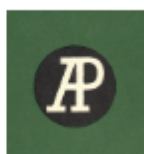


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## Connecting

June 11, 2020

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



Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020,

Today's issue brings you two more of your phone stories - and some thoughts from a colleague on advice that might be helpful for police officers.

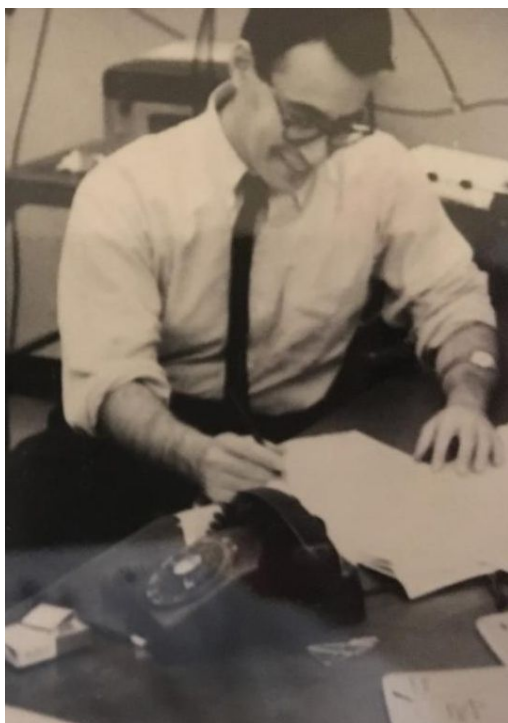
**KATHRYN JOHNSON** : For a project relating to the life of AP reporter Kathryn Johnson (1926-2019), archivist Valerie Komor would like to be in touch with anyone who may have worked with Kathryn in Atlanta (1947-78), in Washington, D.C. (1978-79 as Southeastern bureau chief at U.S. News and World Report) or at CNN in Atlanta (1988 until her retirement from full-time work in 1999.) Kathryn held a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard 1976-77. Valerie's email – [vkomor@ap.org](mailto:vkomor@ap.org)

Have a good day - be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Staying ahead of competition with a little bit of legerdemain

**Carl Leubsdorf Sr.** ([Email](#)) - At the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, because of my familiarity with the complaints about the way the Democratic primaries and caucuses were conducted, I was assigned to cover the Rules Committee where those issues were being considered. It met on an upstairs floor of the Hilton, and I quickly noticed there were only two pay phones, far fewer than there would have been if there had been the normal installation of additional phones for such events (The phone company was on strike, only one of the factors contributing to the chaos in Chicago that week.).



An AP colleague named Austin Scott, later with The Washington Post, had shown me once how a phone could be doctored. You could unscrew the mouthpiece and render the phone inoperative by either removing or turning over the hardware inside it. I quickly did that to one of the two pay phones to ensure that, whenever I had to file, I'd have a phone. It made for an interesting evening. Several people tried to use the phone, including the committee chairman, Gov. Samuel Shapiro of Illinois, and they couldn't figure out why it didn't work. "I don't think it's working," I helpfully told the governor. But when I needed it, it did work.

This little bit of legerdemain enabled me to stay ahead on the story all evening. At one point, when I phoned in to the AP desk, I was told that The New York Times was questioning my story because they hadn't gotten similar information from their correspondent, Warren Weaver, later a good friend. "Maybe he's having trouble finding a phone," I helpfully told my desk without elaboration.

## A 24-hour beat with his 'Trash 80'

**Michael Putzel** ([Email](#)) - My phone story also has a Ulevich connection. I met Neal and worked with him in Vietnam, where he was shooting photos after having worked as a newsman in the St. Louis bureau. Nearly two decades later, he had morphed into a techie, running Asian communications out of the Tokyo bureau.

I desperately needed help to get a story out of Vladivostok, a closed city in Russia's Far East, where few foreigners were ever allowed to visit. It was the top-secret headquarters of the Soviet Pacific fleet. I was COB in Moscow and was one of a

handful of reporters invited by the navy to board a naval vessel as it hunted—and pretended to engage—allied ships in a joint U.S.-Japanese military exercise in disputed waters surrounding a string of islands claimed by Russia as the Kuril Islands and by Japan as its Northern Territories. We boarded a new Soviet guided-missile cruiser and spent our time at sea shadowing American submarines and looking for Japanese surface ships to target. It was one of those maneuvers intended to raise hackles and feed diplomatic protests.

Returning to Vladivostok, we were put up in a small Soviet hotel with no telephones in the rooms and no permission to venture out to find a telephone and telegraph office to file from there. The Reuters correspondent and others concluded they couldn't send their stories until we got back to Moscow, 9,000 miles and seven time zones to the west. Neal and I, having consulted before I left Moscow, had a better idea—if only it would work.



I was carrying a trusty little Radio Shack TRS-80 Model 100, the forerunner of today's laptops, known affectionately to its users as a "Trash 80." Powered by four AA batteries, it could display 40 characters on each of its eight lines of text. The little machine had a built-in 300-baud modem that could best be described as slower than a turtle on sand. Back at the hotel, I swept the room for any sign of telephone wiring, but found none. So I cased the hall and lobby and discovered what just might be a primitive phone jack mounted on the floor molding near the desk occupied by a "dijournaya," a woman whose principal job was to watch who came and went where in the hotel.

Despite a good deal of grumbling from the confused and confounded lady, I squatted down, unscrewed the cover and found just what I needed: two low-voltage wires that, when attached to a telephone earpiece with alligator clips, produced an audible dial tone. There was no way to dial Moscow or complete a circuit through the Vladivostok telephone office, but Neal had thought of that in advance. Somehow—and I forget exactly what it took—the Tokyo chief of communications figured out how to call that phone line from the Tokyo bureau of the AP, and I logged into the bureau's minicomputer to file my story. I kept our triumph to myself all the way home. We beat the competition by more than 24 hours.

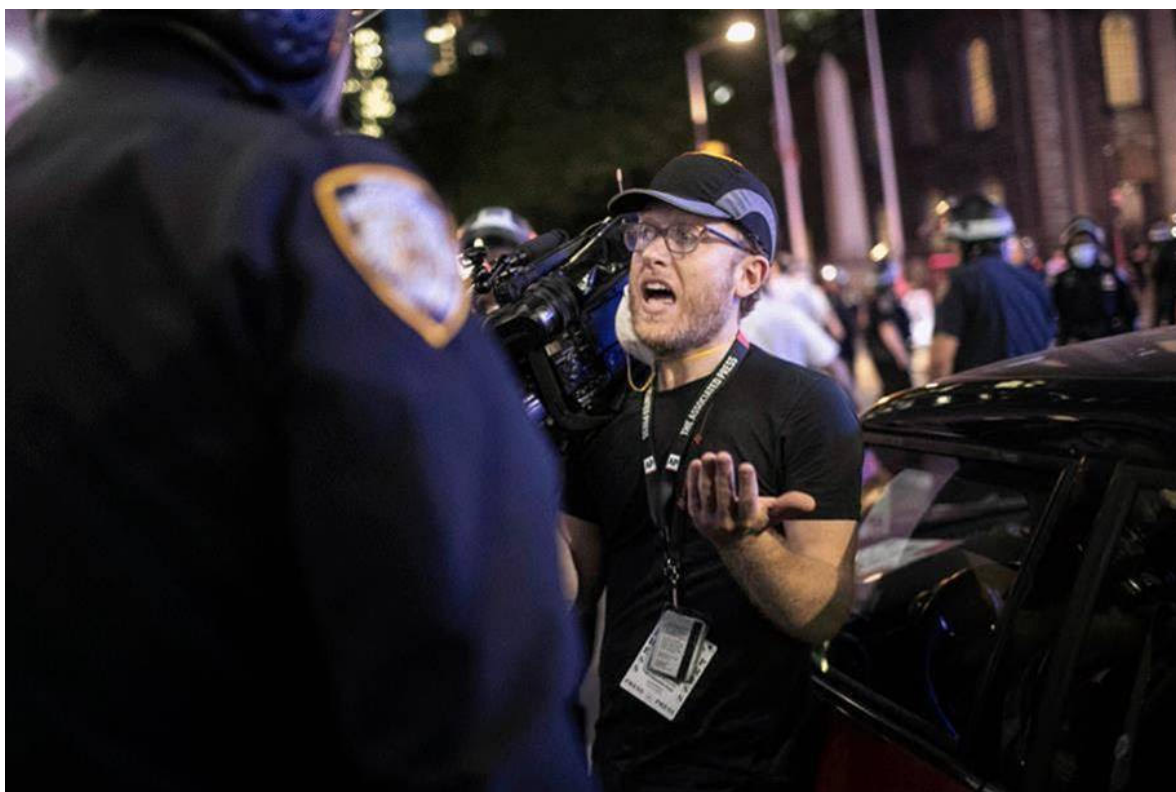
## Around the AP world



Photographer Evan Vucci takes pictures in a crowd of protesters at Lafayette Park near the White House in Washington, June 2, 2020. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)



Satish Sharma, general sales manager, fixes the New Delhi bureau dish antenna after a storm, June 9, 2020. (Photo courtesy Stephen Moyes)



Video journalist Robert Bumsted reminds a police officer that the press are considered "essential workers" and are allowed to be on the streets despite a curfew, June 2, 2020, in New York. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

## Ideas for police officers who are trying to protect us

**John Willis** ([Email](#)) - I have a friend who told me about getting to know a local police officer at our gym. The officer is said to be one of the guys who has to deal with the worst of the worst, and things are not always peachy here in Aiken, SC. He was once part of former Gov. Nikki Haley's protective unit, so he is familiar with high-profile jobs.

We had two police officers killed in the line of duty back on 2011 and 2012. Both were shot while investigating suspicious activity. Prior to that the last officer killed in the line of duty was 1978, so it doesn't happen often, but it's still dangerous to be a police officer.

My friend and the local officer got into discussions about police reforms, and the officer asked my friend to email him his suggestions.

The following is the suggestion list that my friend developed and sent to the officer, and I think it includes a lot of great ideas that could be used nationwide to help us help the officers who are trying to protect us. My friend said he never got a response.

"Please keep in mind I know nothing about police training, but the first idea is to establish 2-4 regional training centers funded by the Federal Government and run by the FBI. The training would follow graduation from a Police Academy and would last 12-16 weeks.

"The training would focus on high intensity situations, particularly those that can deteriorate rapidly if not handled properly. It would be a pressure-filled schedule. This would allow new police officers to be evaluated on:

1. Performance under pressure/stress
2. Built in biases
3. Quality of decision making under rapidly changing conditions.
4. How best to keep situations from getting out of hand.
5. Managing through a situation that has gotten out of hand.

"A record of performance that could be accessed when police officers transfer to other cities. This would help standardize police performance within and across states. Hopefully this would help put new police officers into assignment that might align better with their performance potential. This database could also be used to weed out bad apples, so to speak.

"The second idea is to have a course that is required for every high school student that focuses on the police. Maybe part of a civics class. This would be a nationally standardized course. This is not simply a day where a police officer talks to a class.

"The course would cover various situations the police face, and could be designed to be interactive with the students. A little role playing for understanding wouldn't hurt.

"The content would be:

- 1 . How a suspect is identified and the obligations of the police to a suspect and the rights of a suspect in a given situation.
2. Police procedures used in various situations and why they are used.
3. What happens when situations escalate. What are the procedures and why are they used.
4. How does command and control work.
5. How can citizens help police be more effective.
6. The best way to lodge a disagreement with police procedure when a situation is still active.
7. How to lodge a complaint after the fact.

"It seems to me that, particularly with video, we need to work on effective police procedures. I don't know the answer. I suspect there would be some good discussion

in the classroom.

"Today we have a lot of perceptions, but not much honest discussion of the realities

.

Growing up we were all taught how to interact with the police, and I think the message was relatively consistent.

"I don't know who is being taught what today, but I think there is a lack of understanding of how the police need to operate in order to do their job, while at the same time having the best chance of going home to their families at night. A national program would help us all to be on the same page no matter what state of the union we are in.

"I see a lot of protesters and investigations, but I don't have any sense of action plans that the country can believe in. These two ideas taken together and receiving fair press might be a first step."

## Stories of interest

*Headline-making missteps put focus on newsroom diversity*





This Nov. 23, 2019 photo shows Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter Alexis Johnson in Pittsburgh. When the Pittsburgh Post Gazette pulled her off coverage of protests triggered by George Floyd's death, nobody anticipated it would lead to a staff revolt and become a national story, part of an extraordinary week where the news media's sluggishness in promoting diversity became part of the national conversation. (Shantale Davis/@ShanShoots2 via AP)

**By DAVID BAUDER**

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexis Johnson figures she wasn't the loser when the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette said she couldn't cover protests triggered by George Floyd's death. Her readers were — denied the perspective of a black woman with family roots in law enforcement working in her hometown.

Nobody anticipated it would lead to a staff revolt and become a national story, part of an extraordinary week where the news media's sluggishness in building diverse newsrooms became part of the national conversation.

Editors lost jobs at The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Bon Appetit magazine and the Refinery29 website. While each case had many factors, diversity is the common bond.

“Our communities are changing and our demographics are changing and we as a news industry have done a poor job of recognizing it,” said Katrice Hardy, Indianapolis Star executive editor and head of the diversity committee for the News Leaders Association.

That’s not a new complaint. The Kerner Commission that looked into causes of 1967 riots in American cities described the absence of black journalists in newsrooms then as “shockingly backward.”

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

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## ***Q&A: He’s a photojournalist, pastor, police department employee and mentor to young Black and Latino men*** (Poynter)

By ROY PETER CLARK

I can think of few people more prepared to speak to the current moment in American history than the Rev. Kenny Irby.

For more than two decades we worked side by side at the Poynter Institute, where Kenny, if I may call him that in this instance, created the photojournalism sequence and taught diversity and ethics. He created a program — in which we often taught together — called The Write Field, which brought young men of color together on Saturday mornings for enrichment in their literacy and life skills.

Irby came to Poynter during a distinguished career in photojournalism. He has been an honored leader of the National Press Photographers Association and has received its most prestigious awards, including for ethics and for lifetime achievement. He is the founder of the Men in the Making: Right Choices program, offering positive role models and encouraging academic achievement for young Black and Latino men.

Kenny is pastor at the Historic Bethel AME Church, the oldest church in the city of St. Petersburg, Florida. Today he serves the city as its first director of community intervention and juvenile outreach for the St. Petersburg Police Department.

Read more [here](#) .

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## ***Franklin County newspaper editor and publisher steps down after apologizing for cartoon*** (St. Louis Post=Dispatch)

By SARAH TEAGUE

WASHINGTON, Mo. — The editor and publisher of a Franklin County newspaper apologized and resigned Wednesday after publishing an editorial cartoon that has been criticized for being racially insensitive.

William Miller Sr. of the Missourian released a statement of apology that said running the cartoon was "poor judgement on my part and for that I sincerely apologize." He announced his resignation later Wednesday.

"The cartoon was intended to support our editorial position that defunding police departments in the aftermath of George Floyd's senseless killing is not the answer to resolving the racial inequities and injustices that have occurred in policing in this country," Miller said. "We did not draw the cartoon but selected it from a national service we use to support our editorial positions."

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

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## ***Six McClatchy newspapers and its DC bureau will vacate their offices, leaving journalists working remotely until at least 2021*** (Nieman)

By HANAA' TAMEEZ

Eventually, whenever coronavirus cases in Florida steadily decrease (not anytime soon, it appears) and journalists start to return to their newsrooms, the folks at the Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald will continue to work from home.

Parent company McClatchy announced on Tuesday that starting in August, six of its news outlets — the Herald, Charlotte Observer, The State (Columbia, South Carolina), The Modesto Bee, The Merced Sun-Star, and The Tribune (San Luis Obispo, California) — as well as its Washington, D.C. bureau will give up their office leases.

"We know that the office space of today is not what the office space will be for tomorrow as it relates to social distancing and keeping our employees safe," Aminda Marqués González, the president, publisher, and executive editor of the Miami Herald, wrote. "For that reason, Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald employees will continue

to work remotely through the end of the year. After the New Year, once the commercial real estate industry has sorted itself out with regard to new standards and approaches, we will find a new, centralized home.”

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Mike Holmes.

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## ***The Virus, the Riots, and the Press*** (City Journal)

By Judith Miller

It’s hardly shocking that some of the world’s most ruthless autocrats have used the Covid-19 pandemic to justify media repression. It was predictable, for example, that China would use the global health crisis, and now America’s riots, to rationalize jailing leaders of Hong Kong’s democracy movement—prominent journalists among them—to crush its freedom crusade and consolidate Beijing’s control. Nor was it surprising that Belarus, ruled by its authoritarian president Alexander Lukashenko, has used the virus and pro-democracy protests to jail 30 of the former Soviet republic’s most influential opposition figures, including popular blogger Sergei Tikhanovsky, before a presidential election on August 9.

Autocrats have often sought such convenient cover for their suppression of speech and other forms of expression that displease them. According to free-speech advocates and media watchdogs, however, this trend now applies to nations that pride themselves on their commitment to democracy and the rule of law. Their leaders have used the virus to justify repressive laws that criminalize independent news reporting and impose restrictions on the press and their political opposition.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by David Egner.

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## ***How a stork helped the UK get through the First World War*** (OUPblog)



By **JOSEPH MCALEER**

Harry Perry Robinson was elderly (age 54) and infirm at the outbreak of the First World War. But he was also a senior correspondent of *The Times* with a distinguished service record; a confidante of the proprietor, Lord Northcliffe; and a rabid patriot long convinced of the German threat to world peace. There was really no stopping him from crossing the channel and heading to the Western Front.

Robinson was, in fact, the oldest correspondent who covered the entirety of the war, writing up to two-thousand words a day for *The Times*, articles that were also syndicated in newspapers around the world. He was part of a coterie of correspondents at the front, including Philip Gibbs and William Beach Thomas.

As there were often long stretches between battles, correspondents searched for topics to write about to satisfy a public hungry for news. Robinson, keenly interested in the natural world, turned his reporter's eye to the war's impact on flora and fauna. "Strips of waste land by the roadside are ablaze with wildflowers, ragwort and milfoil and toadflax and evening primrose," he wrote. "A single chiffchaff – plucky little thruster that he is! – was singing impatiently not far behind the battle-line." Dispatches like these offered readers a respite from the horrors of war and hopeful signs of a postwar return to normality.

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

## The Final Word



Two years ago today, friends of Cliff Schiappa gathered to bid him farewell as he moved from his beloved Kansas City for a new life in Palm Springs, California. This photo showed up on my Facebook Memory page and it shows so much fun and love that - in these days of uncertainty - it wouldn't hurt to share.

Cliff (fourth from left, at table, in photo above) remains a good friend from afar and a loyal Connecting member. And he loves the desert!

## Today in History - June 11, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, June 11, the 163rd day of 2020. There are 203 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

**On this date:**

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, "discovered" the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1864, German composer Richard (REE'-hard) Strauss was born in Munich.

In 1936, Kansas Gov. Alfred "Alf" Landon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Cleveland.

In 1947, the government announced the end of sugar rationing for households and "institutional users" (e.g., restaurants and hotels) as of midnight.

In 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1970, the United States presence in Libya came to an end as the last detachment left Wheelus Air Base. (The anniversary of this event is celebrated as a holiday in Libya.)

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit "hate crimes" motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment; the court also ruled religious groups had a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services. The Steven Spielberg science-fiction film "Jurassic Park" opened in wide release two days after its world premiere in Washington, D.C.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2007, Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, was arrested at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in a restroom sex sting. (Craig, who denied soliciting an undercover police officer, later pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and paid a fine.)

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

Ten years ago: Twenty campers in a southwestern Arkansas gorge died in a pre-dawn flash flood of the Little Missouri River. The FIFA World Cup opened in South Africa to the joyous sound of vuvuzelas; it was the first World Cup to be played in Africa.

Five years ago: Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the U.S. military's reach could extend even further into Iraq if the anti-Islamic State campaign were to gain momentum, and held out the possibility of a greater role for U.S. troops on the ground. "Free jazz" pioneer Ornette Coleman, 85, died in New York. Country singer-songwriter Jim Ed Brown, 81, died in Franklin, Tennessee. Actor Ron Moody, 91, best known for playing Fagin in the 1968 film "Oliver!," died in London.

One year ago: Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese man and permanent U.S. resident, was released after spending years in an Iranian prison on espionage charges; his release came amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program. At a House committee hearing, comedian Jon Stewart scolded Congress for failing to ensure that a victims' compensation fund set up after the 9/11 attacks never runs out of money. (A measure ensuring that the fund would remain permanent won final approval the following month and was signed into law by President Donald Trump.) In a landmark case for Africa, Botswana became the latest country to decriminalize gay sex; the country's High Court rejected laws punishing it with up to seven years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., is 90. Comedian Johnny Brown is 83. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 81. Singer Joey Dee is 80. Actor Roscoe Orman is 76. Actress Adrienne Barbeau is 75. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 71. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 71. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 70. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 68. Actor Peter Bergman is 67. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 64. Actor Hugh Laurie is 61. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 60. Singer Gioia (JOY'-ah) Bruno (Expose) is 57. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 54. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 54. Actress Clare Carey is 53. Actor Peter Dinklage is 51. Country musician Smilin' Jay McDowell is 51. Actor Lenny Jacobson is 46. Rock musician Tai Anderson (Third Day) is 44. Actor Joshua Jackson is 42. Americana musician Gabe Witcher (Punch Brothers) is 42. Christian rock musician Ryan ShROUT is 40. Actor Shia LaBeouf (SHY'-uh luh-BUF') is 34.

**Thought for Today: "Forgetfulness is a form of freedom." [-] Khalil Gibran, American poet and artist (1883-1931).**

## 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**  
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