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Connecting

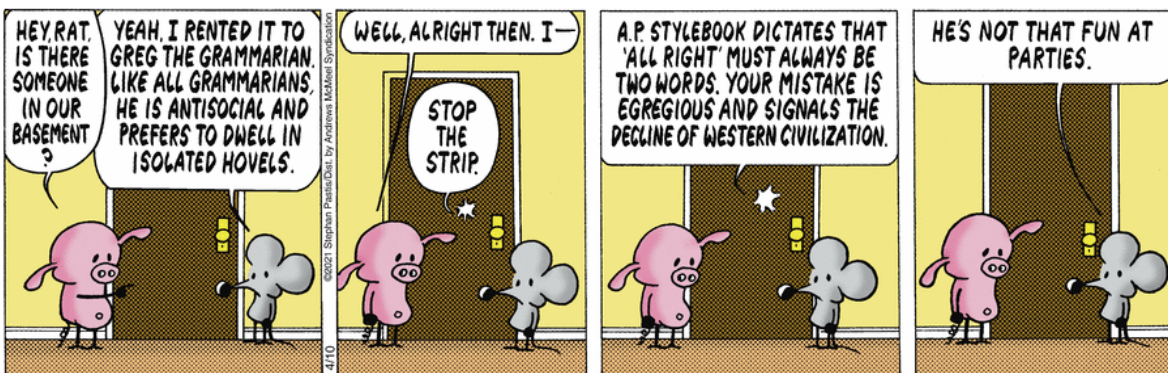
April 12, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 12th day of April 2021,

There's a reason why "**Pearls Before Swine**" is one of our colleagues' favorite comic strips, and artist **Stephan Pastis** demonstrates again why that is in the strip above. Thanks to Adolphe Bernotas, Jim Carlson, Michael Weinfeld, Steve Graham, Paul Albright and Linda Deutsch for sharing.

If you made the AP a career, where often the next promotion required a move to a new city (or country), it is likely you have a story or two to tell about your adventures in moving.

That's your assignment for the week from Ye Olde Connecting Editor who himself moved six times in a 36-year AP career and will later share a tale or two.

Our newly retired colleague **John Rogers** volunteered to get the ball rolling – writing not about his cross-country moves from Los Angeles to New York and Springfield, Mo., in between, but about a five-mile move from one LA suburb to another that he calls The Move From Hell.

I look forward to your story – illustrated with a photo if possible.

ATTENTION Florida APers from 1980: A friend who worked in Florida TV at that time is writing a book about the shooting of Vernon Jordan. Though the shooting occurred in another state the suspect, James Franklin, was arrested in Lakeland. My friend would like to speak with someone who was involved with the story of the arrest. It's just a few questions. Please contact me at edtobias@comcast.net if you can help.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

The Move from Hell – traversing just five miles



John Rogers ([Email](#)) - Everyone says every move is the Move From Hell, but this is the worst I've ever been involved with, and that includes the ones that took me back and forth across the country during my AP days in Los Angeles, New York and Springfield, Mo.

It began with the bargain-basement movers my wife, Alice, hired showing up with a truck that couldn't get up our steep, winding driveway in the small hillside community of La Habra Heights, California, and who simply said, "Sorry, we can't do it," and left.

That left me to turn to Yelp on a Sunday afternoon to frantically find another crew, as we were closing the sale of our home the following Friday. I got one that was really highly rated and they should have been because they charged plenty. I warned them about the long driveway, telling them we were the middle of three homes and they would have to pass under a low-hanging power line connecting the first house. They Google-Earth searched it and said no problem. A crew came the next day with a giant truck and the guy in charge said there's no way we're getting under that wire. He took photos and video and showed his bosses and it was decided they'd come back the next day with a big truck, a smaller one and a trailer, bring a bigger crew with them and shuttle the trailer up and down the hill to the big truck. I was showing two guys where all the stuff to move was when the big truck's driver comes in the house and says he accidentally tore down the wire. He said no one told him it was there. Later, one of the movers told me every crew member on the move was warned about the wire before they left the service yard and he must have simply forgotten

Within minutes a police car, three fire trucks, including two hook-and-ladders, and a three-person crew from Southern California Edison in one of those crew's nest trucks

were on the scene and blocked the entire street to traffic for a couple of hours. Fortunately, the movers didn't damage the neighbor's home and one of the firefighters kept everyone away from the wire, saying they might be electrocuted if they touched it. The neighbor, who is in his 70s and has lived there his whole life, told me that 40 years before another truck did the same thing, only that time the downed wire sparked a brush fire that nearly burned down his house. I guess the fact that there was no fire this time and he had his power back in two hours led him to laugh about this incident.

But it got the movers so far behind that they couldn't move everything, so I cut a side deal with two of them to get the rest of the stuff the next day, and in doing so they smashed to smithereens the beautiful glass kitchen table Alice loved. It could have been worse. They barely avoided sending our large, nearly new and really heavy refrigerator careening down the hillside. Instead, they got it to the new place with quite a few dents and scratches.

People sometimes have asked me what La Habra Heights looks like. If they are about my age or have seen the Jacob Dylan documentary "Echo in the Canyon," I tell them picture Laurel Canyon in the 1960s, minus the musicians. In other words, pretty primitive, with old, narrow, crumbling roads but very picturesque, incredible views. Before the pandemic shut down Disneyland we could see the fireworks every night from our backyard. On a clear day you can see Catalina Island, 26 miles offshore, in the distance.

My last celebrity interview before I retired at the end of February was with Jerry Seinfeld and, to my surprise, he told me he actually knows where La Habra Heights is. He couldn't really explain how he knew that except to recall he'd first heard of the place when he was in LA to appear on David Letterman's show years ago, during a week when Letterman was filming in LA.



Anyway, we finally got to our new home about five miles away, in Hacienda Heights, another hillside neighborhood but one much more modern and easy to navigate. Now it was time to connect our TVs. The scheduled connection was on a day when a surprise rainstorm deluged the area, and the installer said he wasn't allowed to work outside in the rain. A good guy, he promised he'd be back at the same time the next day and he really was. When I get the time I'm looking forward to streaming that new King Kong movie.

Next came the internet. I was told to just carry my old modem to the new house and plug it in and it would work fine. It didn't work at all, and only then it was discovered that it was out of date and I would need a new one. After several days without internet I was able to pick a new one up at a Spectrum store. Spectrum now hands

you your new modem and a self-installation kit, saying it's easy to install. It might have been but the old one I turned back in was so far out of date that the new one couldn't find the signal for either me or the guy on the phone who tried to help me. Two days later a technician arrived and it took him most of the day to rewire stuff and get it going. Now it works great.

And those were just the larger problems. There were a plethora of smaller but equally vexing ones.

But we're in now and have some things out of boxes, so I'll be getting to work shortly on other stuff.

How the AP Stylebook has kept up with the pandemic

By: Angela Fu
Poynter.org

The pandemic gave us a new vocabulary to describe everyday life — Zoom, anyone? — and editors at the Associated Press Stylebook have been working to keep up.

AP first published its coronavirus topical guide last March and has since updated it “five or six” times in the past year, AP Stylebook editor Paula Froke said. The current version, published March 10, contains 74 entries, 43 of which are new to the stylebook.

The guide includes medical terms — hydroxychloroquine and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children — as well as phrases to describe the socially distant lifestyle many have adopted since the pandemic's start. Pods, as in learning pods or social pods, get their own entry, and AP now recognizes that FaceTime, Skype and Zoom can be used as verbs (but does not recommend such usage).

“The goal is to help writers and editors everywhere have a consistent approach to terminology — consistent and accurate, above all, and clear so that in this often very quickly changing and big complicated news story, editors can have some guideposts for how to lay this out most clearly for the public to understand,” Froke said.

The entry that has undergone the most revisions is the first one, coronaviruses. One change made in the past year is “the coronavirus” is now acceptable on first reference even though it incorrectly implies there is only one coronavirus. Journalists no longer need to write “new coronavirus” or “novel coronavirus” a year into the pandemic, the stylebook notes.

The most recent update includes a section on vaccines with notes on names (Pfizer, not Pfizer-BioNTech), vaccine approval (use “authorized,” not “approved”) and the term anti-vaxxer (don't use it).

When deciding what to include in the guide, Froke and other AP staff try to identify what people are talking about and which terms are most commonly misspelled or

confused. Once they've amassed suggestions from AP staff and the public, members of AP's health and science team work with editor Stephanie Nano to draft entries. Nano and Froke then fine-tune those entries before sharing them with the six other members of the stylebook team.

Read more [here](#).

AP exclusive: 'Clear the Capitol,' Pence pleaded, timeline of riot shows



FILE - In this Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, file photo, violent rioters storm the Capitol, in Washington. New details from the deadly riot of Jan. 6 are contained in a previously undisclosed document prepared by the Pentagon for internal use that was obtained by the Associated Press and vetted by current and former government officials. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

By **LISA MASCARO, BEN FOX and LOLITA C. BALDOR**

WASHINGTON (AP) — From a secure room in the Capitol on Jan. 6, as rioters pummeled police and vandalized the building, Vice President Mike Pence tried to assert control. In an urgent phone call to the acting defense secretary, he issued a startling demand.

“Clear the Capitol,” Pence said.

Elsewhere in the building, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi were making a similarly dire appeal to military leaders, asking the Army to deploy the National Guard.

“We need help,” Schumer, D-N.Y., said in desperation, more than an hour after the Senate chamber had been breached.

At the Pentagon, officials were discussing media reports that the mayhem was not confined to Washington and that other state capitals were facing similar violence in what had the makings of a national insurrection.

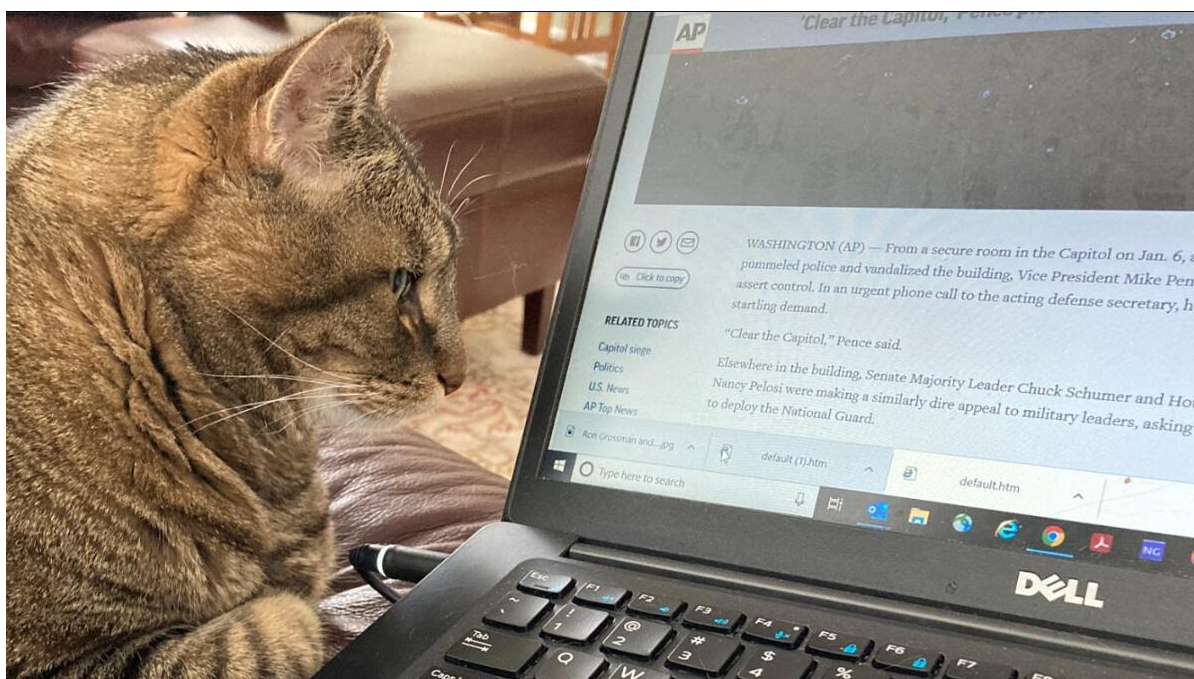
“We must establish order,” said Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in a call with Pentagon leaders.

But order would not be restored for hours.

These new details about the deadly riot are contained in a previously undisclosed document prepared by the Pentagon for internal use that was obtained by The Associated Press and vetted by current and former government officials.

Read more [here](#).

And this catty little sidebar...



Dennis Conrad (Email) - My friend and former AP colleague, veteran Chicago Tribune investigative reporter Ray Long ([Email](#)), passes along this feline fascination with the AP’s “Clear the Capitol” scoop that made a big splash over the weekend. Ray’s sidekick, Jedediah, has been a fixture in the Long household for much of the time since the 1990s when Ray was an AP newsman and Statehouse correspondent in Springfield, Ill. Ray has spent more than the past two decades with the Tribune, where he has been twice named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in recent years. Jedediah KNOWS investigative journalism.

Connecting mailbox

Arnold Garson's 'Just Imagine' story makes lasting impression

Kevin Walsh ([Email](#)) - Every so often, one of your Connecting reader stories really makes a lasting impression.

Such was the case for me with Arnold Garson's story (in last Friday's Connecting) about the mother he never knew and her intersection with the 1930 sci-fi/musical comedy movie, "Just Imagine."

"A movie was their Friday night habit, according to Celia's diary. That night, she wrote that "Just Imagine," was "a grand picture showing the world in 1980. Gosh, . . . I wonder if we'll live to see if it'll be true!" Celia and Sam were 17 and in love. They were married in 1935; I was born six years after that, in May 1941. Celia died nine months later of a cerebral hemorrhage. Years later I would begin my voyage of discovery, trying to piece together the few fragments of her life that still could be unearthed in an effort to understand who she was and what she was like."

Wow. Thank you to Arnold for letting us "Just Imagine" this remarkable family story.

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Always hoped to emulate Sam Koo

Ford Burkhart ([Email](#)) - Sam Koo's graceful note (on April 9) on getting his own scoop about the shooting of the Pope stirred some memories. When I joined the AP Foreign Desk, in 1971, Sam was the top slot person of the AP World Services desk, and Sam was the guy you'd want running APW during a major breaking story, as was the case today, in the hour when Sam's note arrived along with first word of Prince Philip's death. It occurred that Sam would have handled this world bulletin with his usual calm, quick efficiency. I always hoped to emulate him, and I put the lessons learned from Sam to good use when I was late editor at the NY Times Foreign Desk years later.

Speaking of rewards for timely service at AP, this comes to mind: My desk at APW was just inches from the teletype printer from the Saigon bureau. I always tried to get that incoming over to the wires ASAP and in good shape. When Sam and Myung went to Rome, they gave me -- then a bachelor in an East Village walk-up -- their grand green velvet curtains from their Upper West Side apartment. So thoughtful. Always the gentleman and his lady.

-0-

Fond memories of the late Bruce Dunford

Holly Kurtz (Email) - I have fond memories being a reporter in the Honolulu bureau in the late 1970s with Bruce Dunford, Ron Staton, Robert Barr and June Watanabe. Bruce was a fine journalist, an energetic staffer, and a friendly person. Sorry to hear of his passing.

-0-

An AP writer honored – for commentary

Bill Kole (Email) – *AP New England editor, Boston* - An essay I wrote for AP last summer about the agony of being separated from my two young grandsons because of the pandemic won first place for commentary at the New England Newspaper & Press Association annual awards.

Click [here](#) to view the story, titled: “VIRUS DIARY: Moving closer to grandsons they can barely see”

I’m humbled but also feeling a little awkward. I mean, an AP guy winning for commentary?

-0-

A 30th AP anniversary surprise for Donna Davidson



Donna Davidson (Email) received a surprise gift April 2 to celebrate her 30th anniversary with The Associated Press. The bouquet came from fellow members of the AP Local Markets team. Donna is a Sales Planner who has spent her entire career in Los Angeles, hired there by Andy Lippman when the bureau was located on Hill Street.

Ye Olde Connecting Editor asked Andy to weigh in, and he writes:

I can tell that Donna Davidson is celebrating her 30-year-anniversary by the life changes of her son Colin. When I hired Donna, she was a single mom of a three-year-old. Now, Colin is already out of the military and working on starting his own business. If administrative assistants (remember them?) helped to make the COB (remember them?), Donna helped keep me afloat for about 11 years. Those were busy news years - plus she kept the books for the state broadcast organization (remember it?); hired and kept track of the election stringers; and was an integral part of making the bureau

run smoothly - both on regular days and during the Simpson trial. She is so liked that people would stop by her office to vent or tell stories about their families. Now, I'm retired (remember me?). But no one is saying "Remember me" about Donna. I remember - in friendship and gratitude. Happy 30th anniversary!

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Reward for a scoop: Cable thanks

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - It was aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, the navy's flagship during the Korean War in 1950, that I wrote a story that got me accolades from the AP's General Manager in New York by cable message.

There was no money attached, but the radiogram made my chest puff out, and my pride lifted for doing a good job.

AP's Tokyo Bureau Chief had called me earlier when I was in Tokyo for some minor surgery. He said, "You can write, and also take pictures, so I want you to go out with the fleet for an unannounced amfib attack. The rest of the writing correspondents will be aboard the U.S.S. Mt McKinley, the communications ship. However, if something goes wrong, you can file the story.

The battleship and lots of landing craft had been delayed because of all of the mines in the harbor at Wonsan. But, one night, the MO went on their own attack, but to a different place, they bombarded Chongjin, North Korea, not far from the Yalu River and Russia.

When we returned, I used my little Hermes typewriter and banged out some 600 words, just in case the fellows on the Mt. McKinley had problems. When I handed my copy to a navy communications runner, I asked him how much they charged. He responded, "Five cents per word." I flipped. New York would have a hissy fit at the expense. Oh well. I wrote another 500 words for the next cycle.

I later found out that the Mt McKinley was on radio silence! I was the only one filing!

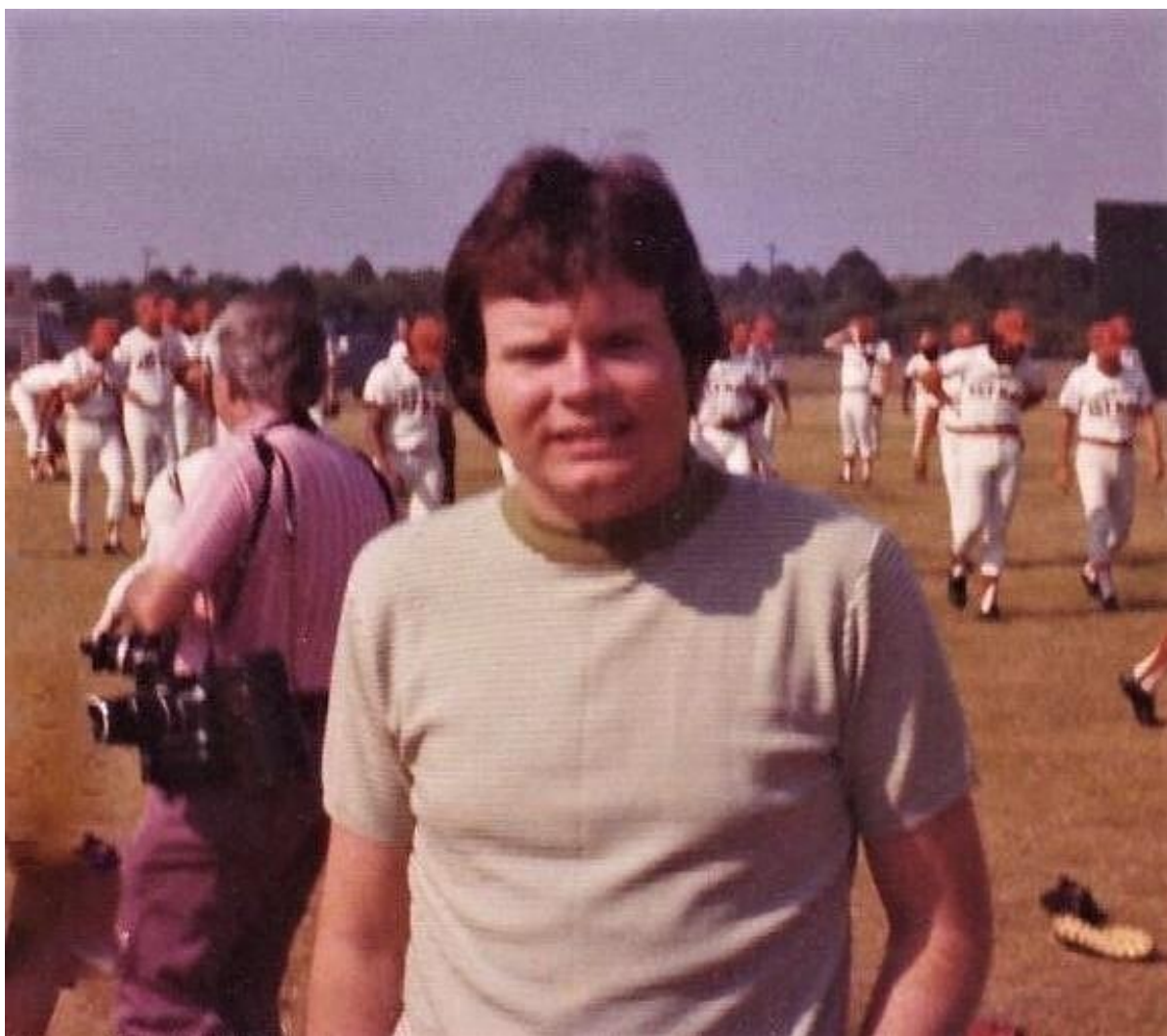
That night, while watching a movie, I was handed a note which said: "KX for Frisco (Relay to Tokyo)

"Heartiest congratulations Gene Herrick's bombardment beat which again emphasizes versatility our frontline team. FX: Apprec. Message any info obtainable on circumstances etc. for Log. NY (AJG)((Alan J. Gould, General Manager) Oct. 12 B B1015AES

That was a wonderful surprise, and made me feel so proud to be an Associated Press staffer and war correspondent.

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Another foul ball story

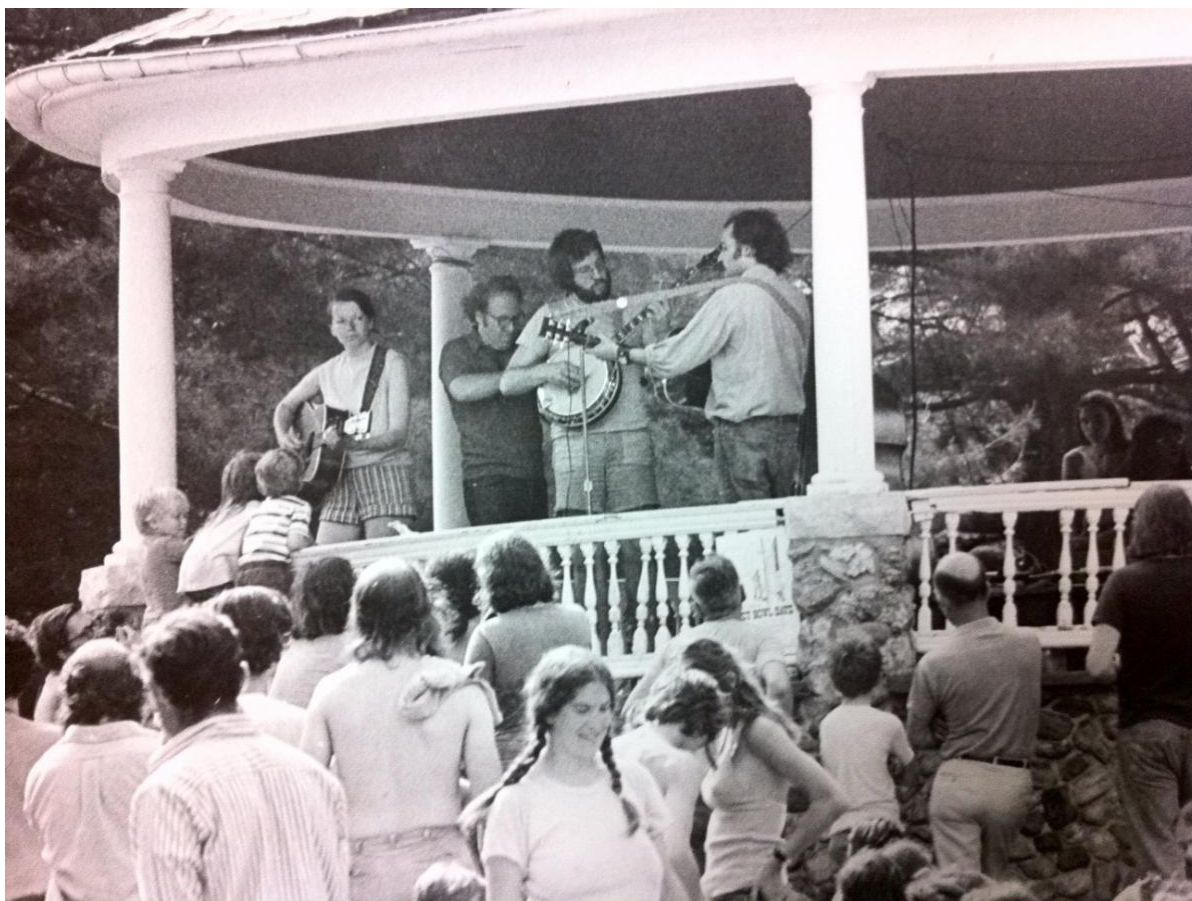


Dave and the Astros on the field in Cocoa in 1973.

Dave Lubeski ([Email](#)) - My foul ball story goes back to 1973, one year before I joined the AP for the launch of AP Radio. I was a local radio reporter in Houston covering Astros spring training in Cocoa, Florida. In those days, attending a spring training game was not the hot ticket it would become in later years and on a particularly nice day I decided to get out of the tiny press box and sit in the stands. I was in the front row field level on the third base side and sat with my feet up on the dugout roof. I was the only person sitting in that section. Most spectators were sitting higher up in shade. In the section next to me was a man with his young son. The little guy couldn't have been more than three or four years old. The foul ball came when Astros rookie Greg Gross was at bat. It was high in the air over my head. I turned around in my seat to see where it was going to land and noticed everyone in the shady section behind me was looking down at me. I looked up and saw the ball drifting back in the wind coming down towards me. I didn't have to move. I held up both hands and caught it and then held the ball in the air to acknowledge the applause that followed. Across the aisle, the little guy didn't take his eyes off me while I sat there holding the ball. At the end of the inning I decided to head up to the press box to get a copy of the game stats. When I got to the aisle, with his dad's permission, I gave the ball to the little boy.

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Garage bands and adoring fans



Jim Carrier ([Email](#)) - What's missing in your recent garage band photos are the adoring fans.

After learning three chords and a roll on banjo, I and a neighbor, Marsh Dubaldo on guitar, and Sue and Bill Revely (guitar and fiddle) formed the Hop River String Band and played bars and small festivals in eastern Connecticut in the mid-1970s. I was Connecticut news editor at the time. Occasionally we would busk in downtown Hartford. One Saturday, picking in the shadows of insurance skyscrapers, we were approached by someone from Connecticut public television who invited us into the studio to record a series of songs. Like right now. We went in, in shorts and torn jeans, and picked every tune we knew. They used those 2-3 minute segments as time fillers for years.

In 1976, at a Saturday night gig in some bar, the phone rang from my wife. She was in labor. I handed my banjo to Bill, and rushed Lynn to St. Vincent's where Amy was born around 1 a.m. In the womb, and in her crib, the first music she heard was banjo. I used one of her diapers to dampen the sound so she could sleep.

I've also attached a photo of my practice room, on the banks of Andover Lake.

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Meet the Beef Jerks, aka Meat Jerks



Sally Hale ([Email](#)) - To follow up on Dan Day's reminiscences, I have tracked down a photo of the Beef Jerks, aka the Meat Jerks, who performed at the legendary Salute to Meat parties at the Yardley, Penn., home of David Marcus and Janet Rosenzweig.

Left to right are Paul Caluori on lead guitar (though he also plays mandolin and fiddle), Rick Hale on rhythm guitar and vocals, and Dan Day on bass. Not on stage at the moment but with his hands in the air is David, who always crooned a couple of romantic standards for his lovely wife Janet, the redhead on the right.

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An editor's nightmare

Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - This letter published Saturday, April 10, might be called an editor's nightmare. It is about a story broken by the San Francisco Chronicle about sexual abuse claims by four women against the mayor of Windsor, Calif., a town adjacent to Santa Rosa.

The reporter started work on the story while on the PD staff, went to the Chronicle and finished the story. The PD was forced to credit the Chronicle and try to catch up. The letter:

Dear Press Democrat readers: This is Richard Green, editor of our newsroom and chief content officer at Sonoma Media Investments, our parent company.

I have been editor here for about six weeks and obviously have been monitoring your comments related to this Dominic Foppoli scandal. I felt it was important for me to share some thoughts.

First off, I am so proud of this news organization's longstanding commitment to readers like you and to our community – from our Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the tragic wildfires to raising more than \$30 million for those who lost homes and precious possessions during the 2017 Tubbs Fire. Nothing is more important to us than defending the First Amendment and delivering revelatory content that holds our most powerful to account while protecting Northern California's most vulnerable.

Two years ago, when a reporter shared a tip involving allegations of sexual assaults against at least two women by Foppoli, a prominent entrepreneur and aspiring politician, editors failed to follow through and pursue the story. We failed our loyal readers and Windsor voters and residents. Even more important, our decision to not thoroughly investigate these women's accounts about alleged incidents involving Foppoli may have caused more personal heartache, humiliation and physical and emotional harm for other women. That is unacceptable. We had a responsibility to take these allegations seriously, and there is no excuse for our failure to not push harder; to not dig deeper.

This nation has seen a national reckoning surrounding sexual assault and violence against women. Yes, it goes beyond the #MeToo movement. We all have learned sexual assault is rarely a black-and-white issue. We know it is often shrouded in uncertainty for a number of reasons. But a top-notch media organization like The Press Democrat needs to press forward and work diligently to distill facts and determine the truth. We needed a newsroom leader to champion the story. That did not happen in 2019.

Put simply: It was botched.

And that will never happen again.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Best of the Week

Sourcing, teamwork deliver major AP scoop on WHO-China report of virus origins



At left, Peter Ben Embarek of the World Health Organization team holds up a chart showing pathways of transmission of the coronavirus during a joint news conference at the end of the WHO mission in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province, Feb. 9, 2021. At right, Liang Wannian, the Chinese co-leader of the joint investigation, listens to a journalist's question after a news conference in Beijing, March 31, 2021, one day after the release of a World Health Organization report saying that transmission of the virus from bats to humans through another animal is the most likely scenario and that a lab leak is "extremely unlikely." AP PHOTOS / NG HAN GUAN, MARK SCHIEFELBEIN

Geneva chief correspondent Jamey Keaten and Greater China news director Ken Moritsugu scooped the rest of the world with the contents of the long-awaited report by Chinese and World Health Organization experts on the origins of the COVID-19 virus.

The alert summed it up: "Draft of WHO-China report obtained by AP says the coronavirus likely spread from animals to humans, lab leak unlikely."

Where and how the pandemic started has become not only a massive scientific challenge but also a red-hot geopolitical tussle, given the devastating impact the virus has had. This was such a significant scoop that it forced our direct competitors to quote AP in their headlines and stories for hours, as they and others scrambled to match it. Play for the story — online, broadcast and print — was stunning, and several customers asked AP for their own copies of the report.

How did AP do it?

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Exclusive data analysis, reporting on child abuse reveal worrying pandemic trend, heartbreaking tale



Patti Burt poses for a portrait near a photo of her granddaughter, 9-year-old Ava Lerario, in Cherry Hill, N.J., March 10, 2021. Burt's daughter Ashley Belson, Ava and Ava's father, Marc Lerario were found shot to death on May 26, 2020, in what police describe as a murder-suicide by Marc Lerario. An AP analysis of state data reveals that the coronavirus pandemic has undermined systemic safety nets for millions of Americans — many of them children like Ava. Child abuse reports, investigations, substantiated allegations and interventions have dropped at a staggering rate, increasing risks for the most vulnerable of families in the U.S. AP PHOTO / MATT ROURKE

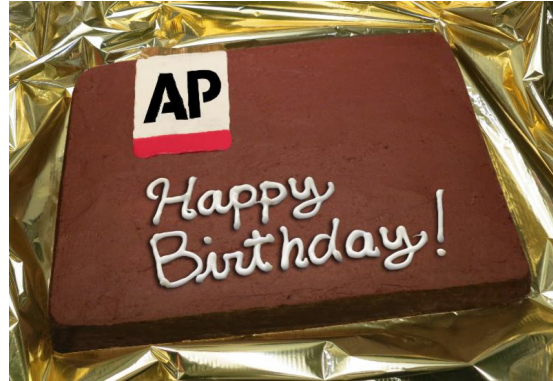
A true multiformat team of AP journalists — reporters, writers, photojournalists, video journalists, data journalists — produced this Only on AP piece by tracking down data on child abuse from every state to reveal a worrying trend: Reports of abuse are down while signs of severity are up. The team complemented that dogged data work and hard news with the tragic story of one girl who fell through the cracks during the pandemic.

The idea for this AP Exclusive began when video journalist Manuel Valdes in Washington state noted a drop in child abuse reports in Spokane. He instinctively asked for the entire state's data on child abuse reports — in particular, those from school staff — and shared that information with fellow Seattle reporter Sally Ho.

Ho starting piecing together the framework for a national data analysis to quantify the drop in child abuse reports during the pandemic while also trying to gauge severity and other factors to give a full, contextualized picture about why such a trend is worrisome. She took that idea to AP's inequality journalists, who green-lighted the project. Ho then drafted a query that statehouse reporters across AP sent to all 50 state agencies. Once data started rolling in, Ho and San Francisco data journalist Camille Fassett worked closely to analyze the data, share the workload and double-check each other when needed.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Jim Lloyd - jarthurlloyd@gmail.com

Nick Ludington - nickl68266@aol.com

Stories of interest

For Black journalists, working Chauvin trial drains emotions (AP)



This image released by MSNBC shows Correspondent Shaquille Brewster, right, on location covering the the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minn., on Wednesday April 7, 2021. Chauvin is charged with murder in the death of George Floyd during an arrest last May in Minneapolis. (MSNBC via AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — At the end of a stressful day, Sara Sidner seeks the friendly wag of a dog’s tail. Shaquille Brewster turns to sports on TV, and Julia Jenae talks things out with colleagues.

Each is covering one of the nation’s biggest stories, the murder trial of former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin. Each is also a Black journalist, reporting on an issue of great racial significance and forced — as part of their jobs — to watch video of George Floyd’s life ending again and again.

“You really feel the consequences of it,” said Brewster, who at age 28 is delivering repeated reports on NBC News and MSNBC programs.

The National Association of Black Journalists has taken note of the assignment’s potential difficulties, calling on news organizations to make resources available to help employees cope. Reporters covering the trial may be susceptible to trauma tied to their own experiences or previous stories about encounters between police and Black people, said Dorothy Tucker, NABJ president.

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

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Journalists are Creators Now, and That’s a Good Thing (Editor & Publisher)

By Yvonne Leow

In 2009, the former editor-in-chief at Thomson Reuters David Schlesinger described journalism as one of the great self-declared professions. He wrote, “I am a journalist because I said I was one more than two decades ago and have spent the years since working on my abilities. I am not one because I am somehow anointed with a certificate or an exam result. Journalism is ideally designed for democratisation.”

We’re living in a remarkable time when reporters no longer have to win an editor’s approval to publish a story, reach an audience, and get paid. In fact, anyone can technically do it, which is why the distinction between professional journalists (people employed by news organizations) and creators (individuals producing journalistic content online) no longer exists.

Our current state of affairs shouldn’t be a surprise. Since the mid-2000s, we’ve documented the proliferation of bloggers, YouTube creators, and social media influencers on Instagram, Snapchat, and now TikTok, with measured skepticism, if not outright disdain. In 2009, the idea of newsrooms publishing “citizen journalism” and

“user-generated content” were hotly debated issues. In 2012, when Instagram came onto the scene, photojournalists penned scathing columns criticizing “app photographers” for creating artistic masterpieces without learning the tools of the trade. In retrospect, these industry terms—citizen journalism, UGC, app photographers—revealed our collective trepidation. They served to differentiate the role of journalists from everyday citizens, as if we were never both.

Read more [here](#).

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Chauvin trial puts Court TV's revival in the public eye

(AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK -- Scott Tufts believes the media world is not complete without Court TV. If he's ever going to prove his point, now is the time.

The television executive is behind the network's 2019 revival and, since he began working last fall to convince Minnesota authorities to televise Derek Chauvin's trial, has seen the case as an opportunity to let more people know that Court TV is back.

Early returns are encouraging: The network says the number of live streams of Court TV programming during the first week of the former Minneapolis police officer's trial for the murder of George Floyd was 20 times what it was pretrial.

"When you say Court TV, everyone knows who you are," said Tufts, the network's senior vice president. "But when you launch a new network, people have to find you."

Read more [here](#).

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Why Buy a Yacht When You Can Buy a Newspaper?

(New York Times)

By Nicholas Kulish

Billionaires have had a pretty good pandemic. There are more of them than there were a year ago, even as the crisis has exacerbated inequality. But scrutiny has followed these ballooning fortunes. Policymakers are debating new taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals. Even their philanthropy has come under increasing criticism as an exercise of power as much as generosity.

One arena in which the billionaires can still win plaudits as civic-minded saviors is buying the metropolitan daily newspaper.

The local business leader might not have seemed like such a salvation a quarter century ago, before Craigslist, Google and Facebook began divvying up newspapers'

fat ad revenues. Generally, the neighborhood billionaires are considered worth a careful look by the paper's investigative unit. But a lot of papers don't even have an investigative unit anymore, and the priority is survival.

This media landscape nudged newspaper ownership from the vanity column toward the philanthropy side of the ledger. Paying for a few more reporters and to fix the coffee machine can earn you acclaim for a lot less effort than, say, spending two decades building the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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

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Report: Comments regarding Deshaun Watson cost Houston Chronicle reporter Aaron Wilson his job (NBC Sports)

Posted by Mike Florio

The Deshaun Watson controversy has resulted in someone losing his job, and it wasn't Deshaun Watson.

Diana Moskovitz and Kalyn Kahler of Defector.com report that Aaron Wilson no longer works for the Houston Chronicle due to comments made last month regarding the situation on WEEI radio in Boston.

Wilson, in an interview that remains available online, called the lawsuits against Watson a "money grab" and "ambulance chasing." Wilson also used an unfortunate, inaccurate, and ill-advised term while clumsily attempting to explain Watson's approach to the efforts to resolve the claims before the first lawsuit was filed.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Betty Pizac.

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Inside the Fight for the Future of The Wall Street Journal (New York Times)

By Edmund Lee

The Wall Street Journal is a rarity in 21st-century media: a newspaper that makes money. A lot of money. But at a time when the U.S. population is growing more racially diverse, older white men still make up the largest chunk of its readership, with retirees a close second.

"The No. 1 reason we lose subscribers is they die," goes a joke shared by some Journal editors.

Now a special innovation team and a group of nearly 300 newsroom employees are pushing for drastic changes at the paper, which has been part of Rupert Murdoch's media empire since 2007. They say The Journal, often Mr. Murdoch's first read of the day, must move away from subjects of interest to established business leaders and widen its scope if it wants to succeed in the years to come. The Journal of the future, they say, must pay more attention to social media trends and cover racial disparities in health care, for example, as aggressively as it pursues corporate mergers.

That argument has yet to convince executives in the top ranks of the company.

Read more [here](#)

Today in History - April 12, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2021. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 12, 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

On this date:

In 1861, the Civil War began as Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

In 1877, the catcher's mask was first used in a baseball game by James Tyng of Harvard in a game against the Lynn Live Oaks.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1963, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, charged with contempt of court and parading without a permit. (During his time behind bars, King wrote his "Letter from Birmingham Jail.")

In 1975, singer, dancer and civil rights activist Josephine Baker, 68, died in Paris.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight. Former world heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, 66, died in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1988, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued a patent to Harvard University for a genetically engineered mouse, the first time a patent was granted for an animal life form.

In 1989, former boxing champion Sugar Ray Robinson died in Culver City, Calif., at age 67; radical activist Abbie Hoffman was found dead at his home in New Hope, Pa., at age 52.

In 1990, in its first meeting, East Germany's first democratically elected parliament acknowledged responsibility for the Nazi Holocaust, and asked the forgiveness of Jews and others who had suffered.

In 2009, American cargo ship captain Richard Phillips was rescued from Somali pirates by U.S. Navy snipers who shot and killed three of the hostage-takers. Angel Cabrera became the first Argentine to win the Masters.

In 2015, Hillary Rodham Clinton jumped back into presidential politics, announcing in a video her much-awaited second campaign for the White House. Jordan Spieth (speeth) romped to his first major championship with a record-tying performance at the Masters, shooting an 18-under 270 to become the first wire-to-wire winner of the green jacket since 1976.

Ten years ago: Japan ranked its nuclear crisis at the highest possible severity on an international scale — the same level as the 1986 Chernobyl disaster — even as it insisted radiation leaks were declining at its tsunami-crippled nuclear plant. The state of Ohio executed two-time murderer Clarence Carter for beating and stomping to death a fellow jail inmate. Booming cannons, plaintive period music and hushed crowds ushered in the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War during morning ceremonies in Charleston, South Carolina.

Five years ago: Navy Secretary Ray Mabus (MAY'-buhs) told 1,500 Marines and sailors at Camp Pendleton, California, that the Pentagon's decision to let women compete for all military combat positions was as irreversible as earlier edicts to integrate Blacks and allow gays and lesbians to openly serve. Actor Anne Jackson, who often appeared onstage with her husband, Eli Wallach, in comedies and classics, died in New York at age 90. David Gest, a music producer and Liza Minnelli's former husband, died in London at 62.

One year ago: Christians around the world celebrated Easter Sunday isolated in their homes by the coronavirus. St. Peter's Square was barricaded to keep out crowds. Pope

Francis celebrated Easter Mass inside the largely vacant basilica, calling for global solidarity in the face of the pandemic and urging political leaders to give hope and opportunity to people who had lost jobs. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was discharged from a London hospital after treatment for the coronavirus. Former golfer Doug Sanders died in Houston at 86; he was a four-time runner-up in a major, and was known as the “Peacock of the Fairways” for the bright colors he wore on the golf course.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Jane Withers is 95. Playwright Alan Ayckbourn (AYK’-bohrn) is 82. Jazz musician Herbie Hancock is 81. Rock singer John Kay (Steppenwolf) is 77. Actor Ed O’Neill is 75. Actor Dan Lauria is 74. Talk show host David Letterman is 74. Author Scott Turow is 72. Actor-playwright Tom Noonan is 70. R&B singer JD Nicholas (The Commodores) is 69. Singer Pat Travers is 67. Actor Andy Garcia is 65. Movie director Walter Salles (SAL’-ihs) is 65. Country singer Vince Gill is 64. Actor Suzanne (cq) Douglas is 64. Model/TV personality J Alexander is 63. Rock musician Will Sergeant (Echo & the Bunnymen) is 63. Rock singer Art Alexakis (al-ex-AH’-kihs) (Everclear) is 59. Country singer Deryl Dodd is 57. Folk-pop singer Amy Ray (Indigo Girls) is 57. Actor Alicia Coppola is 53. Rock singer Nicholas Hexum (311) is 51. Actor Retta is 51. Actor Nicholas Brendon is 50. Actor Shannen Doherty is 50. Actor Marley Shelton is 47. Actor Sarah Jane Morris is 44. Actor Jordana Spiro is 44. Rock musician Guy Berryman (Coldplay) is 43. Actor Riley Smith is 43. Actor Claire Danes is 42. Actor Jennifer Morrison is 42. Actor Matt McGorry is 35. Actor Brooklyn Decker is 34. Contemporary Christian musician Joe Rickard (Red) is 34. Rock singer-musician Brendon Urie (Panic! at the Disco) is 34. Actor Saoirse (SUR’-shuh) Ronan is 27.

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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