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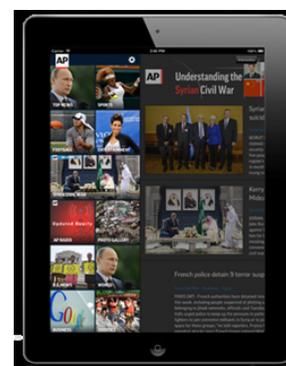
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Connecting

July 07, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 7, 2021,

Ye Olde Connecting Editor is back, humming “Blue Hawaii” as he works.

Our trip to Hawaii was magical and I promise not to deliver a travelogue on the experiences of first-time voyagers. Promise. Well, maybe one or two highlight photos... See The Final Word. But I do want to thank our colleague and my friend **Peg Coughlin** for her fine work in keeping Connecting before you each day during our vacation. It made the trip all the more enjoyable knowing “my baby” was in good, caring hands.

Tara Bradley-Steck ([Email](#)) is senior adviser in the office of the president of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh – a city where she served 12 of her 17 AP years as Pittsburgh correspondent - and poses this question to her Connecting colleagues:

“I work with Duquesne University President Ken Gormley, who has made it his mission to come up with ways to restore the public’s trust in journalism – or, at least, determine things the university can do to restore the public’s faith in journalism (be it locally or globally). Although I have a few ideas, I figure my AP Connecting colleagues – many of whom have worked in higher ed (although doing so is definitely not a prerequisite to helping answer this question) – would have many more. So, Paul, I would appreciate it if you could pose this mind-bending question to the group. No suggestion is too big or too small.”



So, my dear colleagues, what is your suggestion (or suggestions) on ways to restore the public’s trust in journalism? Please send along your ideas to Connecting.

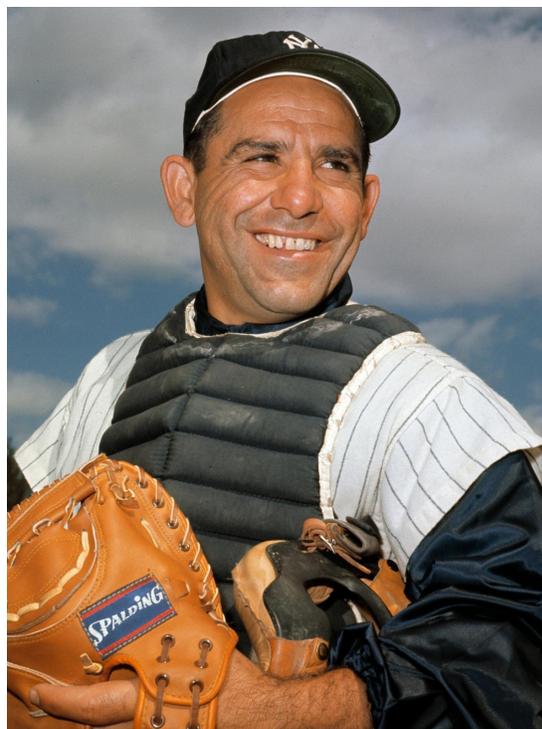
Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Connecting mailbox

More on that Yogi Berra photo

John Epperson ([Email](#)) - I will join in the commentary on the Yogi Berra photo. On close examination it appears he is holding his old black steel and leather face mask, showing a great deal of wear as you would expect. He is also holding what appears to be a new, unmarked Spalding glove. I am doubtful as others are, that this was a photo made for editorial use by AP, but was perhaps a corporate handout or press release photo for Yogi’s endorsement of which it appears online he may have done several. Do a search of Berra/Spalding, eBay shows several. Our colleague Gene Herrick and I chatted about it this morning online and he thought Harry Harris from NY photos a good possibility. Gene related that Harris did a great deal of sports shooting especially baseball. A study of Yogi’s glove behind the plate in photos through the years might show an evolution of gloves from his standard, round, heavily padded catchers mitt, to this Spalding mitt used in this photo. It could be a bb card photo but have not seen it online. Perhaps Spalding corporate could provide insight to the mystery. This Berra stamp is kind of fun. Anything further I find I will send to you.



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Enjoyed Times' Bazelon piece

Ford Burkhart ([Email](#)) - Thanks for running the Emily Bazelon piece in NYT. It gave me chills to observe the dedication, soul and shoe leather of an old fashioned journalist doing God's work. We enjoyed it the first time on the deck on Sunday, and the second time right now.

Connecting profile:

Mike Doan: From Ink-Stained Wretch to Music Man

Mike Doan ([Email](#)) - When I retired from journalism in 2009, I never thought my future would lie in show business. But with new time to spare, I took voice lessons, which led to church solos, six consecutive choruses and six appearances with them at the Kennedy Center.

At one teacher's insistence, I joined two jazz band classes as a pianist, and we performed in 2019 at Twins, one of Washington's leading jazz venues. To me, that would be as good as winning a Pulitzer.

With no acting experience, I performed in six summer stock musicals, including a role as the priest in Les Miserables, at our summer home in South Boston, Virginia. (Photo of me at right from performance of "1776.")

Settling in that town during the pandemic, I even got paid to play jazz piano at a winery until my 79-year-old hands couldn't take seven hours of playing on a weekend. I still play for receptions at the theater that hosted those musicals.



As in in music, I was restless in journalism and rarely stuck with one job for long. I got my start with the Berkeley Gazette and the Delaware State News in 1963 and then the copy desk of the Pittsburgh Press. I became homesick for the West Coast and transferred to the AP bureau in Portland, Ore., in 1966. It was the nicest place I have ever lived, but little happened there back then, and I got tired of writing the Columbia River fish count.

Next, as the AP correspondent in the one-man Las Vegas bureau, I just adored writing about Howard Hughes, gambling, the “rat pack,” celebrity entertainers and underground nuclear testing. I had no trouble getting on the wire with anything using the words “love” or “sex” in them. Local media members, though, were very demanding. I transferred to my hometown, San Francisco in 1970, as day editor, at a time of upheavals on college campuses and Vietnam war protests.



Washington beckoned, and I became desk supervisor of the bureau’s AMs report as the Vietnam war wound down and the Watergate scandal drove a president out of office. I angered teletype operators when I became the first Washington editor to have the dictationists take down a story on computers rather than typewriters. Soon I became Treasury correspondent with numerous A-wire bylines, covering just about anything in Washington with a dollar sign on it. I wrote a lot about Bert Lance, President Jimmy Carter’s budget director, who had to resign because of his banking shenanigans.

I loved the AP, which I still think of at home, but I tired of writing so many articles for three news cycles, before the era of copy and paste. Ever curious and seeking new adventures, I took a staff writing job covering business at U.S. News & World Report, where I worked for eight years.

Next came Satellite Orbit magazine (a TV viewing guide), where I was editor for five years. Despite a circulation of 400,000, few heard of it in Washington, but in rural South Boston, there were stacks of them on sale at the local grocery store.

I switched to the Kiplinger newsletters in 1992, with an emphasis on technology stories and in the last 10 years was editor of the Kiplinger California Letter, based in D.C.

I had always intended to move back to California, but then I married this great lady (Pickett Craddock), who owned a 400-acre farm in rural Virginia. We live there now, and we operate it as Oak Grove Bed & Breakfast, www.oakgrovebb.com. Two grandchildren, Bryce and Ara, are just 50 feet away, next door with my daughter Sara and her husband, Lance.

Click [here](#) for a link to a song I wrote and sang about journalism in 2010: Blogger Blues.

On a search for datelines in Brazil

Bruce Handler (Email) - You said you could use some copy during the summer lull. This is from an email exchange with an informal group of journalists who have worked

in Brazil over the decades. The topic: "Airplane Follies -- Memorable Plane Trips in Brazil." (Actually, this probably was the day I laughed the most during my AP career.)

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Must have been around 1992. I was approaching the end of my 15-year sojourn as AP bureau chief in Rio, when the phone rang.

It was our irascible, legendary (now deceased, unfortunately) foreign editor, Nate Polowetzky, from New York. Nate didn't speak. He yelled, à la Bernie Sanders: "Rio, São Paulo, Brasília, that's all I ever see! Brazil is an enormous country! Why don't you get off your ass and go out there and report something else?"

Bruce: "Yes, well..." (We in fact had been filing stuff from all parts of Brazil, but with Nate...)

Nate hung up.

So, I got out a map. Oh, look, Roraima state-- so far away it's in the Northern Hemisphere, borders on two foreign countries, Venezuela and Guyana. There's gotta be something there. Anyway, I could justify the expense, saying the boss ordered it.

Welcome to Boa Vista, the capital. A planned city laid out in the form of a bicycle wheel, with circular streets and radial avenues. Interesting, but not particularly newsworthy. So I set out to talk to local journalists and then paid a call on Gov. Ottomar Pinto (right), a retired air force general and Roraima's first democratically elected chief since it became a state in 1988. (He, too, no longer is with us.)



I told the gov I wanted to write something about Roraima for our international readers. He said come back in the afternoon. I did, and he told me had me "checked out." He determined I was legit and said to meet him at the airport the next morning.

I did. The gov, I and a bunch of his advisers got on his official plane, a twin-engine turboprop, and took off. Soon, it turns out, we had left Brazil and were headed for Guyana! No passports, no visas, no nothing. At this latitude, you are so far north, you are out of the Amazon jungle. The terrain is a high arid plain. We landed on a dirt strip in the middle of nowhere. In the distance were a bunch of trailers, generators and drilling equipment. It was a Canadian company prospecting for oil.

The gov said to me that the topography here was similar to that of parts of Roraima, and so if there was oil here, why, there must be oil in Roraima as well.

The Canadians welcomed us inside the main trailer. A Canadian engineer began to explain what the company was doing. The gov's staffers couldn't help, because they somehow had become distracted by a Dairy Queen-type machine inside the trailer.

You pull the handle, and soft ice cream comes out in swirls. ("Look at this: It's ice cream!")

So it was just the two of us. The guv (in Portuguese): "My son [a common form of address in Brazil from an older man to a younger one], you speak English, right?" Bruce: "Falo, sim, senhor -- Yes, sir I do." He wanted to know what the engineer was saying. Well, at 1,500 meters they've found traces of this and indications of that, plus the possibility of...

The guv: Ask him if they found oil. I did. The answer, not yet.

End of meeting. The guv pulled his guys away from the ice cream machine, and we got back on the plane and returned to Brazil.

Back in Roraima, more work to do. Lunch, via a single-engine propeller plane into the bushland, with an Indian chief. We were introduced. The chief (who spoke Portuguese in addition to his indigenous language) had one question: "You're a foreign correspondent? What's the exchange rate for the bolívar (Venezuelan money)?" It turns out I knew.

Then it was off to watch the guv's wife help Indians register to vote. The state government had registration forms, a camera and a laminating machine for making voter IDs, but first the Indians had to sign a little card. When they had trouble, the First Lady would grab the pen and sign for them. ("Me dá isso...Here, gimme that...")

All this was hilarious, but of course I had to maintain my objective composure.

To top things off, the guv later flew me to a Roraiman weekend spot for the local elite, with cabins and a circular lagoon surrounded by coconut trees. But that afternoon it was just the two of us again, side by side in hammocks, with a bottle of imported Scotch in the middle, where the guv started telling me who was sleeping with whose wife among the higher ranks of the Brazilian armed forces.

(I never wrote a word about that part for the AP. It wasn't germane for any legitimate news story, plus doing so surely would have meant a one-way ticket for me back to Chicago.)

Gov. Pinto had another appointment that afternoon, so he arranged for me to go back to the capital in a small single-engine prop plane, this time with his wife and her press secretary. The plane had seats for only the pilot and two passengers, so I had to scrunch into a little bench at the rear. Unfortunately, the Indian chief's lunch (snake stew or whatever it was) was acting up in my stomach, and I started to pass gas. The two ladies up front, both dressed as though they just had stepped out of a boutique in Rio, spent the entire journey squirting little bottles of perfume in my direction.

I suppose that's why I never heard from the governor again, nor was I invited back to Roraima.

I had to come up with something to justify the trip, so I did manage a feature on registering native people to vote in Brazil's recently restored democracy. And I think I

was able to write something about Highway BV-8, the new land link between Brazil and Venezuela, a possible outlet to the Caribbean for Brazilian products.

But that adventure with Gov. Pinto was one of the most enjoyable days in my 50+ years in this country.

I took early retirement from the AP in 1993. And, oh, yes, Guyana finally did discover oil -- except it was offshore in the Atlantic Ocean and not in the interior where the Canadians had been looking.

Lovely Lake Lanier in Georgia



Four former Dallas AP staffers and another veteran broadcaster on July 6 enjoyed a lovely summer day at Lake Lanier, near Gainesville, Georgia.

Pictured (left/right): Back row, Jim Ribble and Mark Woolsey. Center row, Amanda Barnett and Diana Heidgerd. Front row, Joei Bohr. Jim, Mark and Amanda were with the Texas AP Radio Network, which shut down in 1995. Diana was the Texas AP broadcast editor and still lives in Dallas. Joei recently retired from The Weather Channel. Jim & Amanda, and Mark & Joei, live in the Atlanta area.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



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Stories of interest

Dutch crime reporter shot, badly wounded in Amsterdam street (AP)

AMSTERDAM (AP) — One of the Netherlands' best known crime reporters was shot Tuesday evening in a brazen attack in downtown Amsterdam and was fighting for his life in a hospital, the Dutch capital's mayor said.

Peter R. de Vries, who is widely lauded for fearless reporting on the Dutch underworld, was shot after making one of his regular appearances on a current affairs television show. It was an unusually brutal attack on a journalist in the Netherlands.

"Peter R. de Vries is for all of us a national hero, an unusually courageous journalist, tirelessly seeking justice," Mayor Femke Halsema said at a hastily convened news conference at the city's police headquarters.

Read more [here](#).

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Chinese social media giant WeChat shuts LGBT accounts (AP)

By FU TING

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — China's most popular social media service has deleted accounts on LGBT topics run by university students and nongovernment groups,

prompting concern the ruling Communist Party is tightening control over gay and lesbian content.

WeChat sent account holders a notice they violated rules but gave no details, according to the founder of an LGBT group, who asked not to be identified further out of fear of possible official retaliation. She said dozens of accounts were shut down, all at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

It wasn't clear whether the step was ordered by Chinese authorities, but it comes as the ruling party tightens political controls and tries to silence groups that might criticize its rule.

WeChat's operator, Tencent Holding Ltd., confirmed it received an email seeking comment but didn't immediately respond.

Read more [here](#).

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Philanthropies eagerly back journalist Hannah-Jones

(AP)

By HALELUYA HADERO and GLENN GAMBOA

NEW YORK (AP) — Journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones used major philanthropic donors to build her future as a tenured professor at Howard University, just as other major donors sought to stymie the Pulitzer Prize-winning Black investigative reporter at the University of North Carolina.

Backed by \$20 million in donations, Hannah-Jones announced Tuesday the establishment of the Center for Journalism and Democracy at Howard to increase diversity in journalism. She also said that political interference from Arkansas newspaper publisher Walter Hussman, who pledged \$25 million to UNC's journalism school and whose name adorns its building, resulted in questions about her receiving tenure, which she was belatedly offered last week following an outcry from students and faculty members.

"How could I believe I'd be able to exert academic freedom with the school's largest donor so willing to disparage me publicly and attempt to pull the strings behind the scenes?" Hannah-Jones wrote in a statement. "Why would I want to teach at a university whose top leadership chose to remain silent, to refuse transparency, to fail to publicly advocate that I be treated like every other Knight Chair before me?"

Hussman said Tuesday that he still has concerns about The 1619 Project but that he respects Hannah-Jones.

Read more [here](#).

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UNC donor says he has no regrets about his role in the journalism school losing Nikole Hannah-Jones

(Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Nikole Hannah-Jones will not be accepting a tenured professorship at the journalism school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Faculty there are livid. They said in an open letter Tuesday that her treatment by the university has been “appalling” and frankly “racist.”

Some blame pressure from Walter Hussman Jr., the \$25-million donor for whom the school is named, for Hannah-Jones’s decision to accept an appointment at Howard University instead.

Not surprisingly, Hussman doesn’t see it that way. He had expressed strong reservations, he told me in a phone interview, about the accuracy of “The 1619 Project,” an extensive New York Times examination of slavery that Hannah-Jones led.

“I don’t have any judgment about her (personally) — I’ve never met her,” he said. “... I feel certain I did what I should appropriately have done. I didn’t lobby against her appointment.”

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

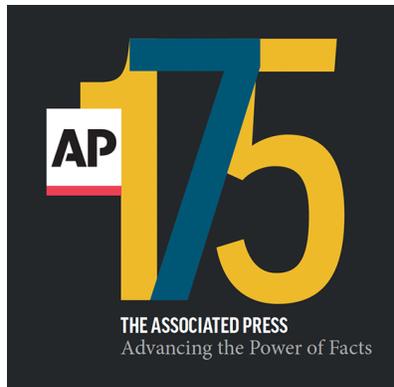
Couple of Ye Olde Editor’s favorite memories from Hawaii



Taken in front of the USS Missouri on Oahu



Sunset in Maui



Celebrating AP's 175th

AP store for 175th, vintage merchandise



The AP has created a store with 175th anniversary merchandise available for purchase, as well as items branded with some of AP's most historic logos. The site can be reached by clicking [here](#).

AP Through Time: A Photographic History



AP Through Time: A Photographic History" - created by Director of Corporate Archives, Valerie Komor, is a keepsake commemorating AP's 175th year. Small in size (6 ¾ x 6 ¾ in.), it is organized chronologically in eight segments that trace the broad outlines of AP's development from 1846 to the present: Beginnings, Evolution, New Century, Modernity, Expansion, One World, Speed, and Transformation. Click [here](#) to view and make an order.

AP at 175 video

This video celebrates the unique role AP has played since 1846.

Oops!

The embed code for this video is not valid.



Today in History - July 7, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 7, the 188th day of 2021. There are 177 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 7, 1981, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

On this date:

In 1846, U.S. annexation of California was proclaimed at Monterey (mahn-tuh-RAY') after the surrender of a Mexican garrison.

In 1865, four people were hanged in Washington, D.C. for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln: Lewis Powell (aka Lewis Payne), David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt, the first woman to be executed by the federal government.

In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii.

In 1919, the first Transcontinental Motor Convoy, in which a U.S. Army convoy of motorized vehicles crossed the United States, departed Washington, D.C. (The trip ended in San Francisco on Sept. 6, 1919.)

In 1946, Jimmy Carter, 21, married Rosalynn (ROH'-zuh-lihn) Smith, 18, in Plains, Georgia.

In 1948, six female U.S. Navy reservists became the first women to be sworn in to the regular Navy.

In 1954, Elvis Presley made his radio debut as Memphis, Tennessee, station WHBQ played his first recording for Sun Records, "That's All Right."

In 1976, the United States Military Academy at West Point included female cadets for the first time as 119 women joined the Class of 1980.

In 1983, 11-year-old Samantha Smith of Manchester, Maine, left for a visit to the Soviet Union at the personal invitation of Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov (ahn-DROH'-pawf).

In 2005, terrorist bombings in three Underground stations and a double-decker bus killed 52 victims and four bombers in the worst attack on London since World War II.

In 2009, some 20,000 people gathered inside Staples Center in Los Angeles for a memorial service honoring the late Michael Jackson, who was tearfully described by his 11-year-old daughter, Paris-Michael, as "the best father you could ever imagine."

In 2010, Los Angeles police charged Lonnie Franklin Jr. in the city's "Grim Sleeper" serial killings. (Franklin, who was sentenced to death for the killings of nine women and a teenage girl, died in prison in March 2020 at the age of 67.)

Ten years ago: Rupert Murdoch's media empire unexpectedly jettisoned News of the World, Britain's best-selling Sunday newspaper, after a public backlash over claims it had used phone hacking and other illegal tactics to expose the rich and famous, royals and ordinary citizens. A Texas Rangers fan, 39-year-old Shannon Stone, died from a fatal fall when reaching out to grab a baseball tossed his way by outfielder Josh Hamilton during a Rangers game. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the final movie based on the wizard fantasy books, debuted in London on its way to becoming the year's top-grossing movie.

Five years ago: Micah Johnson, a Black Army veteran who served in Afghanistan, opened fire on Dallas police, killing five officers in an act of vengeance for the fatal police shootings of Black men; the attack ended with Johnson being killed by a bomb delivered by a police robot. President Barack Obama embarked on a five-day, two-country mission to buck up a beleaguered Europe and brush back an aggressive Moscow; after arriving in Warsaw, Poland, Obama denounced the fatal attack in Dallas as "despicable" and declared there was no justification for the violence.

One year ago: Texas surpassed 10,000 new coronavirus cases in a single day for the first time, as a resurgence of the outbreak raged across the U.S. Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro said he had tested positive for the coronavirus after months of downplaying its severity; he said he was already taking hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug unproven to treat COVID-19.

Today's Birthdays: Musician-conductor Doc Severinsen is 94. Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough is 88. Rock star Ringo Starr is 81. Comedian Bill Oddie is 80. Singer-musician Warren Entner (The Grass Roots) is 78. Actor Joe Spano is 75. Pop singer David Hodo (The Village People) is 74. Country singer Linda Williams is 74. Actor Shelley Duvall is 72. Actor Roz Ryan is 70. Actor Billy Campbell is 62. Rock musician Mark White (Spin Doctors) is 59. Singer-songwriter Vonda Shepard is 58. Actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan is 55. R&B musician Ricky Kinchen (Mint Condition) is 55. Actor Amy Carlson is 53. Actor Jorja Fox is 53. Actor Cree Summer is 52. Actor Robin Weigert is 52. Actor Kirsten Vangsness is 49. Actor Troy Garity is 48. Actor Berenice Bejo (BEH'-ruh-nees BAY'-hoh) is 45. Actor Hamish Linklater is 45. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Michelle Kwan is 41. Rapper Cassidy is 39. Country singer Gabbie Nolen is 39. Actor Ross Malinger is 37. Actor-comedian Luke Null (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 31. Pop singer Ally Hernandez (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 28. Pop musician Ashton Irwin (5 Seconds to Summer) is 27. Country singer Maddie Marlow (Maddie and Tae) is 26.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.



- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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Visit our website