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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 16th day of September 2020,

Working the overnight shift in an AP bureau was an assignment faced by many Associated Press staffers.

In some bureaus, the Overnight was a duty shared by newer staffers, once they got their sea legs in a bureau operation. News happens 24 hours a day and while there may be more "scheduled" news during the daytime, weekday hours, you never know. In other bureaus, there were staffers who preferred the Overnight and excelled in the varied responsibilities it brings.

The idea to seek your experiences on the Overnight comes from our recent stories on the death of longtime Intermountain West



overnight editor **Bob Kuesterman**, who served in that position in Salt Lake City for most of his 40 years with AP. Bob died Sunday, a day before his 76th birthday.

I hope you will share your Overnight experiences with your Connecting colleagues. Big stories, lessons learned, how'd you cope.

We lead today's issue with a touching piece on Bob by his daughter **Carina Dillon** on the music the family performed for Bob in his last hours.

And we bring you news of the latest award for a film on our colleague **Nick Ut** and his AP career that began on the battlefields of Vietnam, where he won a Pulitzer Prize, and ended as a photographer in the Los Angeles bureau.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Singing a goodbye to her dad

Carina Dillon (Email) - Dad, you missed 76 years old by one day. We were going to sing "Seventy-Six Trombones" while Dorian played the trombone (and perhaps you would've reminisced about playing the cornet), just like we sang "When I'm Sixty-Four" when you and then Mom each reached the requisite birthday. Instead, we spent the day arranging the disposition of your body, making jokes that others might consider to be in poor taste under the circumstances but that we knew you would appreciate, and giving your trees a new 'do.

We tried to sing to you during your last few days. Cendan Dillon and I sang "Let it Be." Eowyn and I sang "Boom, Boom, Ain't it Great to Be Crazy?", which you and Mom always used to sing to me, and then Dorian Dillon joined us for "Yellow Submarine." Toby Dillon and Lily Dillon tried to



sing "Do You Hear the People Sing?" with us, but the karaoke track we clicked on was terrible. Finally, when you died, after we finally reached your best friend Bill Beecham and he shared some heartfelt words with you, and after Toby and I spoke our own final goodbyes and I felt like an Angel of Death releasing you while holding your hand and breathing slowly and calmly, we sang you off to "Into the West" from "Lord of the Rings."

On your birthday, you are missed.

Documentary on Nick Ut and his Vietnam Pulitzer honored by Press Film International





Hal Buell (Email) - A documentary about AP photographer Nick Ut and his Pulitzer Prize photo from the Vietnam War has won a new recognition.

Press Film International, an annual film festival held in Zagreb, Croatia, presents films about news. The festival named the Los Angeles -produced documentary titled FROM HELL TO HOLLYWOOD a Special Best Film award.

Produced by LA film makers Jon Kroll and Scott Templeton, the film tells the story of Nick Ut's photo of a young girl naked and burned by napalm running down a Vietnamese highway. Nick made the photo in June 1972, and it won the Pulitzer in 1973 along with other prestigious photo awards.

Press Film International annually selects a single news subject to study and discuss. This year the subject was COVID-19 but the festival organizers believed FROM HELL TO

HOLLYWOOD would be of interest to its audience. Once seen the film received a special award, the only film so honored at the festival.

Connecting mailbox

The AP and its election services stronger than ever

In Monday's Connecting, one of the Stories of Interest involved an announcement by Reuters that it had formed a partnership with Facebook to provide social media users with live U.S. election night results.

Brian Scanlon, director of AP Election Services, provides these thoughts to Connecting readers, noting that "we have more customers than we have ever had with subscribers in over 50 countries." Brian writes:

Every time someone asks Alexa who won a state or a race in the U.S. general election, AP VoteCast and our vote count drives that response.

Every time someone asks Siri who won a state or a race in the U.S. general election, AP VoteCast and our vote count drives that response.

Every time someone types in who won a state or a race in the U.S. general election in a Google search, it surfaces a response driven from AP VoteCast and our vote count.

Every time someone types in who won a state or a race in the U.S. general election in a Microsoft Bing search, it surfaces a response driven from AP VoteCast and our vote count.

Every time someone opens up Yahoo news on their mobile device to see what happened, they will be seeing results driven off of AP VoteCast and our vote count.

-0-

Recommended reading on how to understand Nov. 3 election

Sandy Johnson (Email) - This mail-in vote primer from Politico is the best thing I have read about how the process differs from state to state, something most people don't understand. It explains why the winner may not be declared until days after Nov.

Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin decided the 2016 election. We'll have to wait on them in 2020.

Click **here** to read.

-0-

Kudos to Valerie Komor, Francesca Pitaro

Paul Albright (Email) - Archivists Francesca Pitaro and Valerie Komor (and others in the AP's corporate archives office headed by Valerie) continue to provide interesting and useful information to Connecting's readers, many of whom (dare I say it) are in or approaching their own personal "archival periods." For example, Pitaro's article on Monday concerning the AP's Daniel De Luce was both a good read and timely in the sense that it was 75 years this week that it was revealed that De Luce was among more than 2,000 persons on Adolf Hitler's list of those to be arrested after Germany's invasion of Great Britain, which failed.

A view of the wildfires in the West

Lyle Price (Email) - Without doubt, the nation and particularly the media-savvy readers of and contributors to the journalistically incomparable "Connecting" are well aware of ongoing wildfires from particularly California and Oregon that spew "unhealthy levels of smoke" reaching my Seattle-area home and visibly hitting points east of the Mississippi, according to usually reliable reports. But I wish to put into perspective as best my unsavvy scientific mind can manage just what references to "unhealthy air" add up to. My perspective is considerably enhanced by the decade I spent working in downtown Los Angeles starting in the mid-1960s and also by the fact that I developed an unusual level of chest pain based on inhaling smog and second-hand cigarette smoke for many years. That condition is now in remission, BTW.

Today I was shocked to Google out an air particle reading for the Seattle area from the US Weather Bureau of 245 (cq) late Tuesday afternoon. My checking began after a national radio broadcaster said the particle level was 480 in Portland, Ore., where he was located. San Francisco also Googled out over 100, but my old stomping grounds in Los Angeles for AP was a relatively paltry 44.

Now comes the punch line: In all the years I spent in LA where the reports of smog levels in terms of the number of particles per cubic something or other of air were daily features of radio reports the level only three times exceeded the "50" mark to my memory --- and that was the stage at which the elderly and ailing were urged to stay inside and drivers to reduce their mileage wherever possible. The eye-watering level, BTW, was 15 (cq) particles. My eyes typically hit the stage at 13, I estimated. This stage would be reached at least half the time in my years in LA.

By contrast, pollution levels have been so uncommon in the Seattle area that I have yet to ever hear or see in print any figures from the media--including those of the past days.

So my intention is to do my part through "Connecting" to try to get the word out at least to our journalistic fraternity-sorority. The info I have run into is split on the value of N95 masks (of anti-Coronavirus fame) regarding smoke, whose very thin particles are said to find their way into the blood and brain as well as the lungs. However, in regard to NON-N95 masks, the experts seem to agree the "non's" are completely valueless in regard to smoke particles.

The EPA reading of the particulate level for your community or zip code can be found at www.epa.gov/pm and working a dial there. The site is billed as an official web site of the US Government. The EPA message on smoke is: "The biggest health threat from smoke is from fine particles. Those microscopic articles can penetrate deep into your lungs."

Now for a bit of "color" that humanizes the above a bit: The first time I hit Los Angeles was as a delegate in a group from Western Washington State College at a West Coast Model United Nations two-day mock general assembly. I recollect that in downtown LA the only way one could see any blue sky on my two or three "sunny" days there was to look directly overhead. Some years later in the mid 1960s when I landed in LA for AP, the smog was less severe but for years a smog bank hid from my vision the San Gabriel Mountains about 40 miles to the east. And, looking from the San Bernardino Mountains (located further east) on several occasions, I always saw a sea of smog blocking out the sight of downtown LA. (This was before skyscraper limits got lifted; so I can't speak to the current case.) By contrast, for the first time since returning to my hometown area in late 1978, three days ago couldn't see blue sky unless I looked straight up. Two days ago, I not only couldn't see any blue but couldn't even see the sun on a supposedly sunny day. Yesterday, I finally by mid-day did see the sun -- but it appeared as small and as faint as a fading moon at sunrise. Today I saw faint sunlight didn't go outdoors at all. I do have a large deck and wall-sized twin widows so I can look at a heavily wooded park across the street..

Since the president has declared that cooler weather will soon disperse the fire clouds, I decided to check on how the Rockies were doing these days and Google sources say a recent snowfall chased Colorado wildfires away. It usually doesn't snow much if any in the areas near sea level in the Pacific Northwest--unlike during my boyhood, fyi. So I don't share Mr. Trump's purported optimism. The weather forecast is for continued smoke-smog into next week.

Tom Seaver was a role model for how I wanted to live my life

Nick Geranios (<u>Email</u>) - Tom Seaver sat in the middle of the Chicago White Sox locker-room, filling out The New York Times crossword puzzle and talking to a couple

of reporters about his upcoming 300th victory.

Rookie infielder Ozzie Guillen approached the legend, spinning a wet towel in his hands.

Seaver fixed Guillen with a firm gaze, and the rookie slunk off in search of a new target.

Such was the gravitas of the veteran fireballer that no mere rookie would get to execute a towel snap on Seaver's posterior.

That minor story is important to me because Seaver, who died recently at the age of 75, was my



favorite baseball player as a child. And I was delighted that I got to spend a couple of seasons covering him as a young sportswriter in Chicago.

Growing up in Great Falls, Montana, there was no natural major league team to root for. In the summer of 1969 I became enamored of the New York Mets, of which Seaver was the transcendent star.

I remember sitting in the lunch room of Largent School, huddled around a transistor radio, as the Mets battled the Baltimore Orioles in the 1969 World Series. Seaver helped lead the Miracle Mets to an improbable victory.

I became obsessed with Seaver. I bought the books he wrote, taped articles about him into scrapbooks, and collected his baseball cards. At one point I had every card from his first decade in the majors. Alas, I lost most of them during years of moving.

But I didn't lose my exhaustive knowledge about the pitcher. I knew he went to the University of Southern California, won 16 games each of his first two major league seasons and won a career-high 25 in 1969. I knew his wife was Nancy; that he hailed from Fresno, California; that his brother was a sculptor

Perhaps more important, I learned that Seaver was an educated man who valued artistic achievements. It impressed me that his interests ranged far beyond baseball.

He became a role model for how I wanted to live my life.

Not everyone gets to see their role model up close. I did. From 1984-86, I was a reporter covering mostly sports in the Chicago bureau of The Associated Press.

My mentor was Joe Mooshil, the AP's veteran sportswriter in Chicago. As the senior guy, he got to cover the Chicago Cubs, who played only day games.

The new guy (that was me), mostly covered the White Sox, who played night games at old Comiskey Park.

Ah to be young and living in Chicago and covering your boyhood idol. It was a magic time. Michael Jordan was starting his career with the Chicago Bulls. Walter Payton was finishing his career with the Chicago Bears.

Seaver had two good years with the White Sox, including winning his 300th game as a member of the team in 1985.

I relished every opportunity to see him pitch: the squared-up delivery, the patch of dirt that appeared on his knee, the way he still mowed down opposing batters.

He continued to fascinate me after he retired in 1986. He became a successful winemaker in California and lived the life of a gentleman farmer, mostly avoiding the limelight.

I am deeply saddened by his death. We know we are getting old when our childhood heroes die. Those days in Largent School, listening to the 1969 World Series, seem a long time ago.

Honoring memory of father of Indiana's Open Meetings Law, Access to Public Records Act

Jack Ronald (<u>Email</u>) - I wanted to pass on news of the death of Dick Cardwell, who was general counsel and executive director of the Hoosier State Press Association for more than 35 years. He's the father of our Open Meetings Law and our Access to Public Records Act.

Here's the <u>link</u> to his obit in the Indianapolis Star.

And here is a column I've written about Dick and the role he played.

By JACK RONALD The Commercial Review, Portland, Indiana

Chances are you never knew Dick Cardwell.

But your life as a citizen is better because of him.

Without Dick Cardwell, there would be no Indiana Open Meetings Law.

Without Dick Cardwell, there would be no Indiana Access to Public Records Act.

Without Dick Cardwell, politicians and cronies and grifters would have happily gone ahead conducting public business without public oversight.

They didn't like Dick Cardwell much. He believed in the public's right to know.

Those in power tended to put cynical quotation marks around that phrase, dismissing it as an obstacle to the machinery of government. Some of them still feel that way.



For them, Dick Cardwell was a pain in the neck.

He died this month at the age of 86.

As general counsel and executive director of the Hoosier State Press Association, he was a constant advocate for the First Amendment. He lobbied the Indiana General Assembly tirelessly, building coalitions when he could and holding members feet to the fire when he had to.

Today, the Indiana Open Meetings Law is taken for granted.

But it wasn't granted. It was fought for.

Believe it or not, for decades much of the work of Indiana's Legislature itself occurred outside the public eye.

It was a daring notion in the 1970s that openness in government should be extended to the local level, that city councils and the like should have to conduct their business in public view, that agendas should be posted, that notice be given to the public and the press, and that limits on executive sessions should be clearly defined.

The Open Meetings Law took that daring notion and — after some serious lobbying and arm-twisting and editorializing by Indiana newspapers — made it the standard to which elected officials would be held.

It was a daring notion, a few years after the passage of the Open Meetings Law, that openness in government should extend to public records, that a citizen should have access to documents buried in courthouses and town halls, and that the legal burden for denying access should be on the government.

But again, Dick Cardwell prevailed.

He had help, of course. The HSPA was a stronger organization back then. Indiana newspapers and newspapers in general were a stronger industry.

But Dick was the guy who put those forces together.

If my phone rang and Dick Cardwell needed help with an issue, I responded. So did dozens of editors and publishers across the state.

Maybe it was setting up a face-to-face with a recalcitrant legislator. Maybe it was making a trip to the Statehouse to act as a sort of "wingman" for Dick so the legislators knew there were folks back home who bought newsprint by the truckload and ink by the barrel who were on Dick's team.

Whatever he needed, we did the best to provide.

Ultimately, of course, it was Dick's leadership that made the difference.

He was the guy who told us where we ought to be going and how he thought we might be able to get there.

The great irony of his career is that in persuading government to be more accessible and open to its citizens he made it more credible and trustworthy.

Sunshine has a way of doing that.

Welcome to Connecting



Perry Flippin - <u>pflippin@gmail.com</u> Gerry Kiernan - <u>GKiernan@ap.org</u>

Stories of interest

Opinion: Save Stars and Stripes

By The Editorial Board The New York Times

The battle of the budget is an annual rite of America's military spending that is rarely resolved on time. This year, as in nine of the 10 past years, the Pentagon is likely to start its fiscal year on Oct. 1 under a continuing resolution — basically a stopgap measure that keeps funding at roughly existing levels. With about \$740 billion in play, the stakes are huge and the competing interests commensurate.

Congress ought to ensure that one relative drop in that ocean does not get swept away: Stars and Stripes. For all the wrong reasons, the venerable daily newspaper of America's military service members was dropped from the Pentagon's budget request this year, and the Department of Defense told the paper to prepare to close down at the end of September.

Democratic and Republican senators pushed back, and then President Trump — under assault over reports that he had disparaged fallen and wounded service members — declared in a tweet that funds to the paper would not be cut "under my watch" and that "It will continue to be a wonderful source of information to our Great Military!" Soon after, a Pentagon spokesman announced that the decision to close the paper had been reversed.

Read more <u>here</u>. Shared by Mike Holmes, who said, "This vet (and former Stripes contributor) says yes."

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Getting Wise to Fake News (New York Times)

By Paula Span

Lindsay Dina wasn't fooled by a photo on Facebook that supposedly showed masses of dolphins frolicking in the canals of Venice.

Ms. Dina, 75, ventured onto the social media platform roughly a decade ago, and has developed some savvy. She mostly shares information from established news organizations. She has deleted posts making bizarre claims about Hillary Clinton. She knows how to use Snopes.com, the fact-checking site.

Still, she said, "I've seen things and thought, 'Well, that's not true." But I wasn't sure how to verify that it wasn't."

Read more **here**. Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

"News is evolving in exciting ways": How publishers are using Instagram to hook young audiences and grow subscribers (What's New in Publishing)

By Faisal Kalim

Instagram is opened a "staggering 35 times per day" by The Economist's followers, according to Kevin Young, the publisher's Head of Audience. The photo and video sharing platform "has become a key platform for The Economist's digital growth" and is enabling them to "reach and retain new audiences."

Reuters' 2020 Digital News Report reveals that the use of Instagram for news has doubled across all age groups since 2018. It is now set to overtake Twitter as a news source in the coming year, with younger people—about 63% of Instagram users worldwide are between 18 and 34 years old—embracing Instagram for their news.

Read more <u>here.</u> Shared by Claude Erbsen.

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Algerian journalist sentenced to 2 years in prison

By AOMAR OUALI

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — An Algerian court on Tuesday sentenced journalist Khaled Drareni to two years in prison on appeal, reducing his original sentence, in a trial that rights group have denounced as violating press freedom.

Drareni, editor of the Casbah Tribune news site and Algeria correspondent of RSF and the French TV channel TV5 Monde, played a prominent role in covering the country's

pro-democracy movement last year.

He was convicted of "inciting an unarmed gathering" and "endangering national unity" linked to coverage of the protest movement. His sentence was not suspended, meaning he must stay in prison to serve it.

In an initial Aug. 10 court decision, Drareni had been sentenced to a three-year term. Before that, he had been in pre-trial detention for more than five months.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History - September 16, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 16, the 260th day of 2020. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 16, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft-evaders.

On this date:

In 1630, the Massachusetts village of Shawmut changed its name to Boston.

In 1810, Mexico began its revolt against Spanish rule.

In 1966, the Metropolitan Opera officially opened its new opera house at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts with the world premiere of Samuel Barber's "Antony and Cleopatra."

In 1982, the massacre of between 1,200 and 1,400 Palestinian men, women and children at the hands of Israeli-allied Christian Phalange militiamen began in west Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

In 1987, two dozen countries signed the Montreal Protocol, a treaty designed to save the Earth's ozone layer by calling on nations to reduce emissions of harmful chemicals by the year 2000.

In 1994, a federal jury in Anchorage, Alaska, ordered Exxon Corp. to pay \$5 billion in punitive damages for the 1989 Exxon Valdez (val-DEEZ') oil spill (the U.S Supreme Court later reduced that amount to \$507.5 million). Two astronauts from the space shuttle Discovery went on the first untethered spacewalk in ten years.

In 2001, President George W. Bush, speaking on the South Lawn of the White House, said there was "no question" Osama bin Laden and his followers were the prime suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks; Bush pledged the government would "find them, get them running and hunt them down."

In 2005, President George W. Bush ruled out raising taxes to pay the massive costs of Gulf Coast reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, saying other government spending had to be cut to pay for the recovery effort.

In 2007, contractors for the U.S. security firm Blackwater USA guarding a U.S. State Department convoy in Baghdad opened fire on civilian vehicles, mistakenly believing they were under attack; 14 Iraqis died. O.J. Simpson was arrested in the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in Las Vegas. (Simpson was later convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery and sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was released in 2017.)

In 2009, Mary Travers, 72, part of the folk trio Peter, Paul and Mary, died in Danbury, Connecticut.

In 2013, Aaron Alexis, a former U.S. Navy reservist, went on a shooting rampage inside the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 people before being shot dead by police.

In 2014, President Barack Obama declared that the Ebola epidemic in West Africa could threaten security around the world and ordered 3,000 U.S. troops to the region in emergency aid muscle.

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI began a controversial state visit to Britain, acknowledging the Catholic Church had failed to act decisively or quickly enough to deal with priests who raped and molested children. The Seattle Storm completed their undefeated march through the postseason, beating the Atlanta Dream 87-84 for a three-game sweep in the WNBA finals. John "Jack" Goeken, founder of

telecommunications giant MCI and father of air-to-ground telephone communications, died in Joliet, Illinois, at age 80.

Five years ago: Eleven Republican presidential candidates debated at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, wrangling over immigration, gay marriage and foreign affairs. Baton-wielding Hungarian riot police unleashed tear gas and water cannons against hundreds of migrants after they broke through a razor-wire fence and tried to surge into the country from Serbia. Country singer Sturgill Simpson and singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams, both eclectic genre-bending artists, took home top honors at the Americana Honors and Awards show in Nashville.

One year ago: More than 49,000 members of the United Auto Workers went on strike against General Motors, bringing more than 50 factories and parts warehouses to a standstill. (The strike ended after 40 days when workers ratified a new contract.) "Saturday Night Live" said it had rescinded its invitation to Shane Gillis to join the cast; he was found to have posted a video in which he used a racial slur for Chinese people. The Pittsburgh Steelers announced that quarterback Ben Roethlisberger would undergo surgery on his right elbow, ending the 37-year-old quarterback's 16th NFL season just two weeks in. Former television newsman Sander Vanocur died in California at the age of 91; he'd been a questioner at the first Kennedy/Nixon debate in 1960.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Janis Paige is 98. Actor George Chakiris is 88. Bluesman Billy Boy Arnold is 85. Movie director Jim McBride is 79. Actor Linda Miller is 78. Rhythmand-blues singer Betty Kelley (Martha & the Vandellas) is 76. Musician Kenney Jones (Small Faces; Faces; The Who) is 72. Actor Susan Ruttan is 72. Rock musician Ron Blair (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers; Mudcrutch) is 72. Actor Ed Begley Jr. is 71. Country singer David Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 70. Country singer-songwriter Phil Lee is 69. Actor Mickey Rourke is 68. Actor-comedian Lenny Clarke is 67. Actor Kurt Fuller is 67. Jazz musician Earl Klugh is 67. Actor Christopher Rich is 67. TV personality Mark McEwen is 66. Baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount is 65. Magician David Copperfield is 64. Country singer-songwriter Terry McBride is 62. Actor Jennifer Tilly is 62. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Orel Hershiser is 62. Baseball Hall of Famer Tim Raines is 61. Actor Jayne Brook is 60. Singer Richard Marx is 57. Comedian Molly Shannon is 56. Singer Marc Anthony is 52. News anchor/talk show host Tamron Hall is 50. Comedianactor Amy Poehler is 49. Actor Toks Olagundoye (tohks oh-lah-GOON'-doh-yay) is 45. Country singer Matt Stillwell is 45. Singer Musiq (MYOO'-sihk) is 43. Actor Michael Mosley is 42. Rapper Flo Rida is 41. Actor Alexis Bledel is 39. Actor Sabrina Bryan is 36. Actor Madeline Zima is 35. Actor Ian Harding is 34. Actor Kyla Pratt is 34. Actor Daren Kagasoff is 33. Rock singer Teddy Geiger is 32. Actor-dancer Bailey De Young is 31. Rock singer-musician Nick Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 28. Actor Elena Kampouris is 23.

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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