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Connecting

July 13, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this July 13, 2021,

I thought the lead essay in today's Connecting was appropriate in an issue where we make our quarterly recognition of our colleagues in their 80s and 90s. (Welcome to the newest member of the 80s Club, **Rick Spratling!**)

It was shared with me through a friend and colleague, **Gary Nyhus**, who spotted it on Facebook as a post by Bill Day of Lakewood, Colo., in June.

Whatever your age, Connecting would welcome your thoughts on what he had to say.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Aging – and the changes we feel in ourselves

Bill Day - I asked a friend who has crossed 70 & is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself? He sent me the following:

1 After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.

2 I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.

3 I have stopped bargaining with vegetable & fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.

4 I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.

5 I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane & relive their past.

6 I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

7 I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."

8 I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.

9 I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.

10 I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.

11 I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.

12 I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.

13 I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.

14 I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time, just choose to be!

I decided to share this for all my friends. Why do we have to wait to be 60 or 70 or 80, why can't we practice this at any stage and age?

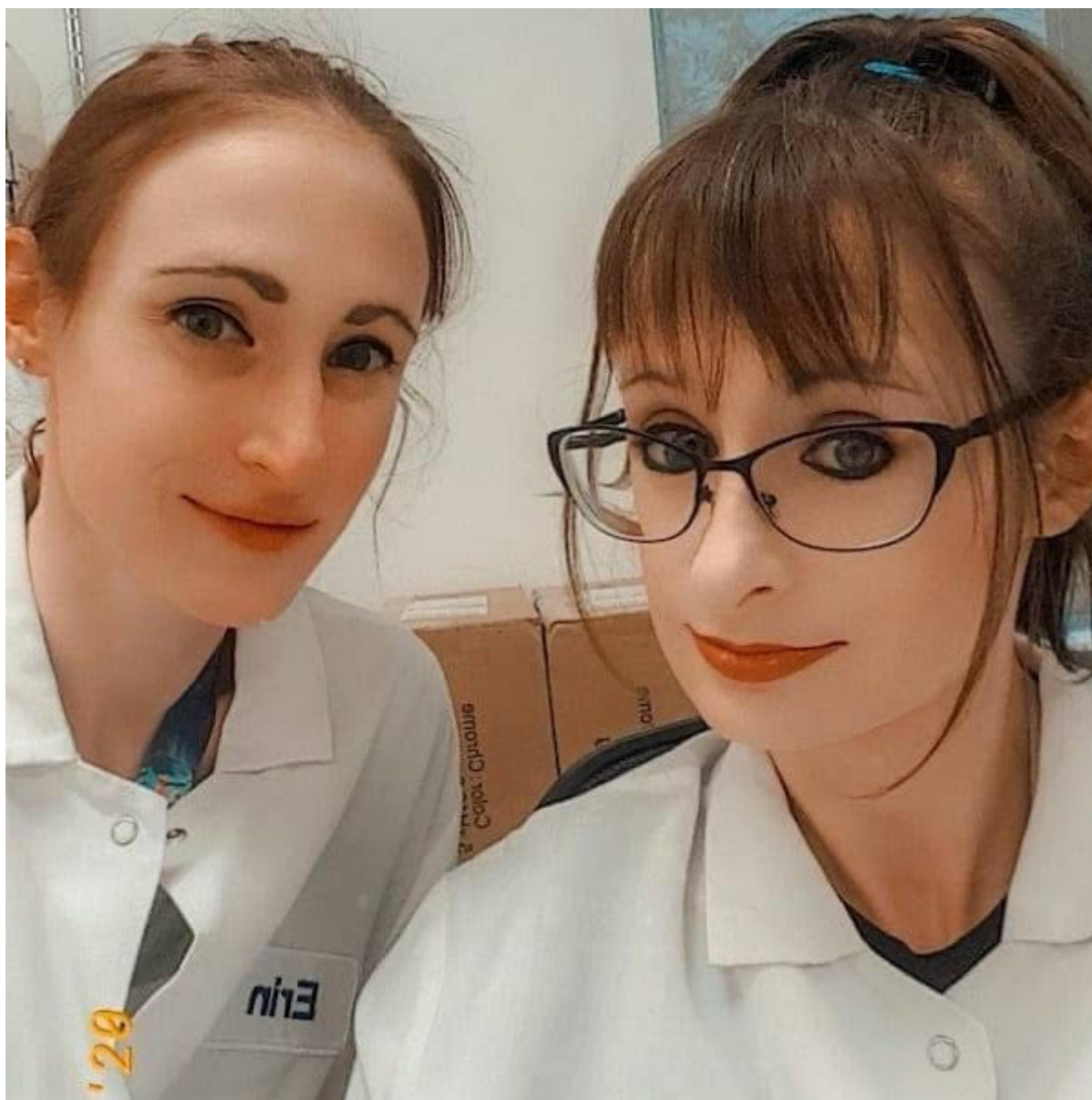
New-member profile: Mark Woolsey, Joei Bohr



Mark Woolsey ([Email](#)) and **Joei Bohr** ([Email](#)) are new to AP Connecting, but not new to the media or the AP. At this phase of their life, the media couple is now enjoying both a less frantic pace and more travel, as the picture (above) taken in Hawaii two years ago illustrates.

Mark worked for the Texas AP Radio Network in Dallas and for AP Radio in Washington, DC. After stints with the Weather Channel radio network, an all-news station in Atlanta and the Georgia News Network, Mark retired in late October of 2019, but he is far from retired. He currently freelances for the Atlanta Journal Constitution and several other newspapers and magazines in Georgia. He also does voice work.

Joei retired from the Weather Channel in January of this year after working as a producer there for more than 20 years. She's coordinating the couple's travel plans as Covid eases. She's also renewing interests in language (studying French and Japanese) and music (guitar, mandolin and keyboard.)



Erin Sweeney and Nicole Perdue, daughters of Mark Woolsey and Joei Bohr, both work in the flavor industry

The couple has two married daughters who live in the greater Atlanta area. Like their parents, both young women work in the same field, the flavor industry.

Mark and Joei share their home with their dog Petra.

In addition to an upcoming AP reunion, the couple's more immediate travels will take them to Illinois, Denver and St. Louis. Long term, they're planning a trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Connecting series:

Restoring the public's trust in the media

Doug Tucker (Email) - Instead of asking journalists how to restore the public trust, maybe Tara Bradley-Steck of Duquesne University should talk to the public.

Perhaps she plans to. I hope so. Consulting only reporters and editors on this frightfully widening gulf would suggest an unhelpful mindset - that we know our doubters but they know us not.

In other words, if they just understood us better they would like (agree with) us. Two Connecting colleagues, John Gaps and my multitalented good friend Cliff Schiappa, took that approach in last Thursday's Connecting.

But in my very humble opinion, that's not going to work.

Whether you agree or disagree (I do both sometimes), the cause of their enmity is not a lack of knowledge about how our product is made. It is contempt for the product itself.

Millions of people no longer simply deny our credibility. They have come to despise us. They believe we are dishonest. They believe we have betrayed our bedrock principles, present unsubstantiated opinions as indisputable facts and seek not to inform, but manipulate.

Please understand I am not saying that. Our doubters are.

Gaps, among other thoughts, suggested an online video outlining the step-by-step process of how journalism is produced. Cliff essentially walked the same path, saying we should invite doubters to the newsroom and to classes teaching journalism basics. Significantly, Cliff also said journalists should not assume they are always right. He ended with the suggestion a get-acquainted lunch would be helpful.

Those ideas are not without merit. But some of the smartest "doubters" I know would give them the horse laugh and go right on despising us.

It is a schism, my friends, that cannot be bridged with bring-a-skeptic-to-work days or friendly backyard cookouts. Furthermore, I don't think many in our profession fully appreciate the depth of anger that we face.

I've been seeing a certain medical specialist long enough to acquire a second reason to dread our twice-yearly visits. He's always armed with fresh examples of what he calls shoddy and biased journalism. One that had him particularly incensed was an AP "fact-check" story early in the pandemic attacking President Trump's "baseless claim" that the lockdown would create a rise in suicides.

"This is one of the stupidest things AP ever posted," he said. "Of course, suicides are going up. It's just the media looking for another excuse to bash Trump."

Sure enough, he was soon emailing news stories and medical journal articles on the alarming rise in suicides. A committed news junkie, he always has similar examples. So does another friend, a retired history teacher who sometimes gives guest lectures. I attended one a few years ago and when the question-and-answer period turned to the media, she introduced the audience to me.

I quickly wished she hadn't. The intensity of disdain from everyone in that room floored me. To some accusatory questions I came up with good explanations, I hope. To others, I could not.

Then there's the Rush Limbaugh example. When the iconic conservative commentator died, I tuned in CNN to see how they reported it. Two pundits savaged Limbaugh and his devoted listeners and then boasted - yes, **BOASTED** - they had never actually listened to his show.

What effect do you think that display of arrogant media hubris had on folks who might already tend to dislike us?

This widening split between the news media and millions of Americans is terrible. I wish Ms. Bradley-Steck luck.

I would love to applaud her success.

Car memories



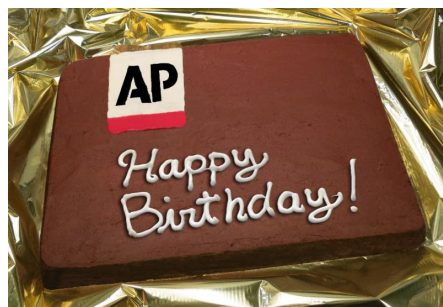
Tom Fenton (Email) - Piling on the car memories: Lots of wheels beforehand but wife Ellie says this will absolutely be my last. It is the latest Corvette with the engine just behind the driver's seat. Now, some folks might wonder why a 77-year-old needs a car that is supposed to reach speeds approaching 200 miles an hour. I, however, think it makes perfect though I get a lot of snickers when seen getting in and out. No tickets yet but I have been stopped a couple of times by curious cops. I don't know how fast it will go but there is a mostly straight 72-mile deserted stretch of road along the border from El Paso to Columbus, N.M., and this car makes for a quick trip. The photo was taken at Gates Pass outside Tucson.

Lunching with pal in Hollywood



Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - What a treat having lunch in Hollywood with AP pal Andrew Dalton who has my old beat, entertainment and the law. As he said in a Facebook post, "We talked about old AP friends, covering trials, Michael, Britney, and, of course, Elvis." I realized once again that when members of the AP family meet, it's as if the conversation never stopped. Can't believe it's been 14 years since I first covered the Britney Spears saga. And here it is back in the news. Andrew has been doing some fine stories.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Doug Anstaett - danstaett@kspress.com

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

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

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Albert Habhab
George Hanna
Hoyt Harwell
Gene Herrick
Sister Donalda Kehoe
Elaine Light
Sam Montello
Sal Veder
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Harry Atkins
Malcolm Barr
Myron Belkind
Adolphe Bernotas
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Henry Bradsher
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Harry Cabluck
Sibby Christensen
Shirley Christian
Mike Cochran
Frank Daniels Jr.
Don Dashiell
Bob Daugherty
Otto Doelling

**Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan
Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
Bill Gillen
Steve Graham
Bob Greene
Chick Harrity
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Warren Lerude
Carl Leubsdorf
David Liu
Art Loomis
John Marlow
Dave Mazzarella
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Harry Moskos
Ray Newton
Greg Nokes
Lyle Price
Charles Richards
Bruce Richardson
Mike Rouse
Richard Shafer
Mike Short
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Rick Spratling
Ed Staats
Marty Thompson
Ron Thompson
Hilmi Toros
Kernan Turner
Bob Walsh
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Johnny Yost
Arnold Zeitlin
Kent Zimmerman**

Stories of interest

Not just a wave, but a movement: Journalists unionize at record numbers (Poynter)

By: Angela Fu

In the past decade, workers at news publications have launched more than 200 union drives, and over 90% of them have been successful.

Media outlets have called it a “wave.” But it’s more than that, said University of Toronto associate professor Nicole Cohen. It’s a movement.

And that movement has reached all areas of journalism. Union leaders at newspapers, digital outlets and broadcast stations are seeing record levels of organizing that show little sign of stopping. In 2015 — which many point to as the start of this trend — workers launched 20 union drives. This year, workers may more than double that number.

Last year saw at least 37 union drives where journalists asked formally for union representation; all of them were successful. Workers this year have already organized at least 29 union drives in the first six months of 2021.

Read more [here](#).

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Exclusive: D.C. journalists launch media company with \$10 million+ funding (Axios)

By Sara Fischer

Laura McGann, former politics editor of Vox.com and Politico, and Mark Bauman, previously with the Smithsonian, National Geographic and ABC News, are teaming up to launch a yet-to-be named media company.

Why it matters: McGann and Bauman say they're looking to build a newsroom that goes deep on select topic areas like misinformation, climate and Chinese geopolitics.

"Our goal is to build a newsroom of beat reporters, subject matter experts, visual journalists and editors that all come together to cover the biggest stories of the day," McGann says. "We'll be creating new formats that give our audience a fuller look at big news stories that can be confusing if you read them piecemeal."

Details: The pair has already raised more than \$10 million in a series A funding round from two investors: One is a U.S.-based individual that the company declines to name; The second is International Media Investments, a UAE-based fund that has a minority

stake in Euronews, Europe's top international news network, Sky News Arabia and others.

Read more [here](#).

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Richard Branson, the press, and the space in between (Columbia Journalism Review)

By JON ALLSOP

IT'S SPACE, RICHARD—at least as NASA knows it. Yesterday, the British billionaire Richard Branson, two pilots, and three other people rode a rocket plane operated by Virgin Galactic, an arm of Branson's business empire, fifty three and a half miles into the air—a test run for the sort of private space flight that may soon be available to normal people (or, at least, normal people with a few hundred thousand dollars to spare). The flight generated a lot of hype, though there was also some debate, including in the media coverage, as to whether Branson was really going to space at all: while a variety of US agencies define space as beginning fifty miles above the earth's surface, other bodies—including the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, which is the global authority on such matters—say the marker is twelve miles higher than that, and thus eight and a half miles higher than Branson traveled. Some pundits were unimpressed. "I'm sorry, but if you're not orbiting the earth you're not a Space Billionaire," Matthew Yglesias tweeted, contrarily. "We've all been in airplanes." Even the New York Times, as Yglesias noted, caveated the weightlessness that Branson and his fellow riders experienced as "apparent."

Read more [here](#).

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Agency photographer attempts to take back copyright in 'game-changer' lawsuit (Press Gazette)

By Charlotte Tobitt

A former photographer for Agence France-Presse (AFP) has filed a lawsuit against the news agency hoping to get rid of a clause that handed over his copyright in a case that a union has warned could "burn all journalists".

Lisbon-based Francisco Leong first joined AFP as a stringer in 2005 and became staff in 2010. Since leaving the agency in 2019 he has been trying to retrieve his copyright because he believes the clause in his contract violated Portugal's Journalist Statute and Code of Copyright, which give ultimate rights to journalistic work created in the course of employment to the creator.

Leong, 55, told Press Gazette: "It is a rule that stands above any individual contract and states that the copyright belongs to a journalist, period... on my contract with AFP

there was a clause saying the copyright was for AFP. I believe this violates the law and therefore is null and void."

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



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 is temporarily down and will be reinstated in Connecting soon.

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 13, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 13, the 194th day of 2021. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first Black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

On this date:

In 1787, the Congress of the Confederation adopted the Northwest Ordinance, which established a government in the Northwest Territory, an area corresponding to the present-day Midwest and Upper Midwest.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1886, Father Edward Joseph Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town, was born in County Roscommon, Ireland.

In 1939, Frank Sinatra made his first commercial recording, "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood," with Harry James and his Orchestra for the Brunswick label.

In 1972, George McGovern received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach.

In 1973, former presidential aide Alexander P. Butterfield revealed to Senate Watergate Committee staff members the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret White House taping system. (Butterfield's public revelation came three days later.)

In 1974, the Senate Watergate Committee proposed sweeping reforms in an effort to prevent another Watergate scandal.

In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz (ahn-HEHL' mah-tyoo-REE'-noh reh-SEHN'-deez), suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas. (Resendiz was executed in 2006.)

In 2006, Israel imposed a naval blockade against Lebanon and blasted the Beirut airport and army air bases; Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into Israel.

In 2010, New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner died in Tampa, Florida, nine days after turning 80.

In 2013, a jury in Sanford, Florida, cleared neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman of all charges in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the Black teenager whose killing unleashed furious debate over racial profiling, self-defense and equal justice.

Ten years ago: California became the first state in the nation to add lessons about gays and lesbians to social studies classes in public schools under a measure signed by Gov. Jerry Brown. Three coordinated bombings in India's busy financial capital killed 26 people in the worst terror attack in the country since the 2008 Mumbai siege.

Five years ago: With emotions running raw, President Barack Obama met privately at the White House with elected officials, law enforcement leaders and members of the Black Lives Matter movement with the goal of getting them to work together to curb violence and build trust. Theresa May entered No. 10 Downing Street as Britain's new prime minister following a bittersweet exit by David Cameron, who resigned after voters rejected his appeal to stay in the European Union.

One year ago: California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered bars and indoor dining shut down as the coronavirus swept the state with new ferocity; the shutdown also affected indoor religious services, gyms and hair and nail salons. School officials in Los Angeles and San Diego said they wouldn't bring students back to classrooms for the start of the new school year; New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said schools could open in areas where the coronavirus was under control. The Treasury Department said the federal government had incurred the biggest monthly budget deficit in history in June -- \$864 billion -- as spending to combat the coronavirus recession exploded, and job losses cut into tax revenues. Washington's NFL franchise dropped the "Redskins" name and Indian head logo amid pressure from sponsors; the move followed decades of criticism that the name and logo were offensive to Native Americans. (As new names were considered, the team would be known as the Washington Football Team.) The body of former "Glee" star Naya Rivera was found in Southern California's Lake Piru, five days after she went missing while boating with her 4-year-old son. (An autopsy confirmed that she died from accidental drowning.)

Today's Birthdays: Game show announcer Johnny Gilbert (TV: "Jeopardy!") is 93. Actor Patrick Stewart is 81. Actor Harrison Ford is 79. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 79. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 75. Actor Daphne Maxwell Reid is 73. Actor Didi Conn is 70. Actor Gil Birmingham is 68. Singer Louise Mandrell is 67. Rock musician Mark "The Animal" Mendoza (Twisted Sister) is 65. Actor-director Cameron Crowe is 64. Former tennis player Anders Jarryd is 60. Comedian Tom Kenny is 59. Country singer-songwriter Victoria Shaw is 59. Bluegrass singer Rhonda Vincent is 59. Actor Kenny Johnson is 58. Roots singer/songwriter Paul Thorn is 57. Country singer Neil Thrasher is 56. Actor Ken Jeong is 52. Singer Deborah Cox is 48. Actor Ashley Scott is 44. Rock musician Will Champion (Coldplay) is 43. Actor Fran Kranz is 40. Actor Aya Cash is 39. St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina is 39. Actor Colton Haynes is 33. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 33. Soul singer Leon Bridges is 32. Actor Hayley Erin ("General Hospital") is 27. Actor Kyle Harrison Breitkopf is 16.

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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