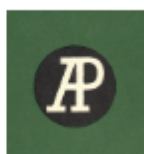


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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 8th day of July 2020,

In going through some old AP memorabilia, our colleague **Dan Sewell** came across the Florida AP State Log for June 1980, and was struck by how this powerful lead-in by AP special correspondent **George Esper** about the May riots in Miami over the police killing of a black man still echoes today:

“Death and destruction kept an appointment in Miami, an apocalypse of racial wrath that simmered for a dozen years, then spilled out into the streets. The trigger was the verdict by an all-white, middle-class and male jury that freed four white former police officers in the beating death of a black insurance executive.

“But the gun had been loaded ever since the last major Miami riots of 1968 with grievances over lack of job opportunities that blacks perceived as more than benign neglect and justice they believed was unjust.”

Five years earlier, Esper was the tenacious AP correspondent who refused to leave his post in the last days of the Vietnam War, to cover the fall of Saigon. An AP legend, he died in 2012 at the age of 79. (His nephew Mark Esper is the U.S. Secretary of Defense.)



Have a good day, be safe and stay healthy.

Paul

VIRUS DIARY: Goodbye to NYC, and to its unforgettable sounds

By FARNOUSH AMIRI

NEW YORK (AP) — The last few weeks I spent in New York City, the soundtrack of my days went like this: police helicopters circling, firecrackers startling, uniform chants for justice rising into the air.

The noise was constant — particularly following what had been months of silence as the city that never sleeps went into a deep slumber. Since mid-March, the only sound we’d heard came from ambulances carrying the thousands of people who would become victims to a startling virus as the city became the epicenter.



I had dreamt of living in New York City since I was 13. I had come here from Southern California for the first time with my middle school choir class. We stayed in a hotel near Times Square, and I remembered the noise — the constant, looping sound of a city in motion. The subway rumbled underneath our feet as New Yorkers existed outside, creating a cacophony.

It was beautiful. I remember thinking: This is what life must sound like.

Now, more than a decade later, my time with New York is limited but also, somehow infinite. The days now have no beginning or end. We are not working from home but, rather, living at work. And now I find myself with too much time to recollect about a whirlwind romance with the only place I have ever felt at home.

In a 1967 essay, "Goodbye to All That," Joan Didion wrote: "I am not sure that it is possible for anyone brought up in the East to appreciate entirely what New York, the idea of New York, means to those of us who came out of the West and the South."

In many ways, I am so lucky. I got to have New York City for three beautiful and challenging years. For some, that may seem short, but I came alive here. I moved into a 300-square-foot apartment in the East Village in the summer of 2017, and life as I knew it changed.

Read more [here](#) .

Nancy Nussbaum moves into expanded role as AP global director of engagement

Nancy Nussbaum ([Email](#)) - former Ohio and Michigan ACOB (and one of AP's last in that role), has moved into expanded role as global director of engagement, overseeing a Global Engagement team responsible for training members, customers and staff on AP platforms, content and initiatives.

Nancy, based in Columbus, Ohio, most recently was director of Training and Engagement. She was hired into AP in 1992 by West Virginia COB Pete Mattiace and has worked on the News and Business sides in various positions since, personally training thousands of AP customers and now leading a Global Engagement team with staff in the U.S., Tokyo, London and Dubai.

As Nancy explains it, AP's formal efforts on Engagement in the U.S. first took shape with Kate Butler, AP's first-ever vice president of Engagement, and have accelerated, in part due to COVID-19.

AP knew months before the start of 2020 that by year's end, customer experience would overtake price and product as a key brand differentiator for members and clients. So, planning and staffing adjusted for this priority well ahead of the pandemic.

"As COVID-19 moved many news organizations to remote work, and declining revenue, that

foresight has helped us build new and stronger relationships that reinforce AP's value," Nussbaum said. "This has been especially critical as travel and in-person meetings are non-existent."

As part of the increased focus on customer experience, the former editorial Customer Desk, which previously focused on video engagement clients around the world, has been rebranded as Editorial Support. In response to customer demand, the desk is moving to multi-format support for AP's top accounts and is building relationships with key contacts, proactively promoting content and answering questions on coverage. Tracey Rogers in London is managing that combined effort as Head of Global Editorial Support. Both teams report up through Vice President Bridget Forrester in London, who oversees global business and customer operations.



In addition, AP's Definitive Source webinars, which are managed by Global Engagement and showcase thought leadership in the news industry, increased in frequency to monthly instead of quarterly and registration has steadily grown to more than 450 for the June session: Coronavirus and the US Presidential Election. Recordings of those sessions are made available through Connecting. July's webinar will cover Coronavirus and Racial Injustice.

Battling fog, then snowstorm, they finally got to see Mount Rushmore



Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - All the talk lately about Mt. Rushmore brought to mind a recent adventure.

In the fall of 2018, Judy and I set off on a coast-to-coast driving trip wrapped around an eight-day bus tour of some of the National Parks, State Parks and Monuments in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and South Dakota. Since we are not campers and had no real experience touring National Parks, I decided the bus tour of Yellowstone, Grand Teton and more was the ideal way to find out how to do it. And the last stop on the tour was Mt. Rushmore, a wonder that Judy had longed to see most of her life. It was really the catalyst for the entire trip.

Everything went smoothly as we drove from our home in New England out to Denver, where the tour began. We visited family and friends along the way. The tour was also great as we saw everything up close and personal and stayed in some of the wonderful lodges in the parks.

The only glitch of the trip was when we got to Mt. Rushmore. The faces of the president were almost invisible due to rain and fog. It was a huge disappointment to both of us, but more to Judy.

Our trip continued by car as we drove out to the West Coast. When it was time to start back toward home, I was looking at a

map (remember those?) deciding which route to take, when Judy looked over my shoulder and said, "Could we go home by way of Mt. Rushmore? I'd really like to see it."

At first, I said it was too far out of our way. But, after thinking about it and peering at that map for a while, I realized we had to drive north at some point. Why not head north at the beginning of the trip and then drive back east.



So off we went, driving through Albuquerque, where we saw hot air balloons, and Cheyenne, where we got some great BBQ and some Indian blankets.

The trip from Cheyenne to Mt. Rushmore, a 250-mile drive, turned into the worst part of the whole adventure. It was the middle of October and we hit an early snowstorm. As we drove north on a two-lane highway, semi-trailer trucks were flying past the other way throwing sheets of ice onto my windshield and the roadway was becoming difficult to see.

I took it easy and we finally approached our destination, although I was really questioning my decision to return to Mt. Rushmore.

But the next day, though freezing cold, was crystal clear. We woke to find we could see the presidents from our hotel in Keystone.

We spent several hours at Mt. Rushmore, taking in the sights, watching the films and looking through the museum and the gift shop. It turned out to be well worth the time and effort.

In all, we spent eight weeks on the road, covered just over 8,000 miles in the car and on the bus and visited 12 National Parks, three state parks and two National Monuments as well as lots of family and friends And we finally got to see Mt. Rushmore.

Connecting mailbox

Some things never change...more phone stories



Cheryl Arvidson ([Email](#)) - While sorting through boxes of photos long forgotten, I discovered that I held the phone as a 3-year-old exactly as I did 20-some years later as UPI bureau chief in Des Moines!

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Speaking of covering the Oscars



Herb Hemming ([Email](#)) - Seeing the Oscar crew picture from 2005 reminded me of this picture I've always had on my bookcase.

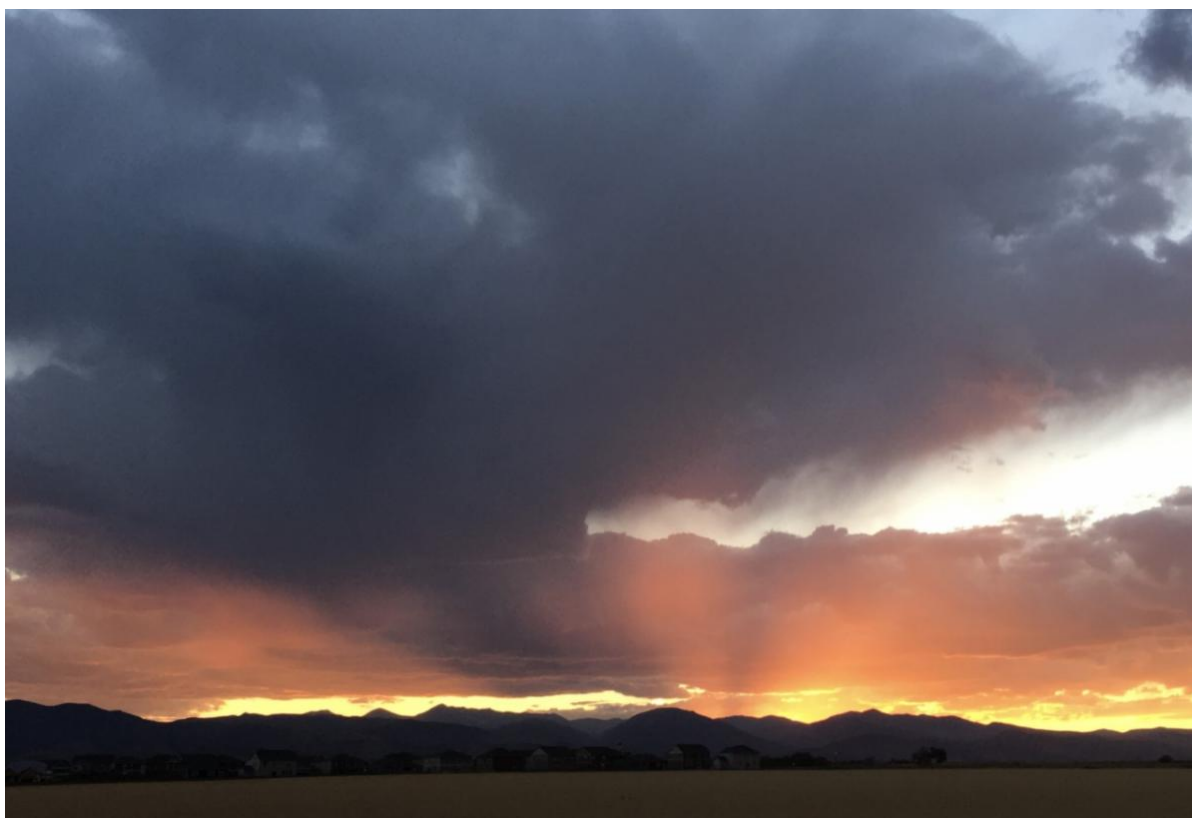
This was probably taken in the late 1980's. There may have been one or two more people who helped that aren't in the picture. Tuxedos and fancy dress were not required back then except for the photographers. I probably did my first Oscar show in 1969 and it was very interesting to see the changes over the years. From messengers running like heck to fiber connection.

From left are Lennox "Red" McClendon, Doug Pizac, Betty Pizac (maybe Betty Kumpf at the time), Nick Ut, Spencer Jones, me, Paul Sakuma. Yes, two of them are wearing light equipment on their heads.

It took a village back then, just a much smaller village.

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Connecting sky shot – Loveland, Colorado



John Epperson ([Email](#)) - Sunset looks bright through clouds over Rocky Mountains Front Range near Loveland, Colorado. It brightened up our evening and hope it brightens your day wherever you are.

Should we pull down the Jefferson Memorial? I say no

John Willis ([Email](#)) - Having read the thoughtful words of one of Thomas Jefferson's many descendants, I write in opposition to the suggestion that the Jefferson Memorial should come down.

Jefferson, known widely as the author of the Declaration of Independence and other official founding documents, had lots of help. He was bright. A great thinker with a curious mind, but he died pretty much penniless.

Like most humans, including you and me, he was flawed. Time and legend have so heightened Jefferson's intellect that JFK reportedly remarked one evening, as he was surrounded by the world's best minds at a state dinner, that the gathering might only be surpassed by dining alone with Thomas Jefferson. That was almost 60 years ago, so Jefferson's genius has no doubt increased geometrically like the stock market.

Should we pull down the Jefferson Memorial? I say no.

Democracy is a messy proposition, and without Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, Payne and the rest, where would we be? I wrote a term paper at Ohio State in 1965 that posited the actual "father of our nation" was actually Alexander Hamilton. I got an A+ from the professor, but I have yet to receive any royalties to the late comers who turned it into a Broadway hit.

We are not perfect as a nation, nor were our founders.

They did the best they could with what they had at the time. and the experiment has worked rather well, despite the current state of affairs, which I hope is temporary.

While it is true that Jefferson was a slave holder, he was not a traitor. although he was accused of something akin to treason when he fled the capital of Richmond and Monticello as governor when the British sent an armada up the Chesapeake Bay and James River during the Revolutionary War.

Many might want to pull down his monument because he also came forth with our right to freedom of religion or from religion. It depends on how you view the subject.

It should also be noted that politics in those days were not prim and proper. They might have been worse than what we see on television today. Jefferson and others actually paid to have pamphlets printed (the mass media of the day), to make scurrilous and unfounded accusations against political opponents. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were diametrically opposites, but both were needed to found this nation of views from all sides. They reconciled in their latter years via mail and they died on the same day, July 4, 1826, 50 years from the day we celebrate as our Independence Day.

Let Jefferson's monument stand to free thought, as it was built to honor an imperfect human who still managed to help a fledgling nation rise to defeat the most powerful nation in the world at the time.

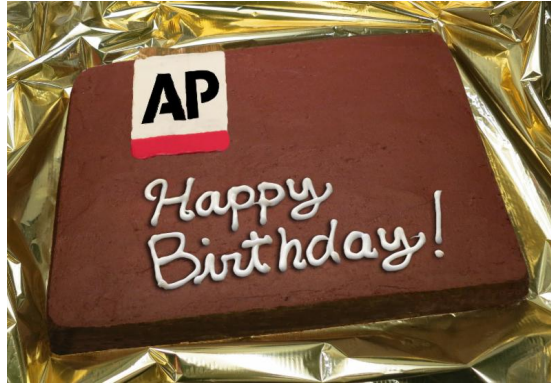
There should be no more debate about the public memorials in The District of Columbia, which is not a state. Every human, every leader has his or her warts. Some are more troublesome than others, but within that 68.34 square miles known as The District, I think we should let the memorials stand. That would include the Jackson Memorial in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, although most do not realize that in the four corners of that park are memorials from the Revolution to those from outside the colonies. Without their help, there would have been no United States of America.

Can you name them?

Two Frenchmen: General Marquis Gilbert de Lafayette and Major General Comte Jean de Rochambeau, Poland's General Thaddeus Kosciuszko, and Prussia's Major General Baron Frederich Wilhelm von Steuben.

Sometimes history is contrarian when looked at from 200+ year after the fact, but the facts are still facts and that's why we have historians. History is not always (to paraphrase a former senator and vice president from Tennessee), a convenient truth.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Norm Clarke – normclarke@me.com

Stories of interest

Reflections on Famed WWII Correspondent Spencer Davis in the Philippines (US Philippines Society)



War correspondents of several nations await the Leyte landing. Davis, bottom right.



General Douglas MacArthur and staff, accompanied by Philippine president Sergio Osmeña (left), land at Red Beach, Leyte, 20 October 1944.

By Rear Admiral Dan McKinnon, USN (retired)

Question 1: As Americans and Filipinos look back on World War II in the Pacific during this 75th anniversary commemoration, the work of war correspondents and photographers provides a uniquely valuable insight. Tell us about AP reporter Spencer Davis, your connection, and his role in reporting on events in the Philippines in 1944-45, and beyond.

Spencer Davis was my wife's uncle. He was a reporter and journalist all of his professional life, spending almost 40 years with the Associated Press (AP). He was the AP's lead correspondent assigned to accompany General MacArthur through the Philippines and on to Tokyo Bay. On September 2nd 1945 he joined a colleague, Murlin Spencer (who had followed Admiral Nimitz across the Pacific), on a joint byline in filing the final AP report of the war.

A 1932 graduate of Stanford University, Spence first worked for the Los Angeles Record and then for two years with the Honolulu Advertiser. With the International Press Service in San Francisco, he was on night duty December 7th 1941. He received a phone call from Hawaii. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. On the wire service keyboard, he filed a first "flash" report of World War II. This is how he picked up the nickname, "Flash" Davis.

Spence soon joined the Associated Press and was a member of a group of five AP reporters to head west in 1943 to cover the fighting as war correspondents. Only two came home. President Roosevelt had approved two major lines of assault in the Pacific War, one across the Pacific direct to Japan, and one moving from Australia to the Philippine archipelago and north. Some may think of them as a Navy war and an Army war, when in truth it was a team war. Spence was assigned to cover the MacArthur group. War correspondents were civilians although they wore uniforms and had a war correspondent shoulder patch.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Arnold Zeitlin.

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Federal media agency's employee review sparks fears of another staff purge (CNBC)

By Brian Schwartz

President Donald Trump's pick to lead the U.S. Agency for Global Media could be on the brink of making another staffing purge.

Michael Pack, CEO of the federal agency, has instructed his team to start requesting and reviewing copies of employment agreements of longtime senior officials, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The review, which recently was initiated by Pack and his new leadership team, is meant to target senior managers at Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks, according to the people, who declined to be named as it is considered an ongoing private matter.

One person noted that one of Pack's deputies has been looking for copies of corporate board meeting minutes dating back at least two years.

The decision to look into the agreements with senior officials comes just weeks after Pack installed Trump loyalists in top posts and fired heads of the entities under the agency. Several of the posts affected were at networks currently seeing their employment agreements reviewed.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Marty Steinberg.

Today in History - July 8, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 8, the 190th day of 2020. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 8, 2000, Venus Williams beat Lindsay Davenport 6-3, 7-6 (3) for her first Grand Slam title, becoming the first Black female champion at Wimbledon since Althea Gibson in 1957-58.

On this date:

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, outside the State House (now Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In 1947, a New Mexico newspaper, the Roswell Daily Record, quoted officials at Roswell Army Air Field as saying they had recovered a "flying saucer" that crashed onto a ranch; officials then said it was actually a weather balloon. (To this day, there

are those who believe what fell to Earth was an alien spaceship carrying extra-terrestrial beings.) Demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later.)

In 1972, the Nixon administration announced a deal to sell \$750 million in grain to the Soviet Union. (However, the Soviets were also engaged in secretly buying subsidized American grain, resulting in what critics dubbed "The Great Grain Robbery.")

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford announced he would seek a second term of office.

In 1989, Carlos Saul Menem was inaugurated as president of Argentina in the country's first transfer of power from one democratically elected civilian leader to another in six decades.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

In 2011, former first lady Betty Ford died in Rancho Mirage, California, at age 93. Atlantis thundered into orbit on a cargo run that would close out the three-decade U.S. space shuttle program.

In 2012, Roger Federer equaled Pete Sampras' record of seven men's singles titles at the All England Club and won his 17th Grand Slam title overall, beating Andy Murray 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

In 2014, President Barack Obama appealed to Congress for \$3.7 billion in emergency spending to deal with the immigration crisis on the nation's southern border, where unaccompanied children were showing up by the thousands (Republican lawmakers rejected the request). Washington became the second state to allow people to buy marijuana legally in the U.S. without a doctor's note.

In 2018, divers rescued four of the 12 boys who'd been trapped in a flooded cave in northern Thailand with their soccer coach for more than two weeks. (The remaining eight boys and their coach were rescued over the next two days.)

Ten years ago: The largest spy swap between the U.S. and Russia since the Cold War unfolded as 10 people accused of spying in suburban America pleaded guilty to conspiracy and were ordered deported to Russia in exchange for the release of four prisoners accused of spying for the West. Violent protests erupted in Oakland, California, after a Los Angeles jury convicted a white former transit officer, Johannes Mehserle (yoh-HAH'-nes MEZ'-ur-lee), of involuntary manslaughter (instead of murder) in the videotaped fatal shooting of an unarmed black man, Oscar Grant.

During an ESPN prime-time special, basketball free agent LeBron James announced he was leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers to join the Miami Heat.

Five years ago: On a rough day for tech, a “router issue” at United Airlines suspended all of the company’s flights for nearly two hours, leading to 800 flight delays and 60 cancellations; a “technical problem” at the New York Stock Exchange halted trading; and the Wall Street Journal’s website, WSJ.com, had “technical difficulties.”

(Government officials said it did not appear that the incidents were related, or the result of sabotage.) Medicare said it planned to pay doctors to counsel patients about end-of-life care, the same idea that sparked accusations of “death panels” and fanned a political furor around President Barack Obama’s health care law.

One year ago: Iran began enriching uranium to 4.5%, just breaking the limit set by its nuclear deal with world powers. Billionaire financier Jeffrey Epstein was charged with sexually abusing dozens of underage girls; the newly unsealed federal indictment came more than a decade after he secretly cut a deal with federal prosecutors to dispose of nearly identical allegations. (Epstein was found unresponsive in his jail cell a month later; the medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.) After a remarkable run at Wimbledon, 15-year-old American Coco Gauff lost to former No. 1 Simona Halep, 6-3, 6-3, in the fourth round.

Today’s Birthdays: Singer Steve Lawrence is 85. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 76. Rock musician Jaimoe Johanson is 75. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 73. Actress Kim Darby is 73. Actress Jonelle Allen is 72. Children’s performer Raffi is 72. Celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck is 71. Actress Anjelica Huston is 69. Writer Anna Quindlen is 68. Actor Kevin Bacon is 62. Actor Robert Knepper is 61. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 59. Country singer Toby Keith is 59. Rock musician Graham Jones (Haircut 100) is 59. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 58. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 58. Actor Rocky Carroll is 57. Actor Corey Parker is 55. Actor Lee Tergesen is 55. Actor Michael B. Silver is 53. Actor Billy Crudup is 52. Actor Michael Weatherly is 52. Singer Beck is 50. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 50. Comedian Sebastian Maniscalco is 47. Actress Kathleen Robertson is 47. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 45. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEE’-loh vehn-tih-MEEL’-yuh) is 43. Rock musician Tavis Werts is 43. Singer Ben Jelen (YEL’-in) is 41. Actor Lance Gross is 39. Actress Sophia Bush is 38. Rock musician Jamie Cook (Arctic Monkeys) is 35. Actor Jake McDorman is 34. Actress Maya Hawke is 22. Actor Jaden Smith is 22.

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

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