SHARE:

Join Our Email List

View as Webpage















Connecting
January 6, 2021

Click <u>here</u> for sound of the Teletype



Top AP News
Top AP Photos

Connecting Archive
AP Emergency Relief Fund
AP Books

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the $6^{\mbox{th}}$ day of January 2021,

To keep or to pitch – that is the question.

Mark Mittelstadt's question in Tuesday's issue on what to do with historic newspaper front pages that he's held onto for years struck a chord with his Connecting colleagues.

No surprise, I suppose, since I am guessing most of us are savers – of not only historic pages but of newspaper clippings of stories we wrote for the AP wire or our own newspaper. One of your colleagues, **Ed McCullough**, had an interesting idea on what he does with the latter.

And no surprise, too, this response, as a bit of diversion from all things COVID-19, the Georgia U.S. Senate run-off elections, Congress' certification today of the Electoral College, and President Trump's quest to remain in office. And how we need at least a little bit of diversion!

If you have thoughts to add to the topic, please share with your colleagues.

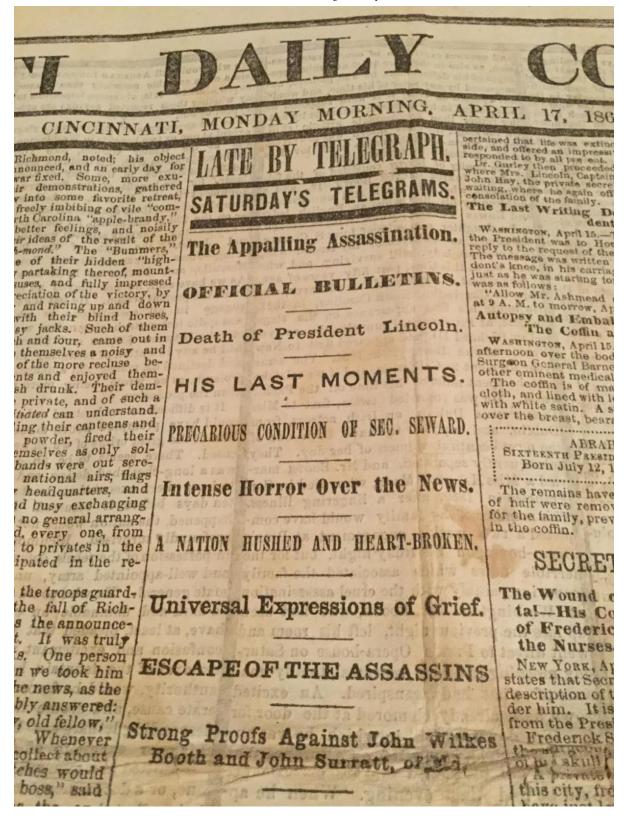
Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

What to do with historic newspaper editions



Pravda coverage of the first manned space flight piloted by Yuri Gagarin April 13, 1961.



Lincoln's Assassination April 17, 1865 Cincinnati Daily Commercial

Mick Buroughs (Email) - I hope Mark Mittelstadt will hang on to his collection of historic newspapers. If his children aren't interested in such an inheritance, perhaps his grandchildren or future descendants will be. That is my hope anyway as my dad encouraged me to save the Seattle Times the day after Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. My newspaper collection now goes back to the 1600s. I've had displays at local libraries and museums. Mick Boroughs (AP NY 1982-86)

-0-

Paul Albright (Email) - I have a cardboard box filled with "historic" newspaper editions, too. Rather than toss them out, however, I recommend that Mark Mittelstadt contact local and regional public and academic libraries as to whether they will take some or all of them. Library archivists likely will be selective in what they accept, but it is worth the effort. Historical museums might also be interested, especially if the newspaper is from their community. I was making some progress in this until the pandemic shut down libraries and museums. So, it will take some time and some patience to accomplish the objective.

-0-



Jerry Ceppos (Email) - I planned to go through my historic front pages during the holidays but, fortunately, it was too chilly in the garage, so I put it off.

Years ago, I suggested a solution to my wife, Karen: Let's frame many of the pages and hang them in the house because, in a way, they qualify as art. She disagreed with my definition of art. She relented on just two front pages: In the early '80s, just after I joined the San Jose Mercury News, Jack Eisen, a former WaPo writer, sold me a Mercury front page reporting on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. It kicked around the house for several years...until the 1985 Loma Prieta earthquake, when Karen relented and suggested framing the old paper with a first-day front page about the '85

quake. The framed work is with us in Baton Rouge and attracted attention from guests, when we used to have them. (Photo above.)

I have yet another question: What do I do with my ancient clips? I'm leaning toward tossing all except a special few (if I can identify anything special that I ever wrote).

-0-

Sibby Christensen (Email) - I share Mark Mittelstadt's concern about saving historic front pages.

You can save them, daily as you go, on Freedom Forum's "Today's Front Pages" app. Print them out in miniature, on standard copy paper (longer lasting than newsprint). If you're a New York Times reader, find the image tailgating David Leonhardt's "The Morning" roundup. Alas, you can't follow the inside jumps, but better than nothing.

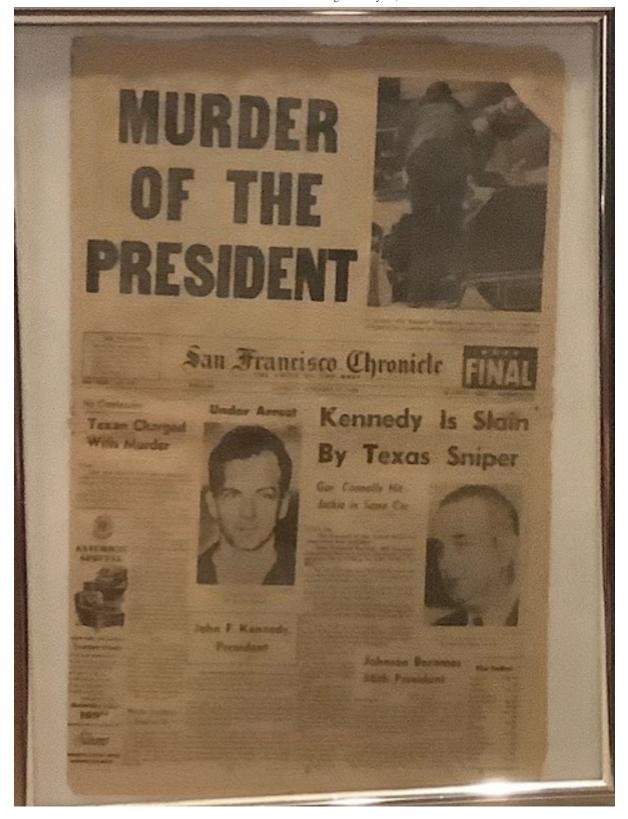
Also share his concern that younger readers really don't read that much. Some of that comes from podcasts and broadcasts which whiz by. But my biggest gripe is that websites are often so clutter-bugged a reader can miss a lot of the good stuff, or maybe just not want to bother.

As someone schooled in printshop lore and who has laid out many print pages, I followed the old order about the reader's eye looking first at the outside cuts of the paper. That's where lead copy should be: on the right for odd-numbered, on the left for even-numbered pages. The idea is to make the reader get to the story without really trying.

Flip through the daily miniatures this year, just looking at the top right or banners, and you can see the history almost in motion.

(Somehow, I feel the ghosts of my old journalism profs looking over my shoulder just now.)

-0-



Dennis Conrad (Email) - The Front Page I have kept since Nov. 23, 1963.

-0-

Joe Frazier (Email) - Save them!! I was about 13 when my grandfather died in 1957. Tucked away in his attic I found a pile of front pages I still have and cherish:

Frisco still burns city seems doomed (1906)
New York weeps for Titanic's dead (1912)
President Harding dies (1923)
PEACE!! World War 1 ends
Lindbergh Lands (1927)
Sacco and Vanzetti electrocuted (1927)

The list goes on. For reasons we needn't explore, many are in storage but all are framed and in good shape mostly. They are indeed the first draft of history and I'm glad Charles Branson Frazier tucked them away. He was wise beyond his very modest education.

-0-

Valerie Komor (<u>Email</u>) – director of AP Corporate Archives, in a note to Mark - Your thoughtful piece on newspapers interested me - but one question first: if you find in your "office papers" any AP publications, like Logs (was there an Iowa Log?), do please let us know. We are always eager to fill in gaps in our holdings.

Next: I would want to know how many historic papers you have. There are places that might still take them, although certainly most of the major dailies have been digitized and the originals retained, as they should be. Newspapers have long been the bane of preservationists, because they are so fragile.

In a sense, newspapers are only valuable now as historical artifacts, to show how the news was assembled and published, as you point out. I find it sad that so much of the physical nature of journalism is suppressed in the digital era.

Archivists, of course, value the original, because of its intrinsic and its evidential values. But we also put a premium on access. And right now, we are fortunate that so much is readily available to scholars online.

And from her Archives colleague **Francesca Pitaro** (**Email**) - I'd only like to add that some institutions might collect historic issues of newspapers that match their collecting areas. Even if the papers have been digitized, the hard copy is great for exhibits. Headlines are also extremely popular in documentaries and we have had requests to provide AP headlines for those purposes.

My own family had a collection of National Geographic magazines in the basement, too precious to be cut up for school projects or be thrown away. It was hard to part with them, but they did eventually end up in recycling.

-0-

Bruce Lowitt (<u>Email</u>) - I vote "Keep," and give them to your grandchildren with the understanding that they ultimately give them to their grandchildren so that future generations will see what newspapers were.

Okay, maybe that's a bit strong. I suspect that, even three or four generations from now, newspapers will still exist. At least the major ones.

But if nothing else, those future generations will see how writing and reporting has changed, whether for the better or worse or just different. I've read game stories from the 1920s and I'm fascinated by how, um, arcane some of them seem now.

-0-

Bill McCloskey (Email) - Keep or toss? Donate.

As part of an SPJ event, I went to a museum, I think in Madison, Wisconsin, and viewed a newspaper exhibit they had set up for us. Spectacular stuff. Even found a copy of the Fort Jackson Leader, which I had read during Army basic training.

Someone must care, even if not your children or mine. Our daughter is not even interested in mom's jewelry.

-0-

Ed McCullough (<u>Email</u>) - Re Mark Mittelstadt's query about saving or throwing out historic front pages, I say: that depends. If they're "merely" historic, they can be found elsewhere - at least in a library or probably online. However, if they have one's own byline, well, those remain keepers, in my view.

I've "curated" my best newsclips, often from once major media that no longer exist, and am writing thumbnail explainers that Paul Harvey might have called "the rest of the story." Interesting related facts, circumstances, details that didn't make the story - yet fascinate. Mostly for my (now too old to be called) kids, but in my mind's eye perhaps also for a wider audience. Walking in sewers with a bomb squad in the run-up to a royal wedding (which of course was the real news). Guessing correctly where a U.S. presidential summit with European prime ministers would take place (on a mid-Atlantic island) and getting there ahead of news competitors. Anticipating (blind luck) a Nobel literature prize winner's acceptance speech with a news conference question and watching him hem and haw, avoiding an answer - and then getting the answer, richly detailed, when he gave his speech days later. The topic? When fictional characters spring to life and take on lives of their own.

-0-

Ray Newton (<u>Email</u>) - I agree with Mark...old papers and such. I am doing the same - cleaning out the garage and office. My kids will never take time to look at such items,

so why bother to store. Hard to accept, though, huh, Mark?

-0-

Jerry Pye (<u>Email</u>) - Keep the historical papers, as I have kept my historical newspapers. They are part of history and I do hope my kids want the newspapers after I am gone.

-0-

Malcolm Ritter (Email) - Re Mark Mittelstadt's question of whether to keep or toss his old newspapers:

I say, keep! Sure, newspapers are not part of his sons' lives, but that adds to the value of his collection. His papers not only hold historic news, but they themselves are artifacts of a crucial part of society in what his sons would consider bygone days. And what about grandchildren? Great-grandchildren? I suspect they would be impressed by these ancient (to them) relics.

If the sons still say they're not interested, Mark might find a receptive audience on eBay.

I say this as somebody who once returned home from school one day to discover that his own collection of historic newspapers had been decimated by his father, who needed packing material and did not notice he was crumpling up front pages with headlines like, "Man Walks on Moon" and "Nixon Resigns."

-0-

Michael Weinfeld (<u>Email</u>) - Like Mark Mittelstadt, I, too, collected boxes upon boxes of papers with dramatic, historic headlines. Sometimes just the front section, sometimes the whole paper.

From yellowed copies about the Kennedy assassination to the killing of Osama bin Laden.

But, when it came time to move from Virginia to Colorado, we had to downsize. And that meant bye bye papers.

What to do?

I didn't want to throw them away and no one I knew would take them, so...I sold them. There's a market for old papers on eBay. I sold nearly all of them.

Speaking of old papers, when I was attending NYU in the 70s, I started saving front page headlines about Watergate. Full page headlines in the NY Post and Daily News, some of the more dramatic headlines in the Times and even cover stories in Newsweek and Time. Also bumper stickers, political cartoons, you name it.

I ended up creating seven volumes of scrapbooks, the type normally use for photos. We're talking 6-inch thick scrapbooks. Combined, they weighed more than 100 pounds.

I knew I couldn't take them with me since we were downsizing. So, I tried donating them to several libraries, colleges, even the Nixon library, but no takers.

I ended up having to leave them behind.

In years of covering news in corrupt places, he knowingly paid just one bribe

Henry Bradsher (Email) - Last week's mention of my perplexity over which side of the street to drive on during an AP home leave caused Arnold Zeitlin to remember an experience in Nigeria when he was the AP correspondent there. He reported that he got his first driver's license there, successfully passing a test in the AP Peugeot 404 without paying a bribe, as was occasionally expected. While he was waiting for the test, a Nigerian driver pulled up in his truck to take the driver's test. He failed the test, got in his truck and drove away.

To which, my reaction was "occasionally" seeking bribes in Nigeria? I thought usually was the rule.

After covering Jimmy Carter's 1978 visit to South America and Nigeria for The Washington Star (in my post-AP incarnation), I dropped out of the press group in Lagos by prearrangement with my editors to do some more reporting in Africa: Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), South Africa, and Southwest Africa (now Namibia). As I was flying out of Lagos, a customs inspector tried hard to make me pay a bribe to export my typewriter and some other equipment. I kept insisting loudly that I'd come in a part of Carter's presidential party and was a special case. Finally, he gave up, and I got away free.

In all my years of wandering around in corrupt places, I only knowingly paid a bribe once. In my early 1970 days based in Hong Kong for The Star, I was down in Vietnam when my editors asked me to go over to the Philippines to begin covering Secretary of State William P. Rogers' tour of the area. I had not realized that it had been slightly over six months since I'd last had in Hong Kong the periodic cholera shots then required for travel in Asia. The medical officer at the Manila airport stopped me because of an expired inoculation. He said the rules required him to give me the shot

and then quarantine me for three days before I could leave the airport. But there could be exceptions. So I got his shot, gave him the expected bribe, and went into town.

Incidentally, on the way home from Nigeria, Carter stopped for several hours in Liberia. Although my editors had agreed ahead of time that I was not needed to cover that, I was surprised to learn on returning to Washington a month and a half or so later that The Star had front-paged an account of the Liberia stop under my byline. My angry protests at their faking the story from news agency accounts did little good after the fact.

As for reporting from Tanzania in 1978, that was a special case, too. While I was in Zambia, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance flew into Tanzania to begin an effort to resolve regional problems. The Star asked me to go join his party there. I mentioned this to someone in the U.S. embassy in Zambia. He asked, do you have a South African visa in your passport? Yes, I'd gotten it before leaving Washington. Well, he said, they won't let you into Tanzania, a staunch opponent of South African apartheid. But he got the U.S. Information Service office to take a passport photo of me and issued me a new, second passport. On my arrival in Dar es Salaam the next day, the immigration officials were suspicious of an only day-old passport, but they let me in.

Speaking of obituaries and politics

Adolphe Bernotas (<u>Email</u>) - Harry Atkins' contribution in Tuesday's Connecting is an obit in which the departed is said to have drawn his last breath, "we suspect, to prevent himself from having to watch Biden and Harris take office."

Which reminds me of the obit in the Concord (N.H.) Monitor of my friend Eva Sartwell, one of my union mentors. Eva, who died in 2019 before the recent New Hampshire presidential primary, was described as "a lifelong political activist advocating for the poor, for laborers, and for women."

The last graf says there will no calling hours, but "if you would like to make a contribution in Eva's memory please consider supporting the candidate who wins the Democratic Presidential Primary. Eva used to say, 'If you do nothing, you deserve what you get'."

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Tim Bovee – <u>tbovee@gmail.com</u>

Paula Froke - pfroke@ap.org

Stories of interest

Opinion: Putting a name to editorials (Oklahoman)

By THE OKLAHOMAN EDITORIAL BOARD

For generations, unsigned editorials have been a staple of the nation's newspapers, including The Oklahoman. Traditionally, these commentaries are unsigned because they reflect the view of the newspaper's editorial board.

Beginning with Wednesday's page, editorials on this page will carry my name, a nod to the ever-evolving changes within the industry.

One of those specific to this newspaper is that we have not had a true editorial board — a staff of opinion writers along with members of Oklahoman management — since fall 2018 when the paper was sold to Gatehouse Media. The sale resulted in several editorial board members departing.

(Authored by Owen Canfield, Opinion page editor)

Read more <u>here.</u> Shared by Lindel Hutson, who noted that Owen Canfield is former Oklahoma City AP sports editor.

-0-

Trump's Push to Undo Election Result Divides His Media Allies (New York Times)

By John Koblin and Michael M. Grynbaum

The final stretch of President Trump's term kicked off on Monday with the Republican Party in disarray — and the president's media allies similarly divided over how to handle the crisis brought on by his fantasies of a "rigged" election.

On the Monday episode of the usually Trump-friendly Fox News morning show "Fox & Friends," the host Brian Kilmeade challenged Mr. Trump's lawyers to produce any evidence of fraud. He also warned that pro-Trump protests planned for this week in Washington were "the type of anarchy that doesn't work for anybody, Republicans or Democrats, in the big picture." His co-host Steve Doocy noted: "So far, we haven't seen the evidence."

On the same program, Senator Marsha Blackburn, a Tennessee Republican who has said she will object when Congress certifies the Electoral College vote on Wednesday, discussed the bombshell recording of a Saturday phone call in which President Trump tried to browbeat Brad Raffensperger, Georgia's secretary of state, into changing the state's vote count.

Read more here.

-0-

McClatchy names Colleen McCain Nelson as new Sacramento Bee, California editor

Colleen McCain Nelson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is The Sacramento Bee's new executive editor and will also serve as the regional editor for California, where McClatchy operates five newsrooms.

Nelson, 46, is currently the national opinion editor for McClatchy, The Bee's parent company, which operates in 30 markets across the country. She also is vice president and opinion editor for The Kansas City Star, and has extensive experience in covering national and local issues, as well as presidential campaigns and the White House.

"Colleen comes to this leadership role with deep and proven experience in creating powerful, mission-driven journalism that is essential to readers," Kristin Roberts, McClatchy's senior vice president for news, said in her announcement Tuesday.

Read more <u>here</u>. Shared by Jenny Volanakis, Jeannie Eblen.

-0-

Bye, babe: Longtime P-D columnist Jerry Berger has died (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

Jerry Berger, a former Post-Dispatch columnist and longtime fixture in St. Louis society circles, died Tuesday (Jan. 5, 2021) at a hospital in Coral Springs, Florida. He was 87.

After surviving several bouts with cancer in the last decade, Berger's health began to decline in the last month after he suffered a broken leg in a fall, said Victor Isart, his husband.

"But he died peacefully, which was my only wish for him — that he didn't suffer," Isart said.

Isart said that Berger did not want any memorial services or ceremonies, "but just wanted to tell people to donate money to their favorite animal shelter."

For more than a quarter of a century, Berger was the newspaper columnist St. Louisans turned to for their daily fix of gossip.

He famously tattled on - and got tips from - politicians, the rich and famous, and some of our most notorious gangsters.

Read more **here**. Shared by Scott Charton.

Today in History - Jan. 6, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2021. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 6, 2001, with Vice President Al Gore presiding in his capacity as president of the Senate, Congress formally certified George W. Bush the winner of the bitterly contested 2000 presidential election.

On this date:

In 1412, tradition holds that Joan of Arc was born this day in Domremy.

In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.)

In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, New York, at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1968, a surgical team at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California, led by Dr. Norman Shumway, performed the first U.S. adult heart transplant, placing the heart of a 43-year-old man in a 54-year-old patient (the recipient died 15 days later).

In 1993, jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, 75, died in Englewood, N.J.; ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev died in suburban Paris at age 54.

In 1994, figure skater Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena; four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution, but denied any advance knowledge about the assault.)

In 1998, in a new bid to expand health insurance, President Clinton unveiled a proposal to offer Medicare coverage to hundreds of thousands of uninsured Americans from ages 55 to 64.

In 2003, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accused U.N. inspectors of engaging in "intelligence work" instead of searching for suspected nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in his country.

In 2005, former Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen was arrested on murder charges 41 years after three civil rights workers were slain in Mississippi. (Killen was later

convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 60 years in prison; he died in prison in 2018.)

In 2017, Congress certified Donald Trump's presidential victory over the objections of a handful of House Democrats, with Vice President Joe Biden pronouncing, "It is over."

Ten years ago: U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced he would cut \$78 billion from the Defense Department budget over the next five years, an effort to trim fat in light of the nation's ballooning deficit. Vang Pao, a revered former general in the Royal Army of Laos who'd led thousands of Hmong guerrillas in a CIA-backed secret army in the Vietnam War, died in Clovis, California, at age 81.

Five years ago: North Korea said that it had conducted a powerful hydrogen bomb test, a claim greeted with widespread skepticism. Ken Griffey Jr. and Mike Piazza were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Actor-comedian Pat Harrington Jr., 86, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Throngs of Iranians attended the funeral of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who'd been killed in a U.S. airstrike in Iraq; Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wept while praying over the casket. Former White House national security adviser John Bolton said he was "prepared to testify" if subpoenaed by the Senate in its impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. (The Senate voted against calling witnesses.) Facebook said it would ban "deepfake" videos, the false but realistic clips created with artificial intelligence, as it stepped up efforts to fight online manipulation. As he recovered from surgery on his injured hip, Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said he would enter the NFL draft. (He would be the fifth player drafted, and was chosen by the Miami Dolphins.)

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Joey Miskulin (Riders in the Sky) is 72. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 71. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 70. Singer Jett Williams is 68. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 66. World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez is 64. Actor Scott Bryce is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kathy Sledge is 62. TV chef Nigella Lawson is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 61. Actor Norman Reedus is 52. TV personality Julie Chen is 51. Actor Danny Pintauro (TV: "Who's the Boss?") is 45. Actor Cristela Alonzo is 42. Actor Rinko Kikuchi (RINK'-oh kih-KOO'-chee) is 40. Actor Eddie Redmayne is 39. Retired NBA All-Star Gilbert Arenas is 39. Actor-comedian Kate McKinnon is 37. Actor Diona Reasonover is 37. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 35.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- My most unusual story tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- "A silly mistake that you make"- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- Multigenerational AP families profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.



- **Volunteering** benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- First job How did you get your first job in journalism?
- Connecting "selfies" a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- Most unusual place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

Visit our website