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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 26th day of April 2021,

AP's journalistic neutrality may strike some commentators these days as quaint, but those "dry dispatches" remain as vital as ever – 175 years after its founding.

That statement came in a story on AP's 175th birthday by **Amy Crawford**, writing in the May issue of The Smithsonian Magazine. Her story leads today's issue.

What's your thought on what she wrote? I look forward to hearing from you.



Have a great day as we begin a new week – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

How the Associated Press Got Its Start 175 Years Ago

*A newsworthy birthday
for a venerable source of trusted reporting*



The 1940 press pass for an AP reporter named Joe Abreu. (Carpa Cubana, Hertzberg Circus Collection, Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas)

By Amy Crawford
SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

In May 1846, eager to get news of the Mexican-American War to his readers in the Northeast, Moses Yale Beach, publisher of the New York Sun, convinced the leaders of four other New York newspapers to invest in a network of couriers on horseback who would carry reporting from the front lines of the war to Montgomery, Alabama. From there, the correspondence would travel via stagecoach to the southernmost U.S. telegraph office, in Richmond, Virginia, for transmission to New York. The complicated scheme ensured that the five newspapers were first to break war news.

Speedier transmission of information was not the only innovation of the service, which eventually became known as the Associated Press. Unlike most American news outlets at the time, the AP took a firmly nonpartisan stance, providing reports to Democratic- and Republican-aligned publications alike. "My dispatches are merely dry matters of fact and detail," the first Washington bureau chief, Lawrence Gobright, said in 1856.

By then, the AP was a quasi-official recorder of election results nationwide. During the Civil War, its impressive network of agents—with access to 50,000 miles of telegraph lines—regularly conveyed battle results within a day.

The journalistic neutrality that the AP pioneered, and which became a model for many other news organizations, strikes some commentators these days as quaint. They question whether unbiased reporting is possible—or even desirable. “Neutral objectivity trips over itself to find ways to avoid telling the truth,” the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Wesley Lowery declared in an op-ed last year.

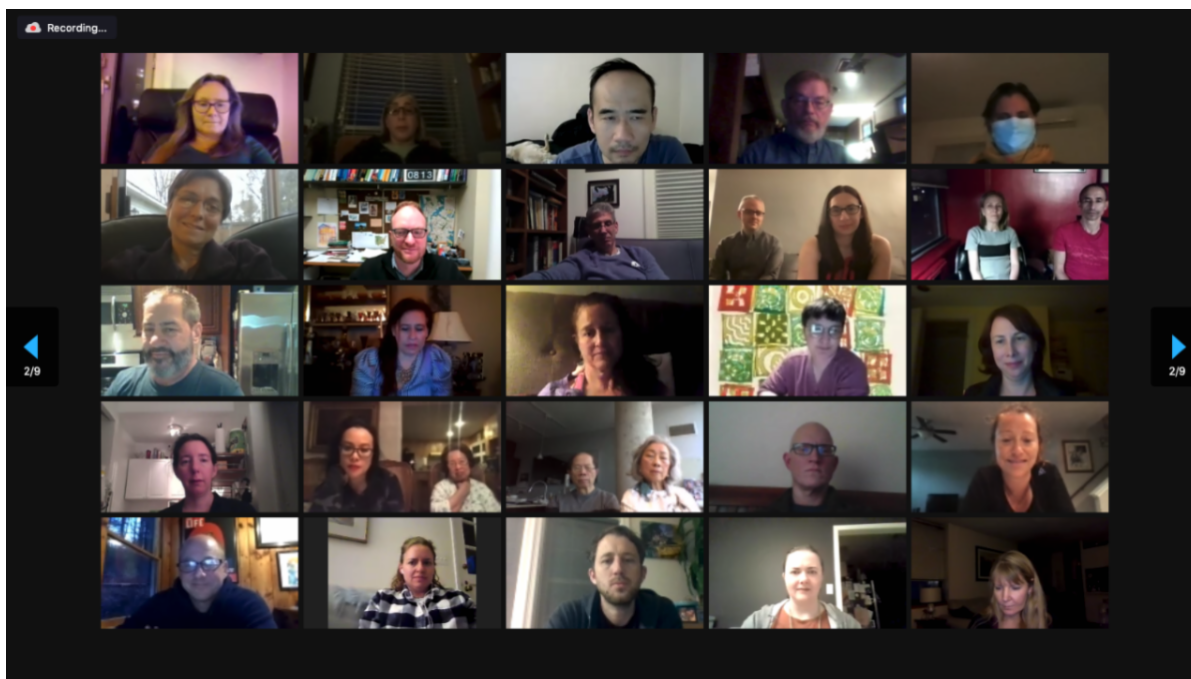


One of the AP’s legendary photographers captured construction workers lunching on a steel beam atop the 66-story RCA Building in New York in September 1932. (AP Photo)

But the AP’s “dry dispatches” remain as vital as ever, 175 years after its founding. More than half the world’s population has access to news from the AP every day. In an era of shrinking journalism budgets and shuttered newsrooms, the organization still operates 248 bureaus in 99 countries. Even in the United States, an AP reporter is often the only journalist covering a regional news event. Its best-selling Stylebook, now in its 55th edition, still sits on the desks of writers around the world, and the AP’s studied neutrality, even if an unreachable ideal, helps indicate to readers where “the truth” might actually be.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Scott Charton, Claude Erbsen, Chris Carola.

Nick Jesdanun honored in Zoom memorial



Nick Jesdanun, deputy technology editor for the AP, died a year ago of coronavirus-related complications at the age of 51.)

Gary Jesdanun ([Email](#)) - Thanks to everyone at AP Connecting for spreading the word about Nick's virtual memorial service! My family and I are so touched by the number of friends who wanted to help us celebrate Nick's life, and humbled by the amount of love and kindness that you have extended by doing so.

Over 200 people from Nick's life, including dozens of past and present members of the Associated Press community, joined us over Zoom during Friday's service. Some of Nick's closest friends, including AP tech reporter Barbara Ortutay, delivered moving speeches about Nick.

The formal ceremony ended with a video slideshow highlighting some of Nick's adventures and his trademark sense of humor. Many people remained afterwards to share even more wonderful stories and memories about him during a follow-up "happy hour".

Connecting mailbox

APStoryShare a great solution for news sharing among members

Jim Carlson ([Email](#)) - The new APStoryShare program sounds like a great solution for news sharing among AP members. I well remember the years when our bureau chiefs would travel the state to encourage closer relationships with the member newspapers and broadcasters. That included encouraging them to share their top news stories, or at least tip off the AP when something big was happening.

And then there was the desk work of condensing member stories into briefs for the wire. As the years went by, we would take the time to call the list of members each day to troll for stories.

StoryShare sounds like a good way to get past the packaging and just share the news.

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Celebrating birthdays, friendship



Our colleague Edie Lederer in Los Angeles on vacation and joined by fellow Vietnam War coverage colleagues David Kennerly (left) and Nick Ut. Said Edie, "A great reunion and a belated celebration of all our birthdays in March and my 55th anniversary at AP." Edie, the AP's senior United Nations correspondent, is the longest-serving staffer now working for AP.

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Spotting a bit of newspaper history



Steve Hendren (Email) - Spotted this typesetter from the Paducah Sun in the local museum in Paducah, where we stopped for the night on our way home from North Carolina.

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More names for our newspaper-reading canine



Linda Barnas - I'd suggest News hound.

Sibby Christensen - His formal name is Grant. Grant takes Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Remembering Annie Herndon, war correspondent's wife



ANNIE HERNDON (second from left), the widow of acclaimed reporter/editor Ray Herndon, dines with close friends in Westminister, CA, in 2016, a year after her husband's death. At center is movie actor George Hamilton, to the right is Nina Arnett, wife of Peter Arnett, far right is former CIA agent and author Frank Snapp, and far left Keiko Schwartz. Annie Herndon died this past weekend of cancer.

Peter Arnett ([Email](#)) - At a ceremony attended by most of the American press corps, Annie Elise Porcher and acclaimed reporter Ray Herndon were married in Saigon's Notre Dame Cathedral on July 25, 1964. Herndon's UPI employers allowed their war correspondent a two-week honeymoon break from covering the Vietnam War. It turned out that their marriage "was one long honeymoon" Annie told friends after her husband's death in 2015 at age 77.

Annie, a women of lively personality and generosity, herself died of cancer this past weekend at her home in Fountain Valley, CA, her son Paul informed me Sunday. They are mourned by the close friends she and her late husband had made during a marriage that began in Saigon in the early 1960s and took them to journalism jobs in Singapore, Paris, Miami FL, St Petersburg FL, DallasTX and finally Los Angeles CA.

Annie Herndon was 75 and is survived by her sons Paul and Philippe.

Of French and Asian ancestry and educated both in Paris and Vietnam, Annie met Ray Herndon in the early 1960s while he was working with Neil Sheehan in the small UPI bureau in Saigon. At that time romantic relationships between young Western correspondents and local girls were not unusual, and several led to marriage.



THE AMERICAN PRESS CORPS, SAIGON 1964, lines up at Ray and Annie Herndon's wedding in Saigon's Notre Dame Cathedral. From far left: Peter Kalischer, CBS News; Walt Friendenberg, Scripps Howard; Peter Hickman, US Embassy; Malcolm Browne, AP bureau chief; Richard Critchfield, Washington Star; Peter Arnett, AP Correspondent. Of those shown in the picture, only Arnett is still alive.

For Ray Herndon the Vietnam War "was the most important story in my life," he told me when I visited him a few days before his death in 2015. He and Annie maintained close relations with their former Saigon reporter-friends. Former New York Times correspondent David Halberstam was a frequent visitor to their Fountain Valley home in the years before his death in a car crash in 2007. The UPI luminary and author Joe Galloway was in touch with Annie in the weeks before her death. Former Reuters correspondent Nick Turner was an occasional visitor from New Zealand.

When we retired to Fountain Valley, CA, in 2009, my Vietnamese wife Nina and I enjoyed socializing with the Herndon's. We had been married in Saigon the same year, 1964, and Nina and Annie knew each other in Saigon and had a good friendship. When we arrived in Southern California, Ray had retired in 2004 as a reporter and editor on the Los Angeles Times where he worked since 1992. In social gatherings we saw that Ray and Annie were as popular with their Los Angeles journalist colleagues as they had been in Vietnam. Both Ray and Annie were important to our new lives in the West Coast. We miss them.

THE LATE RAY HERNDON, THE HUSBAND OF ANNIE HERNDON, WAS A DISTINGUISHED WAR CORRESPONDENT FOR UPI IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. HIS UPI COLLEAGUE AT THE TIME, NEIL SHEEHAN, IN A COMMENT AFTER HERNDON'S DEATH IN 2015, SAID "HE WAS A SPLENDID JOURNALIST BECAUSE HE HAD BOTH PHYSICAL AND MORAL COURAGE". PETER ARNETT SAID, "HERNDON WAS A FIERCE COMPETITOR IN THE DAILY GRIND OF WAR COVERAGE, WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE MILITARY AND FEARLESS IN GOING AFTER STORIES."



Best of the Week

One shot: AP photographers reflect on covering the pandemic, and the image that most affected them



AP Photo/Oded Balilty

Since the start of the pandemic, AP photographers, as much as any journalists, have been on the front lines of coverage, taking on risks to bring the world scenes of struggle, death, comfort and hope. And in many ways the images had a profound impact on the photographers themselves.

So as the world approached another grim pandemic milestone of 3 million deaths, New York's Top Stories Hub photo editor Alyssa Goodman sought to bring new perspective and insight to a wrenching year. She asked a group of photographers to

each select the one image from their virus coverage that affected them most, and describe why.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Teamwork, enterprise deliver deep coverage on fatal police shooting of Chicago teen



A still image from body camera video shows the moment before Chicago police officer Eric Stillman fatally shot Adam Toledo, 13, after a foot pursuit in the early morning hours of March 29, 2021, in Chicago. An AP analysis of the video appears to show Toledo discarding a handgun and raising his hands less than a second before he was fatally shot. CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA AP

When Chicago police released the body camera video of an officer fatally shooting a 13-year-old boy in an alley, AP staffers in Chicago and across the AP sprang into action with aggressive reporting, sharp follow-ups and thoughtful standards discussions about how to responsibly portray the gruesome incident for photo and video clients.

The end result was three days of distinctive coverage on a story that resonated with audiences around the world, especially with renewed focus on police violence in the midst of the Derek Chauvin murder trial.

As soon as the video showing the death of Adam Toledo was released, Chicago-based reporters Don Babwin and Sara Burnett, working with colleagues across the Central Region, quickly analyzed the most important footage to report that the boy appeared to drop a handgun and begin raising his hands less than a second before an officer fired the fatal shot. This was a demanding task for staffers who had to maintain their journalistic focus despite the chilling footage of a boy being killed.

Read more [here](#).

Stories of interest

Spurred by Black Lives Matter, Coverage of Police Violence Is Changing (Nieman Reports)

By ADESHINA EMMANUEL

What if the people storming the Capitol on January 6 had been Black?

Newsrooms around the U.S. posed that question as largely white pro-Trump rioters and white supremacists, incited by the president himself, stormed the Capitol, waving Confederate flags and Trump 2020 banners, vandalizing the building, and threatening lawmakers. The mob quickly overwhelmed police, some of whom posed for selfies or gave fist bumps to the insurrectionists. Five people died in the melee, including one Capitol Police officer.

Compare the police response on January 6 with the overwhelming force federal law enforcement used against the diverse group of people who gathered outside the White House on June 1 to peacefully protest the police killing of George Floyd, and consider the acts of brutality committed by police at Black Lives Matter protests across the country this past summer.

Read more [here](#).

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KCUR Reporter And Beloved Colleague Aviva Okeson-Haberman Dies At 24

KCUR | By Dan Margolies

Aviva Okeson-Haberman, an accomplished KCUR reporter known for her thoughtful, aggressive and compassionate reporting, has died after suffering a gunshot wound in her Kansas City apartment. She was 24.

The killing appeared to be the result of a bullet that pierced one of the windows of her first-floor apartment in the Santa Fe neighborhood. She was discovered there in the 2900 block of Lockridge Avenue on Friday afternoon by a colleague who had gone to check on her after she'd failed to respond to messages throughout the day.

She was an especially beloved friend and colleague just beginning what promised to be a brilliant career. We, at KCUR, join her family and friends in mourning her passing.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Scott Charton.

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Letter from the Editor: Why we noted the victim's race in our recent police shooting coverage (Portland Oregonian)

By Therese Bottomly | The Oregonian/OregonLive

The Oregonian/OregonLive doesn't typically identify the race or ethnicity of story subjects unless it is relevant to the news at hand.

On Friday, April 16, Portland police shot and killed a man at Lents Park. Our breaking news reporters and editor rapidly updated the initial article throughout the morning as the story developed.

In the past several months, we have reported on the fatal police shootings of Kevin Peterson Jr. and Jenoah Donald, both in Clark County, and similar shootings of Black people or Latinos across the country. We also carried news of a high-profile police stop of an active-duty Army officer who is Black and Latino, and almost daily update of the murder trial in the death of George Floyd, a Black man, in police custody.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham.

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Stopping the presses, again: The story ends for 2 more century-old Seattle newspapers (Seattle Times)

By Danny Westneat
Seattle Times columnist

It's not like in the movies, where you run in and shout "stop the presses!" In real life the presses tend to stop on you.

So it is this week, when the presses will roll the final time for yet another community newspaper. Now called Westside Seattle, the paper is an amalgam of the old West Seattle Herald, which has been around for 98 years, and the even older Ballard News-Tribune, which debuted in 1891.

"We have ink imprinted like an extra letter in our DNA," says Pat Robinson, 69, one of the brothers who has been helping run the papers, along with their late father Jerry Robinson, since he first bought the White Center News in 1952.

The story of how it's ending isn't really news at this point. Craigslist then Google then local blogs competing and then boom, a pandemic to finish it off. The paper, the family says, was still eking out a profit as recently as 2019, but by the end had dwindled to a single reporter.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

The Final Word

Enough already!

Norm Abelson (Email) - Here's an example of how much idle time I have on my hands. It's a list of words and phrases I find overworked, ill-used, irritating, and/or that just don't hit me right. I'm sure I've been guilty of using some of them. My shameless lack of consistency, however, does nothing to ease my distaste.

The often corny accompanying comments further point to my need to find some more useful stuff to do. To those whose favorite usages I've maligned, my apologies.

Fraught.

Curated.

Archived.

One-off

Granular.

Woke.

Cancel culture.

Anodyne.

Tsunami.

Anti-vaxxer.

Techie

Gone viral.

Out-sourced.

Politically incorrect. (Is there anything remaining that ain't?)

Electioneering.

Op Ed writer. A person who can keep getting it all wrong with no penalty. (Disclosure: I've been one.)

Correctional facility. (Maximum security prison with a library)

War on drugs. Trade war or any other “war” that's not one.

Battleground states. (remember swing states?)

Brexit. (Sounds like a burp)

Euro-centric, Afro-centric

Down-ballot candidates.

Life insurance. Health insurance. (aren't they really death and illness payoffs?)

Think tank. (where clear ideas in plain English go to die)

Crowd-funded.

Left-wing, right-wing. (Buffalo chicken wing?)

Religious right.

Left-leaning centrist.

Ivy Leagues. Where a ton of average rich kids and a few brilliant poor kids go to college.

Pro-life, pro-choice.

Stimulus package.

Lockdowns.

Millenials, Gen-Xers, 'Tweeners, etc.

Social distancing.

State-of-the-art.

Identity politics. (e.g., It was a middle-class, non-college-educated, low-wage, trending-older, right-leaning, anti-union, white-majority, limited-voting, large-family, low-rent, church-attending neighborhood.)

Artificial intelligence. (includes most twitter feeds and political pronouncements)

Exit polling (also known as “lyin' through your teeth.”)

Poll-driven.

Issue-driven.

Elon Musk. (anything)

Malware.

Eco-friendly. ("Hi, ocean; hello, mountain.")

Expert. Liberal-media name for any Ivy League professor. Conservative media name for anyone who agrees with them.

Energy (or any other) czar

Up-loading, down-loading

Trending. (upward, downward or maybe on the diagonal)

Streaming.

Remote learning. (perhaps at the University of northern Alaska?)

Left coast. Right coast.

Resident scholar. (smartest person in your house?)

Number cruncher.

Economically disadvantaged. Food insecure. Low income. Bottom percentile. Welfare-dependent. Shelter-deprived. (Can you say poor, hungry, homeless?)

McMansion (seven bathrooms, six-car garage, live-in Swedish nanny and a security guard.)

Fast-food. (fork-free Festival of Fat)

Super-sized. (cheeseburgers on steroids.)

Outdoor dining. (over-priced meal in a tent)

Vegan. (kale-addicted vegetarian?)

The f-word. (Fudge? Nah.)

Optics.

Secret security code. (usually known by at least 500,000 people)

Up-state, down-state.

Take out. Once meant going on a date; now, a cold pizza.

Exurbia.

Authoritarianism.

New York minute.

Gig economy.

Statistical anomaly.

Liberal orthodoxy.

Green New Deal. (Re-sodding your lawn?)

Always, never, former, long-time, or sometime-Trumper.

Computer-literate. (That lets me out.)

Today in History - April 26, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 26, the 116th day of 2021. There are 249 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 26, 1986, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. (Dozens of people were killed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster while the long-term death toll from radiation poisoning is believed to number in the thousands.)

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Virginia, on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Port Royal, Virginia, and killed.

In 1913, Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old worker at a Georgia pencil factory, was strangled; Leo Frank, the factory superintendent, was convicted of her murder and sentenced to death. (Frank's death sentence was commuted, but he was lynched by an anti-Semitic mob in 1915.)

In 1933, Nazi Germany's infamous secret police, the Gestapo, was created.

In 1945, Marshal Henri Philippe Petain (ahn-REE' fee-LEEP' pay-TAN'), the head of France's Vichy government during World War II, was arrested.

In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar."

In 1977, the legendary nightclub Studio 54 had its opening night in New York.

In 1989, actor-comedian Lucille Ball died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles at age 77.

In 1994, voting began in South Africa's first all-race elections, resulting in victory for the African National Congress and the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president.

In 2000, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

In 2009, the United States declared a public health emergency as more possible cases of swine flu surfaced from Canada to New Zealand; officials in Mexico City closed everything from concerts to sports matches to churches in an effort to stem the spread of the virus.

In 2018, Bill Cosby was convicted of drugging and molesting Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004; it was the first big celebrity trial of the (hash)MeToo era and completed the spectacular downfall of a comedian who broke racial barriers on his way to TV superstardom. (Cosby was later sentenced to three to 10 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: Phoebe Snow, a singer, guitarist and songwriter whose song "Poetry Man" was a defining hit of the 1970s, died in Edison, New Jersey.

Five years ago: Republican Donald Trump roared to victory in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island while Democrat Hillary Clinton prevailed in four of those states, ceding Rhode Island to Bernie Sanders.

One year ago: Children in Spain were allowed to go outside and play for the first time in six weeks as European countries moved to ease their coronavirus lockdowns and reopen their economies. Italy recorded its lowest 24-hour death toll from the virus since mid-March. China's state-run media said hospitals in Wuhan, the original epicenter of the virus, no longer had any COVID-19 patients.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Carol Burnett is 88. R&B singer Maurice Williams is 83. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 83. Singer Bobby Rydell is 79. Rock musician

Gary Wright is 78. Actor Nancy Lenehan is 68. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 63. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 61. Actor Joan Chen is 60. Rock musician Chris Mars is 60. Actor-singer Michael Damian is 59. Actor Jet Li (lee) is 58. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 56. Author and former U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey (TREHTH'-eh-way) is 55. Actor Marianne Jean-Baptiste is 54. Rapper T-Boz (TLC) is 51. Former first lady Melania Trump is 51. Actor Shondrella Avery is 50. Actor Simbi Kali is 50. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 50. Rock musician Jose Pasillas (Incubus) is 45. Actor Jason Earles is 44. Actor Leonard Earl Howze is 44. Actor Amin Joseph is 44. Actor Tom Welling is 44. Actor Pablo Schreiber is 43. Actor Nyambi Nyambi is 42. Actor Jordana Brewster is 41. Actor Stana Katic is 41. Actor Marnette Patterson is 41. Actor Channing Tatum is 41. Americana/roots singer-songwriter Lilly Hiatt is 37. Actor Emily Wickersham is 37. Actor Aaron Weeks is 35. Electro pop musician James Sunderland (Frenship) is 34. New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge is 29.

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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