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Connecting

January 05, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 5th day of January 2020,

A link to the [AP Emergency Relief Fund](#) is in the masthead of each day's Connecting.

Our colleague **Bill Haber** ([Email](#)) witnessed firsthand what it meant to staffers like him who covered Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the retired AP New Orleans staff photographer reminds us all of its value: "The generosity of AP Staff and the AP made a difference during a difficult time during Katrina," he said.

As AP local staffers provided round-the-clock coverage of the hurricane, many of them suffered — their homes destroyed or damaged and relatives rendered homeless. Hearing of their hardships, colleagues around the AP world asked how they could help. Those heartfelt offers led to the establishment of fund. It continues to aid AP people to this day. An excellent target for any contribution you might want to make.

What to do with historic front pages? You know, the ones in actual newsprint that you can hold in your hands - and the ones you store away. Colleague **Mark Mittelstadt** explores that dilemma as the lead article in today's Connecting. Got your own thoughts to share? Please do.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

What to do with historic front pages?



Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - They once heralded the biggest news stories of the year, if not the decade. Blaring headlines in large fonts, dramatic photos, graphic display -- newspaper front pages told the reader this was really BIG news. A dramatic A1 pushed circulation, drove skyrocketing over-the-counter sales, prompted people to go out and buy more of that issue. They were treasured and kept for posterity.

In an era when virtually any newspaper can be found online in a newspaper's or a library's or a myriad of other digital archives, do newsprint versions now hold any value?

It's a question I'm now asking myself. As I gather other readers of Connecting have done with their idle time during the pandemic, I have been going through boxes of stuff that have been part of our household moves for more than 40 years. My goal is to get rid of office papers, old mail and other items that long ago lost usefulness in order to free up much-needed shelf space in the garage. It turns out I have at least

five boxes labeled "historic newspapers." I kept not only the front pages but full editions so years later one might see what other news happened that day or even what product or service was being advertised, and for how much.

Looking through the old newspapers has been engaging to me. But I suspect my original purpose is no longer valid. I thought one day our sons or others might find them interesting, just as I did, going through historic detritus pulled from parents' and grandparents' attics and basements. Our sons are career professionals. They don't subscribe to newspapers and don't often look at news. When they do, it almost always is digital sites accessed on their cellphones or laptops and sorted or edited outside of traditional news channels. I doubt either one of them has purchased or picked up a newspaper for years, even the freebies at hotel desks.

I know they are not alone. And I strongly suspect they would not be interested now in picking up the hard copy and reading how The New York Times or The Washington Post, or even the Des Moines Register, reported stories such as the impeachment of Bill Clinton or the disputed election of 2000 or the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

So back to my original question about the stacks of "historic" newspapers in my garage -- keep or toss?

Remembering Glenn Adams

Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - The photo of AP retirees from New Hampshire and Maine in Monday's Connecting accompanied Glenn Adams' obit and recollections of this fine human being by his colleagues. In that 2019 photo I am glad to see the happy faces of friends and colleagues with at least 150 years' of AP experience among them. But I'm saddened to realize it was the last time I would see Glenn in person. Although I received a final communication from Glenn a few days ago in his and Betty's Christmas card. His return address sticker on the envelope said, "Proud Democrat" and it made me smile. In an email Monday, Betty said Glenn used that sticker with me in mind. A typical Glenn gesture! He was such a nice guy, generous, funny, a thoughtful journalist and writer plus a stalwart union member. A few winters ago, he and Betty visited Marguerite and me in Florida and we had a marvelous time, trading war stories and AP secrets.

Remembering 2020, looking ahead to a better year

Bill Kaczor (Email) - The year 2020 started out great including a Florida AP reunion in Winter Park in February, when Covid-19 still had not become a reality for most of us. I tanked up the Mustang in Gulf Breeze, picked up Brent Kallestad in Tallahassee and we headed to Central Florida to renew old acquaintances and make some new ones. To borrow a cliché from my small-town news days, "A good time was had by all."

As the pandemic became a reality in late March, I compounded my problems by taking a fall when my bicycle slid out from under me as I tried to brake on wet pavement after a cloud burst. That resulted in surgery to repair a fractured left arm and months of do-it-yourself rehab to keep my contacts with potential Covid carriers at a minimum. The arm is now about 90 percent back to normal. After a couple months and 5-pound weight gain, I got back on the bike, riding almost every day as long as the pavement is completely dry.

My wife, Judy, and I pretty much stayed at home for the rest of the year except for doctor visits and early morning trips to the Publix supermarket. Some stores and local governments initially imposed mask-wearing requirements, but after that seemed to work pretty well they stopped doing it. Nearly all shoppers and staff at Publix, however, continued to mask up, but I stopped going to Walmart and certain other stores that tended to attract the unmasked. Of course, plans to travel, including one or two trips to Chicago to see friends, relatives and the White Sox were called off.

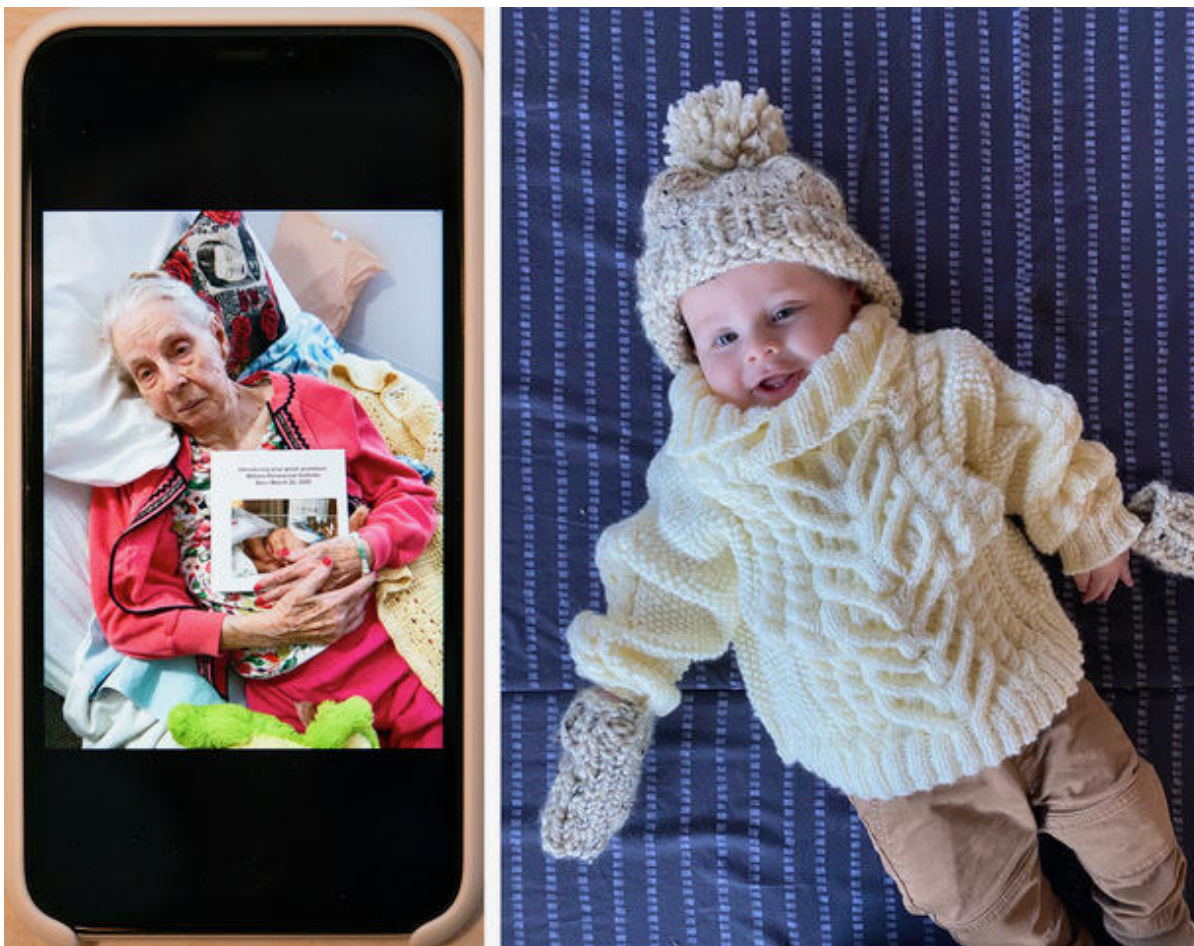
On the positive side, the day before my 74th birthday in July, my niece gave birth to a baby girl, Ava Rose. She along with my two sisters and a nephew live in the Atlanta suburbs. We hope to see them post-vaccine. The good news is all there are happy and healthy. The same cannot be said of another nephew in the Detroit area. He and his wife both got covid, but they recovered. He also lost his HVAC job, but hopes to learn a new trade as a heavy equipment operator after joining the Air National Guard. Just this month, my 91-year-old aunt in Poland also got covid but she, too, appears to be recovering. My daughter, Anna Rose, works in the psychiatric unit of a Pensacola hospital as a social worker. More good news: she got her first Moderna vaccination last Wednesday. Since Florida's governor has decreed that seniors over 65 should get inoculated after first-responders and hospital staffers but ahead of other essential workers, Judy and I are hoping our turn may come soon.

In September, we were visited by Hurricane Sally. Judy and I rode out the storm as it was "only" a Category 2. We lost power but it was restored after only 28 hours. The house, which has hurricane-proof windows and doors, survived without damage. Part of a fence with rotten posts went down, but it was quickly fixed. Not fixed, though, was the three-mile-long bridge that connects Gulf Breeze to Pensacola. Several barges being used to build the second of two parallel spans forming a new bridge tore loose in the storm and crashed into the first span, which had recently opened, causing severe damage. It was temporarily doing double duty by handling traffic in both directions. The damaged span has been closed ever since the storm with repairs not expected to be done until March. That has meant a detour making a 20-minute trip to Pensacola into one that can take up to an hour or more depending on traffic. So, we have a second reason to stay home.

One of the trips I canceled would have taken me to Grand Lake, Colorado, to visit a cousin who runs a small motel, general store and two-pump gas station. He was forced to evacuate when wildfires threatened the town. Fortunately, his business survived unscathed except for ash covering just about everything.

Another good thing is that I've had plenty of time to work on a book I am writing about the Florida Panhandle, where I spent 33 years with the AP and 10 years before that with other news organizations. I hope to finish it next year. The last chapter will be about the pandemic in the Panhandle, so I can't afford to forget what happened in 2020.

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Dennis Whitehead (Email) - The Covid pandemic has inflicted more than 300,000 deaths and 20 million infections in the United States alone, nearly two million deaths worldwide. Millions have lost their jobs and the number grows daily of families losing their homes. Healthcare workers collapse under the unrelenting stress of providing for the tsunami of incoming cases.

These are the manifest indicators of the suffering at the hand of the virus, but there is a silent and unseen weight upon us all; loneliness resulting from the loss of connection to other people, made worse when the separation keeps us apart from loved ones.

In our family's case, one shared by so many, the separation has been acute across generations.

The gaps in our lives cover two generations at the opposite ends of the human spectrum. On the left in photo above is my wife's 98-year-old mother, Dorothy Cook. She lives in a memory care unit of a Virginia senior residence where the telephone is our only line of connection. There is some comfort in the fog that advanced age envelops the mind, shielding her from the swirling realities and solitude, yet there is no real comfort to my wife who wishes to be with her mother, to hold her hand and convey her love in person. Fortunately, the staff at Westminster Lake Ridge has been wonderful in caring for their charges and keeping them in touch with their families. In this cellphone capture, Dorothy is holding a book prepared by our daughter introducing her grandmother to her new, and first, great-grandchild.

That brings us to the subject of that book, William, born into the pandemic last March, our first grandchild. As William lives in Chicago, we are again kept apart from a loved one by the virus. We couldn't be there with our daughter and her husband during her pregnancy (for which she may be grateful), and to be there for William's birth. We find connection through photos and videos streamed our way as he grows, along with the occasional Facetime chat, such as watching William open gifts on Christmas morning. Well, watching parents open gifts as William tried eating the ribbons. In the photo on the right, William is wearing the hat, gloves and sweater knitted by his grandmother.

While we miss them dearly, we do find solace in staying in touch the best ways possible in our shared troubled times, looking forward to being together again in 2021 and leaving 2020 in the distance of the rearview mirror.

Connecting mailbox

Farewell thoughts from NY Times' Arthur Sulzberger Jr., who once worked in AP's London bureau

Harry Dunphy ([Email](#)) - Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. in a New York Times Page 2 farewell in last Friday's issue:



"It is easy for someone my age to slip into nostalgia, but it fills me with pride that The Times I leave today looks nothing like the one I joined decades ago. As the world changed, so did this institution, transforming into an astonishingly vibrant multimedia newsroom and thriving, digital-first business that serves an audience found in every country on earth. Today, The Times is larger, more open, more creative and more ambitious than ever. A 170-year-old institution doesn't survive by standing still."

And the concluding graf: "I retired as chairman of the Times' board, but I keep the title that means more to me than any other: Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., devoted reader of The New York Times. Happy New Year."

He served as publisher of the Times from 1992 to 2017. He was succeeded as board chairman by his son, A.G. Sulzberger, the publisher.

(Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. was a reporter with the Raleigh Times in North Carolina from 1974 to 1976, and a London newsman for The Associated Press in the United Kingdom from 1976 to 1978. He joined The New York Times in 1978 as a correspondent in the Washington, D.C., bureau.)

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Political to the very end

Harry Atkins ([Email](#)) - The lead of an obit in last Tuesday's edition of The Savannah Morning News reads as follows:

Barry James Whitby, beloved husband, father, papa, son, sibling and friend drew his last breath Dec. 19, 2020, mainly, we suspect, to prevent himself from having to watch Biden and Harris take office.

Near the end of the obit, it reads:

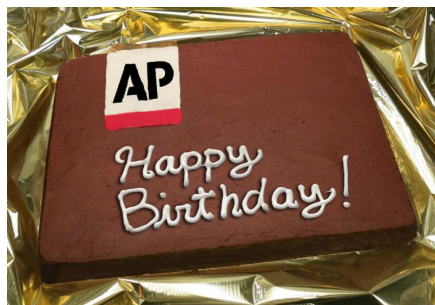
His cremation will take place at the family's convenience and his ashes will be kept so long as they match the decor.

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Connecting creates family bonds

Susan Sward ([Email](#)) - You do a great thing with Connecting showing the high caliber and dedication of so many who worked for AP. It also shows the family bonds created. From AP Sacramento in the 1970s I found several adopted brothers and some cousins.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



David Bauder - dbauder@ap.org

Bill Brown - bill@williamblakebrown.com

Steve Kent - ceannt@gmail.com

John Solomon - john@solomonmediallc.com

Adam Yeomans - ayeomans@ap.org

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Albert Habhab
George Hanna
Gene Herrick
Sister Donalda Kehoe
Elaine Light
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Sal Veder
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Malcolm Barr

**Myron Belkind
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Henry Bradsher
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Mike Cochran
Eldon Cort
Frank Daniels Jr.
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Chick Harrity
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Warren Lerude
Carl Leubsdorf
David Liu
Art Loomis
John Marlow
Dave Mazarella
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Harry Moskos
Greg Nokes
Lyle Price
Bruce Richardson
Mike Rouse
Mike Short
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Ed Staats
Marty Thompson
Ron Thompson
John Travalent
Kernan Turner**

Bob Walsh
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Joe Yeninas
Johnny Yost
Arnold Zeitlin
Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

***USPS delays are threatening small-town newspapers.
So is a postage price increase.*** (Washington Post)

By Jacob Bogage

Jeff Wagner hardly knew what to tell his delivery driver when the man returned one day in late December from a run to the post office in their northern Nebraska town with a trailer still full of newspapers.

The post office wouldn't take them, the driver said, as it had every Tuesday for decades, because it was so stacked up with packages and delayed mail there was simply no room. Wagner, the president of Iowa Information, a regional printing press that publishes four newspapers and a handful of shopping pamphlets, then checked his messages, where he found at least a half-dozen complaints about late or missing newspapers.

The U.S. Postal Service has been under siege for months as record volumes of holiday packages and election mail ran up against a spike in coronavirus cases within its workforce, leaving the agency severely short-staffed. Nearly 19,000 workers were in quarantine at the end of 2020 after becoming infected or exposed to the virus, according to the American Postal Workers Union.

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

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Because of an Editing Error (New York Times)

“All the News That’s Fit to Print”

Andrew Sondern/The New York Times

By David Vecsey

It is a feeling that every copy editor knows. You bolt upright out of a deep sleep at 3 a.m., eyes wide open, and you say to yourself, Did I misspell “Kyrgyzstan” last night? And nine times out of 10, you can go back to sleep comfortably knowing ... that you did.

Copy editors — those of us who polish articles and write headlines and photo captions — have an almost photographic memory when it comes to the words that pass before our eyes. Unfortunately, the cameras we use are those old-fashioned tripods that use flaming magnesium for a flash and take hours, or even days, for the pictures to develop. But eventually it all comes back in a rush of clarity. You might be pushing your toddler through the park on a glorious sunny day off when suddenly you ask yourself: Did I say Dallas was the capital of Texas last week? Yes. Yes, you did. You idiot.

My latest foray into the Corrections list came last month when I wrote a photo caption identifying Senator Tom Udall of Utah. And by Utah, obviously, I meant New Mexico. Because that’s the state he represents. (Until this week.)

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

The Final Word

When a guy needs a good steak



Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – For the fellow Facebookers among us, one of my favorite features is See Your Memories – which brings back one of your postings from that exact date any number of years in the past. This one popped up on mine the other day, from Jan. 1, 2012, when I wrote:

“When you're 95 and you long for a good steak, and there is no van to transport you, then you resort to your foot soldiers - namely, your son and grandson. Jon and I were the engine over Christmas that got dad to the Cellar a half-mile from his place at his nursing home. He rightly asked on the ride what happens if we got stopped for no headlight on his chair. We just kept pushing! Faster!”

A year and a seven month later, dad passed away at the age of 96. Memories like this live on.

Today in History - Jan. 5, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2021. There are 360 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 5, 1925, Democrat Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming took office as America's first female governor, succeeding her late husband, William, following a special election.

On this date:

In 1589, Catherine de Medici (MEHD'-uh-chee) of France died at age 69.

In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Virginia.

In 1896, an Austrian newspaper, Wiener Presse, reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen (RENT'-gun) of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays.

In 1914, auto industrialist Henry Ford announced he was going to pay workers \$5 for an 8-hour day, as opposed to \$2.34 for a 9-hour day. (Employees still worked six days a week; the 5-day work week was instituted in 1926.)

In 1943, educator and scientist George Washington Carver, who was born into slavery, died in Tuskegee, Alabama, at about age 80.

In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry S. Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower proposed assistance to countries to help them resist Communist aggression in what became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon announced that he had ordered development of the space shuttle.

In 1975, "The Wiz," a musical version of L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" featuring an all-Black cast, opened on Broadway.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Elizabeth Dole to succeed Drew Lewis as secretary of transportation; Dole became the first woman to head a Cabinet department in Reagan's administration, and the first to head the DOT.

In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960s pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing at the Heavenly Ski Resort on the Nevada-California state line; he was 62.

In 2004, foreigners arriving at U.S. airports were photographed and had their fingerprints scanned in the start of a government effort to keep terrorists out of the country.

Ten years ago: John Boehner was elected speaker as Republicans regained control of the House of Representatives on the first day of the new Congress. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs announced he was stepping down. Roberto Alomar and Bert Blyleven were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Five years ago: With tears streaking his cheeks, President Barack Obama launched a final-year push to tighten sales of firearms in the U.S., using his presidential powers in the absence of tougher gun restrictions that Congress refused to pass, coming out with plans for expanded background checks and other modest measures. French composer and conductor Pierre Boulez, 90, died in Baden-Baden, Germany.

One year ago: President Donald Trump reiterated his view that cultural sites in Iran could be targeted if Iran were to retaliate for the drone strike that killed Iran's top general; there were concerns even within his administration that doing so could constitute a war crime under international law. Amid heightened tensions over the killing of an Iranian general, Iran said it would no longer abide by the limits contained in the 2015 nuclear deal. The World War I tale "1917" captured the Golden Globe for

best dramatic film, while “Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood” won for best comedy or musical; in television categories, real-life stories captured top honors, including Olivia Colman’s portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II and Michelle Williams’ performance as Broadway star Gwen Verdon.

Today’s Birthdays: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 93. Actor Robert Duvall is 90. Juan Carlos, former King of Spain, is 83. Singer-musician Athol Guy (The Seekers) is 81. Former talk show host Charlie Rose is 79. Actor-director Diane Keaton is 75. Actor Ted Lange (lanj) is 73. Rhythm-and-blues musician George “Funky” Brown (Kool and the Gang) is 72. Rock musician Chris Stein (Blondie) is 71. Former CIA Director George Tenet is 68. Actor Pamela Sue Martin is 68. Actor Clancy Brown is 62. Singer Iris Dement is 60. Actor Suzy Amis is 59. Actor Ricky Paull Goldin is 56. Actor Vinnie Jones is 56. Rock musician Kate Schellenbach (Luscious Jackson) is 55. Actor Joe Flanigan is 54. Talk show host/dancer-choreographer Carrie Ann Inaba is 53. Rock musician Troy Van Leeuwen (Queens of the Stone Age) is 53. Actor Heather Paige Kent is 52. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 52. Actor Shea Whigham is 52. Actor Derek Cecil is 48. Actor-comedian Jessica Chaffin is 47. Actor Bradley Cooper is 46. Actor January Jones is 43. Actor Brooklyn Sudano is 40. Actor Franz Drameh is 28.

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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