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Connecting January 10, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Jan. 10, 2022,

Our condolences go out to colleague **Jon Rust**, publisher of the Southeast Missourian newspaper in Cape Girardeau and co-president of the Rust Communications group, and all of his family, on the death of his brother **Rex Rust**.

Rex died Friday after a valiant year-long battle with cancer, a battle chronicled so touchingly and bravely by him and his wife **Sherry** on the Caring Bridge site. Rex was co-president of the family group.

Jon, who served on the AP board of directors, remembered his brother in a heartfelt column in the Southeast Missourian that we bring you in today's edition.

We bring you submissions to two of our regular features – Most Unusual Place Assignments and Second Acts – that are shared in an excellent way by colleagues **Henry Bradsher** and **Joyce Rosenberg**.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Farewell to a brother



Jon K. Rust looks on as his brother Rex Rust, football in hand, prepares to launch the ball into the upper balcony of the audience at the River Campus during the 2018 Semoball Awards. Rex's toss was a yearly tradition, performed to perfection. Southeast Missourian photo by Fred Lynch.

Jon K. Rust is co-president of Rust Communications and publisher of the Southeast Missourian. He has served on the AP board of directors. This column originally posted Friday afternoon, Jan. 7.

Jon Rust (Email) - On the wall at home I have a picture of my brother Rex and me in a tennis tournament as kids. In my office, there are pictures of us together in front of the house we grew up in, as well as photos together at business events. When I play ping pong or tennis or watch football with my daughters or, currently, do anything, my mind often turns to fond memories of growing up with a brother who loved sports, laughter and competition – and who was a business partner for the past 20 years.

Thursday night my brother, 52 years old, died after a valiant, yearlong battle against pancreatic cancer. It was a difficult year, which at many times was leavened by Rex's determination to make other people laugh, even as he faced more dire diagnoses. Throughout, he and his wife Sherry displayed incredible devotion to each other, giving

each other strength and affirmation, and sharing their story of faith with the world through social media. It is a story that has inspired hundreds – if not thousands – and led to an outpouring of support and encouragement that speaks to the generosity of the human spirit, as well as to the memories so many have of having fun with a fun-loving individual.

During most of 2021 our larger family had a prayer circle online, and at 8 p.m. each day, brothers and sisters, parents and children, we stopped to pray, to share thoughts and memories, photographs, and many jokes, because Rex loved jokes.

We regularly took communion, sometimes with water and pretzels, in prayer for his health and Sherry's wellbeing. He was on our minds and in our hearts, even as he struggled through the worst. Early on, he told us that he was at peace with the idea of death; his faith rooted his outlook. He was more worried about taking care of his wife.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for obituary story on Rex Rust.

Most Unusual Place Assignment - Bhutan

May 1960



Bradsher riding into Bhutan



Bradsher and the leader of the Indian parliamentary delegation, center, with the Druk Gyalpo. It turned out that the Indian MP had attended the University of Missouri, as had I.

Henry Bradsher ([Email](#)) - A five-day mule ride up through leech-infested jungles of Himalayan foothills to a lush high valley brought me to one of the most unusual places to report for AP, Bhutan in 1960.

The Himalayan area had long interested me. Sometimes I would spend evenings reading about it in the main New York public library before walking up Fifth Avenue to work on the overnight foreign desk at 50 Rock. So when I arrived at AP's New Delhi bureau in early 1959 and learned that the prime minister of Bhutan, Jigme Palden Dorji, was visiting Delhi, I interviewed him. That produced a feature about a small mountain land between India and Tibet where the only wheels were for spinning prayers of its Tibetan Buddhist religion – a primitive land, undeveloped, and oriented toward Tibet.

A few weeks later, the Lhasa uprising against Communist rule in Tibet and the disappearance of the Dalai Lama took me up into the Indian edge of the Himalayas. There I found Dorji visiting Kalimpong as a source of background but nothing on the Dalai Lama's escape to India.

Five months later when I was in Calcutta, our excellent stringer there, Subhash Chakravarti, learned that Dorji had arrived in town, so we went to see him. He had just come down from Bhutan after the absolute ruler of Bhutan, the Druk Gyalpo (which translates as dragon king), had decided to close mountain passes to Tibet

because of the Chinese crackdown there. He would reorient his country from trade with Tibet toward India. He had decided to accept a long-standing Indian offer to build the first roads into Bhutan from the south. Dorji was on his way to Delhi to tell the Indian government. But before he got there, I had a little-noticed scoop.

Until then, Bhutan's existence as a separate nation advised by India but not part of it was scarcely known. It belonged to no international organizations. But Dorji said the Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, had decided to seek recognition for his isolated land. He would invite Western journalists to come write about it. And Dorji said I would be one.

In May 1960, I along with the Delhi correspondents of The NY Times and The Times of London, plus some Indian reporters and a separate party of Indian parliamentarians, began the five-day mule ride. Road construction had barely started. We went to Paro, the site of a fortress monastery called a dzong in a beautiful valley high in western Bhutan. It was surrounded by farmland; the country had only dzongs dominating farms in separate high valleys. There were no towns, and the effective capital was wherever the Druk Gyalpo was. In Paro temporary housing in bamboo huts was built for we visitors.



The Druk Gyalpo, center, with the visiting Western and Indian journalists (Bradsher left end)

The Druk Gyalpo, an affable English-speaking ruler, explained his country to us and entertained

us with lama dances, archery contests, and other traditions. And he served us Tibetan-style tea (an acquired taste, after initially having to suppress vomiting: hot, strongly bitter brick tea with yak butter, salt, maybe some residue from poorly washed cups). We were toured through the dzong's many shrines of Tibetan Buddhist images and visited a sacred cliff-hanging temple; these are now closed to non-Buddhist tourists.



After a week at Paro, we got on our mules again and rode back to India to file our reports. Monsoon rains had begun, drenching us, and more leeches than earlier were waiting in the jungles to latch onto warm-blooded creatures. (For advice of the safest way to deal with leeches that penetrate clothing and begin sucking blood, email me.)

The Druk Gyalpo began modernizing Bhutan in many ways. This led, voluntarily without any public pressure, to his grandson's granting a democratic constitution that established today's freely elected government with an only formal monarchy (such as those in Western Europe). Bhutan's 770,000 people now have roads, two airports, cities including a newly built capital, nice hotels, television, a good health system, English taught in all the schools along with the Dzongkha language, and the national newspaper, Kuensel, is in English. It's a delightful place for tourists, as my wife and I found in 2005. But it was a colorfully unusual place on which to report in 1960.

Second acts...

Six months into retirement, I've finally learned I can say no

Joyce Rosenberg ([Email](#)) - I passed a milestone this week. Sunday, Jan. 9, marked six months since I left the AP and didn't begin a second act, but continued and expanded one that I had already started. It has been an amazing half-year:

-- My psychoanalytic practice has burgeoned as more people have sought help during the pandemic. My hours are about twice as many as before COVID-19 struck.

-- I am now three-quarters of the way through my classwork for a Doctor of Ministry degree at Hebrew Union College.

-- I taught two classes on psychoanalytic ethics at two institutes, including the one I graduated from and am on the boards of my institute and the co-op where I live. I also had freelance writing assignments.

And, I discovered, everything I took on during the fall was thrilling -- and too much. It is wonderful being my own boss, heartening to have people reach out to me for therapy and analytic students approach me to be their supervisor. But I wasn't able to read any fiction, do a jigsaw puzzle, watch the many shows, movies and miniseries everyone is telling me I shouldn't miss.

And so I have learned I need to follow my own advice: I can say no. And so this spring, I will be much more careful about what I take on. I already know I may not be teaching, or if I am, just one class. I said thanks but no thanks when I was asked to serve on my co-op's communications committee (no, I won't write the newsletter!!).

And I made a big decision -- I don't have to try to finish my thesis project by next January, which several of my classmates plan to do. I can take my time. I can set my own deadline. I can enjoy the process. I can enjoy some ... free time!!

I always multitasked and took on impossible workloads at AP, but got it all done. Maybe in my non-retirement, I don't have to work so hard.

What an interesting concept!

Connecting mailbox

On busting into the wire

Tom Kent (Email) - That was a great item by Peter Eisner (in Friday's Connecting) about how he broke the wire when he was on the World Desk. But he left us in suspense. Did he find some way himself to break the endless loop of flashes? Or did he have to 'fess up to the tech people and get them to fix it?

Peter recalls correctly that "r" priority was for "regular" stories. There was also a "d" priority for minor stories, which put them at the bottom of the queue. Of course, no one thought their story was minor, and "d" priority stories could take forever to move on slow-speed wires. So people started to put "r" on everything. As a result, stories that weren't urgent but really needed to get out could get stuck for hours behind briefs and other miscellany that people had coded "r."

To deal with this problem, AP created the "q" priority, between "u" and "r." It was for stories not worthy of "u," but which needed to move ahead of "r" items.

Fortunately, before people started coding everything "q," AP moved to higher-speed wires.

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Steve Graham (Email) - Great story on busting the wire.

The one priority you missed is the d - deferred, which is not surprising since hardly anyone used it in later years when writers, blessed with the computer-enabled ability to produce more and longer stories found that even 'r' priority consigned their efforts to a backlog on slowspeed wires and upped their priorities accordingly.

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More on Nate Polowetzky

Christopher Bacey (Email) - Even though I was a news clerk just starting out in the '80s, Nate always took the time to listen and speak to me and share his sage wisdom and wise advice gathered over many years and through a great deal of experience. Always spoke to me as if I were an equal and never spoke down to anyone. He was a very patient, caring and competent individual.

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Few can write like Cal Woodward

Larry Margasak (Email) - Even on my busiest days in the AP Washington bureau, I always tried to reserve time to read a Cal Woodward story. So I wasn't surprised when I read Cal's piece on Jan. 6 in Connecting, and was reminded why I never wanted to miss a story he wrote. This is especially true when he tries to capture the mood of a significant event. I always wished I could write like Cal. I could not. Few can.

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Kudos to Chris Carola, Connecting

Kevin Noblet (Email) - One of the joys of working at the AP was getting to know its people and hearing accounts of their storied, sometimes larger-than-life careers.

That's one of the joys of reading Connecting, too. So thanks to Chris Carola for his terrific article about the late Eugene Burns and thanks to you, Paul, for putting out Connecting on a daily basis. No small task.

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Recommends NASA website on space telescope

John Willis (Email) - I don't know if enough Connecting folks are interested, but NASA has a great website with all the information anyone needs to know about the progress of the Webb space telescope, which was launched Christmas morning.

The mirrors that will be taking in the images from far back in the history of our universe have been completely deployed, but it will be another five months or so

before the vehicle gets to its destination a million miles from earth and all of the instruments are checked out and start operating.

Click [here](#) for the website.

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Viewing Kentucky snowfall from living room



Tom Eblen ([Email](#)) - I'm no Nick Ut, but there's the best snow photo I've taken in a while without actually having to go out in it. It's the view from my living room as Lexington received nearly 10 inches last Thursday.

My street, Mentelle Park, has a narrow strip of grass and trees down the middle. Since 1910, it has been an official city park. When my house was built in 1907, it was the eastern-most edge of Lexington. Now, most people say I live "downtown."

Hope you have a happy and healthy new year. I enjoy Connecting and appreciate all the work you put into it.

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Beijing ducks



Patrick Casey ([Email](#)) - This is a Beijing response to the great eagle and geese photos from Nicky Ut and Peter Leabo. A flock of hungry Mandarin ducks enjoys some dry cat food tossed to them at a frozen park lake Friday afternoon in Beijing.

Best of the Week

Resourceful AP team dominates all-formats coverage of Colorado inferno



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

When a winter grassland fire exploded along Colorado’s Front Range two days before New Year’s, it quickly tore through suburbs between Denver and Boulder. Nearly 1,000 homes were destroyed and tens of thousands were forced to flee as winds up to 115 mph (185 kmph) fanned the flames.

AP staff in all formats rushed to document what is likely the state’s most destructive fire ever. Reporters, video journalists and photographers captured the chaos and fear of the urgent evacuation from a totally unexpected event. Fires are common in the Rocky Mountain area, but such a huge, ruinous blaze in winter is practically unheard of.

“I came out of Whole Foods, which is about a half-mile from ground zero, and felt like I had to jump in my car and make a dash for my life as the smoke and wind and nearby flames were engulfing the area,” said Lafayette resident Susie Pringle.

The AP crew provided all-formats coverage from Thursday through the weekend. AP sports editor Dave Zelio — whose own family was forced to flee — was able to provide the first video and photo coverage of the massive flames on Day One, providing AP with a quick competitive edge at the start and keeping AP well ahead in the following days.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bob Burns

Stories of interest

Republican leadership bars journalists from Iowa Senate floor, worrying press advocates (Washington Post)

By Kim Bellware

When Iowa's 2022 legislative session commences Monday, there will be a notable absence on the floor of the state Senate: reporters.

Republican leaders in the state Senate told journalists last week they will no longer be allowed to work on the chamber floor, a change that breaks with a more than 140-year tradition in the Iowa Capitol. The move raised concerns among free press and freedom of information advocates who said it is a blow to transparency and open government that makes it harder for the public to understand, let alone scrutinize, elected officials.

The new rule denies reporters access to the press benches near senators' desks, a proximity current and former statehouse reporters told The Washington Post is crucial for the most accurate and nuanced coverage. The position allows reporters to see and hear everything clearly on the Senate floor and to get real-time answers and clarifications during debates.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady, Steve Graham, Myron Belkind.

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Sweden sets up Psychological Defense Agency to fight fake news, foreign interference (Washington Post)

By Adela Suliman

Sweden is launching a new agency to defend against a rising threat: disinformation — organized campaigns to spread false information.

The Scandinavian country, home to about 10 million people, established the Swedish Psychological Defense Agency on Jan. 1, in a bid to safeguard its “democratic society” and “the free formation of opinion,” the agency said on its website. As the country heads into elections this year, the agency will work alongside the Swedish military and government on the new battleground of fake news and misinformation.

“The security situation in our near European environment has deteriorated for some time now and therefore we need to rebuild our total defence,” Magnus Hjort, the agency’s deputy director, told The Washington Post by email.

The agency will aim to boost the country’s “ability to identify and counter foreign malign information influence, disinformation and other dissemination of misleading information directed at Sweden,” Hjort said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Myron Belkind.

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Media watchdog asks India to release Kashmiri journalist (AP)

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists asked Indian authorities to immediately release a journalist in disputed Kashmir, days after police arrested him for uploading a video clip of a protest against Indian rule.

The media watchdog on Saturday said it was “deeply disturbed” by the arrest of Sajad Gul, an independent journalist and media student. It wrote on Twitter it was asking Indian authorities to “drop their investigation related to his journalistic work.”

Indian soldiers picked up Gul from his home in northeastern Shahgund village on Wednesday night and later handed him over to the police, his family said. He had posted a video of family members and relatives protesting the killing of a rebel commander on Monday.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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Guardian wins investigation and journalist of the decade awards (Guardian)

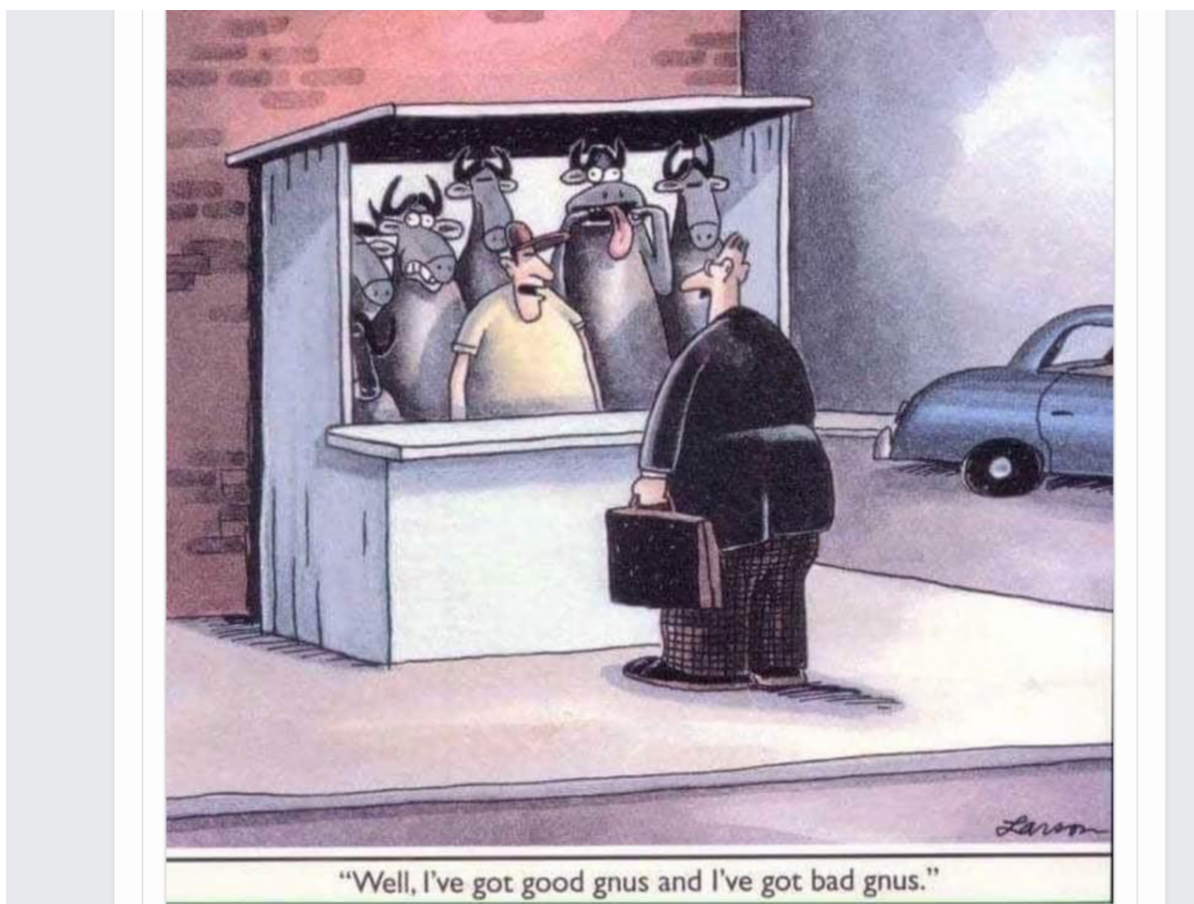
The Guardian has been awarded investigation and journalist of the decade in relation to articles on offshore finance and the Windrush scandal.

The awards were made by the media industry publication Press Gazette to mark 10 years of its British Journalism Awards ceremony. Past attendees and newsletter subscribers were asked to vote.

Amelia Gentleman was named journalist of the decade after she exposed the Windrush scandal. Her reporting showed how people legally resident in the UK were losing access to benefits, being made homeless and facing detention or deportation. The scandal – which often affected individuals who had come to the UK from the Caribbean as children but lacked paperwork – led to the resignation of the home secretary, Amber Rudd.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

The Final Word



Shared by Marty Thompson

Today in History - Jan. 10, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2022. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 10, 2002, Marines began flying hundreds of al-Qaida prisoners in Afghanistan to a U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On this date:

In 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

In 1860, the Pemberton Mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts, collapsed and caught fire, killing up to 145 people, mostly female workers from Scotland and Ireland.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1863, the London Underground had its beginnings as the Metropolitan, the world's first underground passenger railway, opened to the public with service between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first Black person elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

In 1971, French fashion designer Coco Chanel died in Paris at age 87.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 2003, North Korea withdrew from a global treaty barring it from making nuclear weapons.

In 2007, President George W. Bush said he took responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announced an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence. The Democratic-controlled House voted 315-116 to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

In 2011, a judge in Austin, Texas, ordered former U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay to serve three years in prison for his money laundering conviction. (DeLay's conviction was ultimately overturned.) No. 1 Auburn beat No. 2 Oregon 22-19 on a last-second field goal to win the BCS national title.

Ten years ago: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won the New Hampshire Republican primary; Ron Paul finished second, with Jon Huntsman, Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum trailing. Alabama was voted No. 1 in the final AP poll for the eighth time after winning a rematch with LSU in the BCS championship.

Five years ago: An unrepentant Dylann Roof was sentenced to death in Charleston, South Carolina, for fatally shooting nine black church members during a Bible study session, becoming the first person ordered executed for a federal hate crime. President Barack Obama bid farewell to the nation in an emotional speech in Chicago.

One year ago: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the House would proceed with legislation to impeach President Donald Trump, even as she pushed the vice president and the Cabinet to invoke constitutional authority to force him out in the aftermath of the deadly assault on the Capitol. A second Republican senator, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, called on Trump to resign, joining Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. The Capitol's attending physician notified lawmakers that they may have been exposed to someone testing positive for COVID-19 while they sheltered in an undisclosed location during the Capitol siege.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Sherrill Milnes is 87. Rock singer-musician Ronnie Hawkins is 87. Movie director Walter Hill is 82. Actor William Sanderson is 78. Singer Rod Stewart is 77. Rock singer-musician Donald Fagen (Steely Dan) is 74. Boxing Hall of Famer and entrepreneur George Foreman is 73. Roots rock singer Alejandro Escovedo is 71. Rock musician Scott Thurston (Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers) is 70. Singer Pat Benatar is 69. Hall of Fame race car driver and team owner Bobby Rahal is 69. Rock musician Michael Schenker is 67. Singer Shawn Colvin is 66. Rock singer-musician Curt Kirkwood (Meat Puppets) is 63. Actor Evan Handler is 61. Rock singer Brad Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 58. Actor Trini Alvarado is 55. Rock singer Brent Smith (Shinedown) is 44. Rapper Chris Smith (Kris Kross) is 43. Actor Sarah Shahi is 42. American roots singer Valerie June is 40.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career.

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:



- **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.

- **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?

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

Paul Stevens

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