tokyo. I had interviewed the top Army boxer in the Far East, who'd come to Inchon for an exhibition fight. It was apparently good enough to be run word for word without editing by either Inchon or Tokyo. Those were in the days before a reporter was expected to (or dared to) be the one to stick their name on a story; so S&S stuck on a name--the name of their Tokyo-based boxing writer! I always presumed that was an honest error.

I would gladly contribute to a fund to help keep Stars and Stripes in viable condition and I suspect many other veterans with overseas service would feel the same.

# 'Kobe was human, just like other people we cover'

**Steve Paulson** ([Email](#)) - As one of the Associated Press reporters who covered the rape trial of Kobe Bryant, I have to agree with the blanket statement that "Even when the rape charge is included, in the vast majority of stories the information conveyed from that episode in Bryant's life is cursory to the point of being inaccurate."

As reporters, we are required to get both sides of a story. The Bryant trial was no different. AP reporters, including myself and former AP reporter Jon Sarche, did so with respect, going through the woman's attorney, who refused our request for interviews, so we relied on the woman's attorney for comment. Not all reporters followed the rules, including one reporter who allegedly bribed a court clerk for access to information on the ongoing court proceedings, which we were required to track down, without success.

The trial was a circus, with the late AP photographer Ed Andrieski forced to climb on top of a ladder to get above the crowd of news reporters to get rare pictures of Kobe coming out of the courthouse, with a number of back doors where Bryant could slip out without notice. We were often forced out of the courthouse for hearings, in one case standing in a giant circus tent in below zero weather, with huge propane burners providing heat and laptops freezing up, so we had no idea what was going on.

When the judge held one of the last hearings in the case, he had the courthouse doors locked and only a limited number of reporters who learned by accident of the pending lockout were allowed in the courtroom. Sarche, the lead AP reporter, got locked out before I could warn him and I managed to grab one of the few seats available during a mad scramble for seats.

The final papers were delivered to Bryant on the runway at the far end of the airport, where he signed them out of sight of the press and flew off in his jet without comment, an accommodation not provided to most defendants.

I think one big issue was not covered in the obits which is why famous, rich and important people do stupid things. I think they begin to doubt themselves and wonder why they deserve adulation. Then they listen to sycophants who tell them how great they are and they start to believe they deserve the fame and fortune and can do almost anything they want. When I saw the first stories about Kobe's death, I

wondered why so many organizations ignored this aspect of Kobe's life and made him look almost superhuman. Kobe was human, just like other people we cover.

## More on 'The Falling Man' photo

### ***Bluegrass group has recorded 'Falling Man' song***

**Richard Drew** ([Email](#)) - A Bluegrass group, the SteelDrivers, has a recorded a "Falling Man" song.

[Here's a story](#) in The Daily Herald of Columbia, Tenn., which includes:

*Another track, "The Falling Man," comes influenced by an Associated Press photo that captured a man jumping from the World Trade Center on 9/11. It carries an emotional heaviness, Fleming said.*

*"I'll never die, I'll never land/ Keep me alive/ Call me what I am, a falling man," Damrell sings. "Septembers will come, Septembers will go/ I'll still hear the voice of 3,000 souls."*

Click [here](#) for video - and here are the lyrics:

#### **The SteelDrivers - "Falling Man"**

I once had a home, once had a life  
I'm just a soul without wings to fly  
Just happen to be caught in a frame  
You look at me, you don't know my name

I'll never die, I'll never land  
Keep me alive, call me what I am

## The falling man

Somebody's son, somebody's dad  
Somebody's love, who ain't coming back  
And my God was there when I had to choose  
Whispered a prayer, stepped into the blue

I'll never die, I'll never land  
Keep me alive, call me what I am  
The falling man

Septembers will come, Septembers will go  
I'll still hear the voice of three thousand souls

I'll never die, I'll never land  
Keep me alive, call me what I am  
A flash in the sky without a chance  
Frozen in time, forever, I am  
The falling man

-0-

## ***'Disgraceful' that AP didn't offer 'Falling Man' photo for Pulitzer***

**Marc Humbert** ([Email](#)) - What a disgrace that Richard Drew's "The Falling Man" was not submitted by the AP for the Pulitzer in 2001. It captured the horror of that day like no other image.

And, it reminded me of Nick Ut's iconic Napalm Girl image from 1972. His shot of the horrific result of the bombing on Phan Thi Kim Phuc captured the horror of that war. The AP did submit that photo for a Pulitzer and it, much deservedly, won. Drew's

photo also should have been given that honor. Disgraceful that the AP didn't give Richard the chance.

-0-

## ***Falling man, Winnie the Pooh and deep sleepers***

**Wendy Davis Beard** ([Email](#)) - Tuesday, I requested a copy of Monday's Connecting feature on my former Associated Press colleague Richard Drew who most famously shot the defining moment of the Falling Man of 9/11.

Jeeze, I don't remember image of the falling man from the WTC the way it arrived in my Inbox today. I remembered it more as a solid silhouette, possibly a monochrome gray, perhaps even another photographer's? Although Richard Drew's individual is still anonymous, he is oh so human and with such sharp focus his head and body both tangible and especially fragile. Equally disturbing was the piece of information regarding where exactly he had come from. To read he began his descent from windows of 'Windows on the World' is especially harrowing to me not because it's the only place I ever sat down in the WTC (enjoying several breakfasts with my late father) but because I met a waiter in Australia some years ago who escaped the trauma he experienced as a result of 9/11 by moving to Sydney.

He explained to me that he had been the manager working the night before the planes struck and had allowed one of the waiters on his staff who was rostered to also work breakfast the next morning to stay overnight in the restaurant. Of course this gentle soul, (a close relation, I remember, to A.A. Milne, the writer of "Winnie the Pooh" of all things) was not to blame for his staff members' death on 9/11 - but perhaps reason and rationality when it comes to terror is the first thing to blow out the window. If this falling man is the individual my acquaintance knew, I hope he doesn't see or recognize the man on his way to a violent, shattering death. While Richard Drew caught and holds on film this individual in a few moments of grace/peace, we shutter to imagine, hoping we won't see but can't help but imagine what happens next. For as brilliant and important and honest as this image is. I assume all friends and family related to the individual would rather picture in their minds a loved one curled up on the floor dying of smoke inhalation, just as they might have in bed if the smoke detectors at home had failed to sound a family of deep sleepers on the morning of September 11th.

## **Connecting mailbox**

## **'Can the Mets trade for a soul?'**

**Robert Bellafiore** ([Email](#)) - Here is an op-ed story of mine that ran online in Sunday's New York Daily News.

**By ROBERT BELLAFFIORE**

**NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**

Spring training starts in a few days, opening that wee time window when most baseball fans have at least some hope.

My team, the Mets, have many good and some great players and a promising new manager. They might even contend.

But they'll never be an organization for the ages until they get a soul and stop screwing with the baseball gods. Many hoped Steve Cohen's ownership would help, but now that's gone the way of the single-admission doubleheader.

Read more [here](#).

I'd like to think Roger Kahn, who I got to know while I worked for Governor Pataki, was reading it wherever he is.

-0-

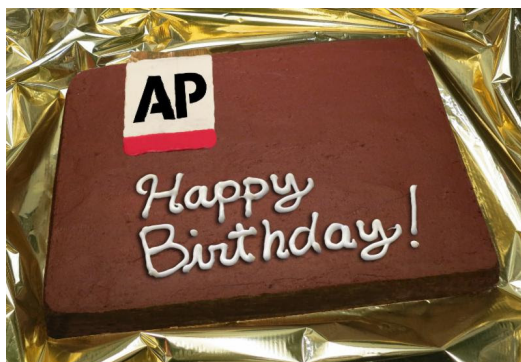
***Making history, in 1984, with M-Sat install***





**Nolan Kienitz (Email)** - A bit of history when Tom Bingham and I (based in Salt Lake City at the time) installed the M-Sat at the Ely, NV Daily Times. Image is dated: 02/09/1984. Tom and his wife are retired in Joseph, Ore., and he is also a fellow Ham Radio operator.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

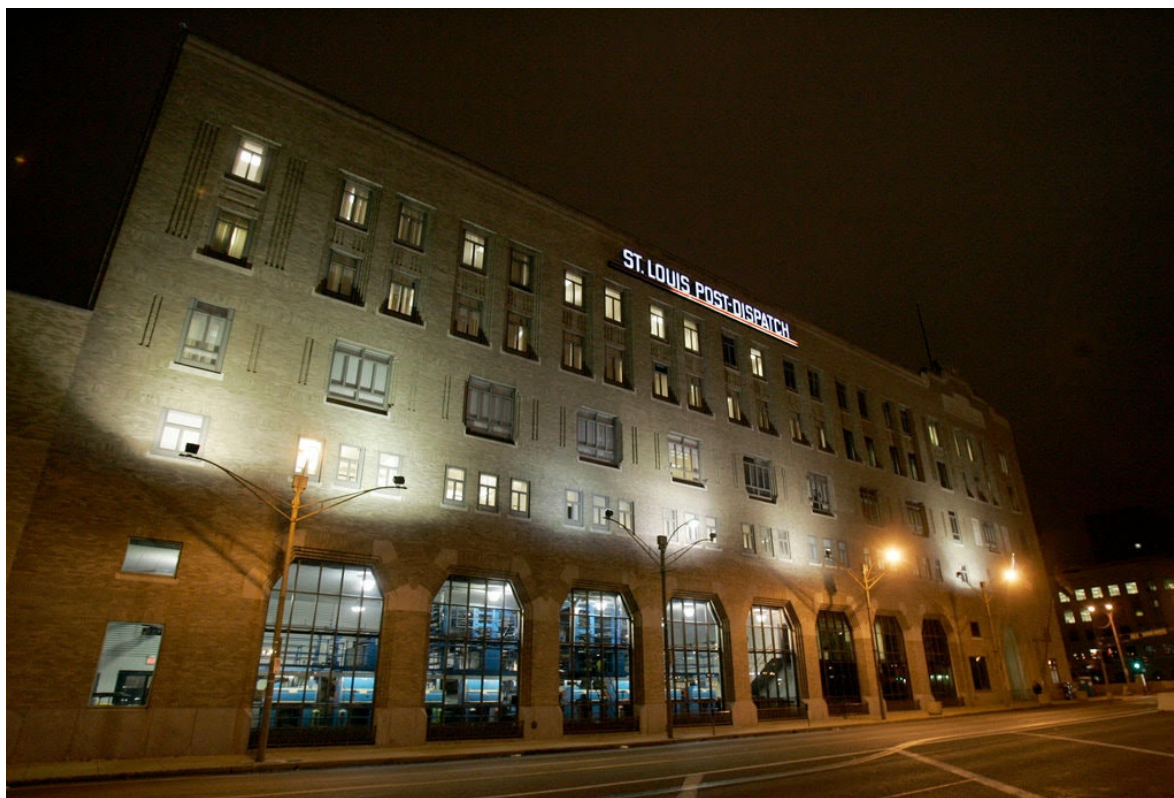


to

Karen Magnuson - [karen@karenmagnuson.com](mailto:karen@karenmagnuson.com)

## Stories of interest

***Your New Condo? That Was the Sports Desk***  
(New York Times)



The St. Louis Post-Dispatch's former downtown home, one of at least 15 newspaper sites nationwide that have been sold since 2012. Photo: Jeff Roberson/Associated Press

By Tom Acitelli

The lead engraving of Joseph Pulitzer's retirement message from 1907 has been removed, along with much of the rest of the interior of The St. Louis Post-Dispatch's former headquarters.

The engraving will be replaced in the remodeled building with a version etched in glass. But the newspaper has already moved to a smaller home in a nearby building owned by the StarWood Group, a developer and investment firm that has big plans for the old newsroom.

The blocklong building in downtown St. Louis, which has 285,000 rentable square feet, is one of at least 15 newspaper sites nationwide that have been sold since 2012 as technological and advertising changes rip through the print journalism business.

Like the Post-Dispatch headquarters - a fabled hub of civic power that boasted cavernous subterranean rooms for bolts of paper and barrels of ink delivered via railroad link from the old Union Station nearby - many former newspaper sites are being redeveloped to appeal to 21st-century technology companies, urban homeowners and even beer connoisseurs.

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

-0-

## ***The hedge fund vampire that bleeds newspapers dry now has the Chicago Tribune by the throat*** (Vanity Fair)

**By JOE POMPEO**

On December 20, two Chicago Tribune journalists sent a letter to a hedge fund manager who holds the fate of their newspaper in his hands. "Press commentary about your media acquisitions has been relentlessly negative," wrote the pair of veteran investigative reporters, David Jackson and Gary Marx, to the hedge-funder, Heath Freeman, president of Alden Global Capital. "Is there a counter-argument this coverage has not reflected, or evidence that has been overlooked or ignored?"

Alden, a New York City-based firm that has become the grim reaper of American newspapers, had recently increased its stake in Tribune Publishing to 32%-making it the largest shareholder of the perpetually embattled publisher-and gained two seats on Tribune's board. As part of the deal, Alden agreed not to further increase its Tribune stake or attempt to gain control of the company until mid-2020. That effectively gave journalists at the Chicago Tribune and its sister titles, like the Baltimore Sun, the New York Daily News, and the Orlando Sentinel, until June 30 to try and stop the sky from falling.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

-0-

## ***Man convicted in killing of North Carolina newspaper carrier***

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - A man accused of killing a newspaper delivery man in North Carolina was convicted of first-degree murder Monday.

The jury found Roger Timothy Best guilty in the death of Walter "Wes" Edwin Scott Jr., who was killed as he delivered The Charlotte Observer in the early morning hours of Feb. 15, 2017.

Prosecutors in the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office said Scott left his truck running while he stopped at a convenience store to collect old papers and drop off that day's edition. As he returned to his truck, Best and an unknown accomplice tried to rob him. Prosecutors said Best fired a handgun 12 times, hitting Scott multiple times.

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

## **The Final Word**

***UF student journalist receives advanced standing wheelchair*** (The Alligator, University of Florida)





Dees first used the chair's standing feature in a speech to UF alumni and administration (Courtesy to The Alligator)

**By AJ Bafer, Contributing Writer**

Drew Dees is enhancing his interviews now that he can see his sources at eye level.

The 24-year-old UF telecommunication junior was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and has used a wheelchair his entire life. Two weeks ago, he upgraded to a Permobil F5 Corpus VS power wheelchair, which allows him to do anything a person in a standing position can.

Dees said he wanted a standing chair because of how it would improve his experiences in both everyday life and as a reporter. Before the chair, people would often crouch and talk down to him while he was reporting on news stories.

He said the chair will allow him to do demonstrative stand-ups, allowing him to be more interactive as a news journalist. He said that along with helping him further his career, the chair has boosted his confidence.

"Being able to be on eye level with people, being able to stand up for photos...it's just been a game-changer," he said.

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

## Today in History - February 12, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2020. There are 323 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in a log cabin in Hardin (now LaRue) County, Kentucky.

**On this date:**

In 1795, the University of North Carolina became the first U.S. state university to admit students with the arrival of Hinton James.

In 1914, groundbreaking took place for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (A year later on this date, the cornerstone was laid.)

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York.

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny [-] with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side [-] went into circulation.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1980, the FBI announced that about \$5,800 of the \$200,000 ransom paid to hijacker "D.B. Cooper" before he parachuted from a Northwest Orient jetliner in 1971 had been found by an 8-year-old boy on a riverbank of the Columbia River in Washington state.

In 1993, in a crime that shocked and outraged Britons, two 10-year-old boys lured 2-year-old James Bulger from his mother at a shopping mall near Liverpool, England, and beat him to death.

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In 2000, Charles M. Schulz, creator of the "Peanuts" comic strip, died in Santa Rosa, Calif. at age 77.

In 2003, the U.N. nuclear agency declared North Korea in violation of international treaties, sending the dispute to the Security Council.

In 2006, figure skater Michelle Kwan effectively retired from competition as she withdrew from the Turin Olympics due to injury (she was replaced on the U.S. team by Emily Hughes). Snowboarder Shaun White beat American teammate Danny Kass to win the Olympic gold medal.

In 2008, General Motors reported losing \$38.7 billion in 2007, a record annual loss in automotive history, and offered buyouts to 74,000 hourly workers. Uno became the first beagle named Westminster's best in show.

Ten years ago: On the day the Winter Olympics opened in Vancouver, British Columbia, Nodar Kumaritashvili (noh-DAHR' KOO'-mah-ree-tahsh-VEE'-lee), a 21-year-old luger from the republic of Georgia, was killed in a high-speed crash during a practice run. Three University of Alabama-Huntsville professors were gunned down during a faculty meeting; police charged neurobiologist Amy Bishop with capital murder. (Bishop later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)

Five years ago: European leaders agreed on a truce to halt fighting in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed separatist rebels.

One year ago: Mexico's most notorious drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was convicted in New York of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation; a jury whose members' identities were kept secret as a security measure had deliberated for six days. (Guzman is serving a life sentence at the federal supermax prison facility in Florence, Colorado.) Lyndon LaRouche Jr., the political extremist who ran for president in every election from 1976 to 2004, including one campaign waged from federal prison, died at the age of 96. Retired astronaut Mark Kelly announced that he would run in 2020 to finish the Senate term of the late John McCain; Kelly had become a prominent gun-control advocate after the shooting that injured his wife, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. Hundreds gathered at a church in suburban Detroit for the funeral of former Democratic Rep. John Dingell, the longest-serving member of Congress in U.S. history.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Costa-Gavras is 87. Basketball Hall of Famer Bill Russell is 86. Actor Joe Don Baker is 84. Author Judy Blume is 82. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is 78. Country singer Moe Bandy is 76. Actress Maud Adams is 75. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 74. Actor Michael Ironside is 70. Rock musician Steve Hackett is 70. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 68. Actress Joanna Kerns is 67. Actor Zach Grenier is 66. Actor-talk show host Arsenio Hall is 64. Actor John Michael Higgins is 57. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 56. Actress Christine Elise is 55. Actor Josh Brolin is 52. Singer Chynna Phillips is 52. Rock musician Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies) is 50. Rhythm-and-blues musician Keri Lewis is 49. Actor Jesse Spencer is 41. Rapper Gucci Mane is 40. Actress Sarah Lancaster is 40. Actress Christina Ricci is 40. NFL quarterback Robert Griffin III is 30. Actress Jennifer Stone is 27. Actresses Baylie and Rylie Cregut (TV: "Raising Hope") are ten.



**Thought for Today: "Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still." [-] President Harry S. Truman (1884-1972).**

## 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.



**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
[paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com)

Connecting newsletter, [14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™ [pjshane@gmail.com](mailto:pjshane@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [paulstevens46@gmail.com](mailto:paulstevens46@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!