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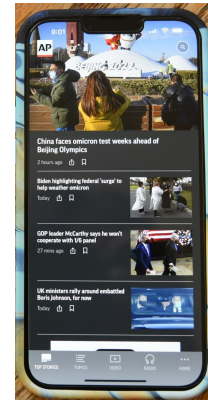
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Connecting

April 8, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this April 8, 2022,

The fickle finger of fate.

So, what if **Evelyn Colucci** hadn't been working at Gimbels department store in New York City in 1972 when she met Christmas shopper **Vivian Bonatti** – who encouraged Evelyn to apply to The Associated Press?

What if there had been no opening when she applied a couple months later – and what if AP Personnel Manager **Glen Pusey** had chosen someone else?

Fate, lots of what-if's, apply to all of our lives – and it certainly was true for **Evelyn Colucci-Calvert**, who was hired by Pusey and is now completing a career of five decades with the AP on May 1 as a senior manager in the benefits department.

Connecting brought you the news of her retirement in Thursday's issue, and now it's Evelyn's turn to tell - in a Connecting profile - about the start of her career and other interesting facts – such as the fact her husband **Val** plans to retire from his job on the same day she retires.

We also bring you comments of her Connecting colleagues about working with Evelyn, who started her career when AP headquarters was at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and will end it at the headquarters building at 200 Liberty Street where employees will be returning to in-office work next week after almost two years of working remotely, due to covid.

By the way, Evelyn served at AP under six general managers and presidents/CEOs and worked in three different headquarters locations. Anyone out there able to top those marks?

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Connecting Profile

Evelyn Colucci-Calvert

Describe your duties with the AP and how they have changed.

In the beginning I sent letters to the employees telling them they were eligible for the pension plan, sending the participant's information to payroll and then on an annual basis, sending the participants enrollment and salary information to the recordkeepers who kept track of the accrued benefits for the employees. It wasn't until about the late 70's when I actually learned how to calculate a pension. The formulas changed over the years, but Administrative and Union plans each had a different one. At this point I became an expert in the pension plans and would send letters and paperwork to employees ready to retire. In the late 80's the 401(k) plans came into existence so now there was an additional benefit to discuss regarding retirement. I was not heavily involved in the administration of the 401(k) plan. My other colleagues did. Later I was involved with special projects affecting the pension plans, but up until today, I pretty much remained with dealing with retirement covering all the bases that go along with pension.



How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

Prior to AP, I was working at Gimbels. During Christmas time, Gimbels would hire part time help for the holiday. That is when I met a woman named Vivian. She told me she had previously worked at Associated Press and that she would be returning when the holidays were over. She asked me if I would be interested in getting a job there. I said yes. Vivian was working in the Personnel Department and about two weeks prior to being hired in April 1973, she called me and said come in for an interview. I did and was hired shortly after that. Glen Pusey was in charge of Personnel at that time. He was the one that hired me. So, on April 16, 1973, I became part of the Benefits Department. My friend Vivian is Vivian Bonatti. Vivian worked for AP from 2/23/73 through 8/26/98. When I started, I didn't know anything about benefits, but learned fast. Everything I learned was on the job training from the existing benefits staff at that time.

What about your job gave you greatest satisfaction?

I love working with the AP employees and helping them making it to retirement. I believe all the retirees know me and know what I am capable of and how I have helped them over the years. I call the retirees my "Fan Club".



AP Benefits team, 1989, from left: Dolores Evans, benefits administrator; Rhoda Gerber, benefits administrator; Robin Rosenberg-Lowe, senior benefits administrator, and Evelyn Colucci-Calvert, senior benefits administrator.



From left, Evelyn Colucci-Calvert of Benefits, Janice Blount of Payroll, Director of Finance and Treasurer Dan Boruch, Payroll Supervisor Dennis Neysmith (celebrating 25 Years with AP) and Patricia Sarta of Payroll. (1998 Photo: Ed Bailey) Photos courtesy of AP Corporate Archives.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

I have gone through many managers over the years, so it is hard to say who stands out. Bruce Richardson and Rick Cooper taught me a lot of what I know. They trusted me and left me to work on my own, with no questions asked.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

I would do it all over again in a heartbeat and change nothing. Everyone and everything were fabulous.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

One favorite hobby is doing crosswords and I love it when AP come up as an answer in the puzzle. It keeps my mind sharp. I also like to watch game shows and especially when AP comes up as a question or answer. Jeopardy is my favorite. It's not the same without Alex Trebek, but I am a fan of the show. I have watched from day one. I also like gambling at the casinos.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

I love Aruba. I went there for my honeymoon and have been going back ever since, especially on our milestone anniversaries. I missed going last year. It was our 35th wedding anniversary, but Covid put a stop on travel plans.

Names of your family members and what they do?

My parents, John and Anita Colucci, are long gone and I do not have any children. My husband, Val, is a facilities manager at one of the buildings in the garment district. He will also be retiring from his job on May 1. He was there 44 years. I have one brother, John Colucci, who lives in Hialeah, Florida. He was a Marketing Director for one of the major record companies, but is now retired.

What are your plans for retirement?

No major plans yet, but I believe traveling will be part of it. Got to get back to Las Vegas. And Aruba of course.

Fond remembrances of working with ECC

[Vicki Cogliano](#) - Evelyn and I met on a cold February morning in 2009 and ever since that day I've consider her a respected colleague and a good friend.

Evelyn's knowledge about all thing's AP is unmatched; ask her a question and without hesitation a response.

She will be missed by the benefits department and the countless colleagues she's helped throughout the years.

All the best in your retirement, enjoy it, it's well deserved.

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[Claude Erbsen](#) - I read with some dismay in today's CONNECTING about Evelyn Colucci-Calvert's impending retirement.

She has been so incredibly helpful to so many AP folks, both serving and in retirement, over the decades that she has herself effectively been an AP benefit.

Her empathy and concern for staffers' and retirees' well-being has been boundless.

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[Bruce Richardson](#) - I'm so happy that part of my AP career included time I worked with Evelyn Colucci. She was already part of the team when I moved from another assignment in the early 70s to then what was known as the Personnel Department.

Benefits was part of that unit and Evelyn was a hard-working member. I'm happy to say that I got to work directly with her. I know that over the years many, many AP staffers and their families depended on her for answers to their questions.

I know she was extremely helpful as we expanded and made many changes in the AP retirement plans.

I wish her and her husband, Val, many happy years as she moves on in retirement. It seems like only yesterday that the benefits department was attending their wedding.

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Hal Spencer - I found Evelyn to be the quintessential New Yorker, direct and no bs. Among other things, she was a job counselor. One time when I was feeling itchy, she said if I quit, I wouldn't just lose pension money but oh yes, a LOT of pension money. Thanks, Evelyn, for looking out for me and thousands of colleagues.

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Marty Thompson - Evelyn Colucci-Calvert has touched countless AP lives, in the U.S. and around the world. She has kept our career and retirement details in order, always offering help and good advice.

Just seeing her name brings a smile to my face.

I'm hoping that smile and those of all of the AP family will cloak her own retirement in warmth and good feelings.

Thank you, Evelyn, for everything.

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Peggy Walsh - The AP Thread.

Evelyn (Colucci then) was one of the first people who helped me when I was hired by the AP in 1975. She saw me through promotions and was on the phone after I made the difficult decision to leave AP to work at The New York Times.

Twenty-four years after I left AP I called her to walk me through the pension process.

She remembered me (Peggy, not Margaret), we chatted, and she eased me through things as though all that time had never passed.

Evelyn helped tie everything together. May she and her husband Val enjoy retirement just as she helped so many others.

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Doris Webster - Please give my best regards to Evelyn on her retirement. She was a tremendous help to Paul and I through the years. I know Paul would have given her best wishes also. (AP communications exec Paul Webster died Nov. 10, 2021.)

“Happy healthy retirement Evelyn”

Best wishes, Doris Webster (&Paul)

A shout-out about the AP's Education Reporting Network

[Lee Mitgang](#) - A big round of applause from this former AP education writer for the recent announcement of the new Education Reporting Network (Thursday's Connecting). From the description of its new leader, Chrissie Thompson, it will be in great hands. (I don't know Ms. Thompson, but I'm immediately biased because she's a fellow Michigan Wolverine!)

During my time on the beat through the '80s and early '90s, I along with Washington-based education writer Chris Connell had plenty to chew on: the coming of school choice and vouchers, a slew of reports decrying America's "rising tide of mediocrity" in its schools, the emergence of computers in the classroom, the AIDS crisis and how schools should address it, unprecedented college tuition inflation, the perennial whole language-phonics "reading wars," revolutionary changes in special education, and what Jonathan Kozol so aptly called the "savage inequalities" of America's education system.

AP's editors gave Chris and me considerable latitude, travel time and money to cover these and other topics in depth. I was and remain proud that the AP decided to invest serious resources back then to show that the education beat doesn't have to be about dreary school board meetings but can and should be frontpage-worthy -- a topic at the very essence of American life and democracy. So, I wanted Connecting readers to recall that the new Education Reporting Network builds on a long track record of commitment by the AP to strong education coverage, and I'll be excited to see what this next generation of reporters accomplishes.

A final thought, if I may: while the catalyst for the new AP Education Reporting Network apparently was the Covid pandemic and its terrible toll on schools and children, many if not all of the challenges that have afflicted America's schools for generations persist unabated and unsolved. These topics, while old, are not "old news." Best wishes to this new team!

Endowed fund established at Penn State in honor of B.J. Reyes

[Ryan Jones](#) - As a tribute to his impact and legacy, the family, friends, and colleagues of B.J. Reyes have established [the BJ Reyes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award](#), an endowed fund to provide support to undergraduate and graduate students who advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within Penn State's Bellisario College of Communications. Gifts may be made to the [fund](#) to honor B.J. and provide a way to continue his impact on others.

B.J. Reyes was a consummate journalist and a passionate advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion. A 1995 graduate of Penn State's Bellisario College of Communications and a former sportswriter and editor at the Daily Collegian, B.J. began his journalism career with the Associated Press. He spent a decade with the A.P., working in Charleston, W.Va., Detroit, New York, and Honolulu, before joining the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and then the Star-Advertiser, where he covered state government and politics. In 2015, he returned to his alma mater as the associate



editor at the Penn Stater, the University's alumni magazine. Back on campus, B.J. led diversity and inclusion efforts in the Division of Development and Alumni Relations, serving on the division's DEI committee and helping shape the DEI plank in the division's strategic plan. His commitment to great journalism was matched by his dedication to ensuring equal opportunity for all.

B.J. died in January after battling serious illness for much of his life, but he never let his health issues define him. He's remembered for his talent, his sense of humor, his loyalty to family and friends, and his consummate professionalism.

Back together again – good friends, good times



Cecilia White - After three (Covid) years, my sister, Connie, and I flew back to Port Angeles, Wash., last weekend for a wonderful reunion with longtime friend and former boss John Brewer and his partner, Barbara Wise. Once again, they were hosts extraordinaire! John was my bureau chief at AP/Los Angeles and, later, my boss at the New York Times Syndicate where I was a foreign copy editor. Connie, too, worked for years with John at the New York Times News Service and Syndicate before he left the Times to become publisher of the Peninsula Daily News in Port Angeles, Wash. What a great weekend we had!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Deborah Hastings

On Saturday to...

[Len Iwanski](#)

[Mary Sandok](#)

On Sunday to...

[Ed Breen](#)

[Jesus Medina](#)

Stories of interest

People mistrustful of news make “snap judgments” to size up outlets (Nieman Lab)

By SHRADDHA CHAKRADHAR

How do people who have low trust in news sources decide which publications to trust? That’s the central question behind a newly published report from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism’s Trust in News project.

The answer: People are quick to make judgments — snap judgments, as the people behind the study called them — when evaluating news outlets on popular digital outlets. These hasty decisions are based on a range of things that people look at, including the news brands themselves and who shared the stories.

To answer the question, the researchers polled 100 people in four different countries — Brazil, India, the United Kingdom and the United States — about their news habits.

Specifically, the authors chose participants labeled as “generally untrusting.” These volunteers were deemed as such because of their responses to the questions “How interested, if at all, would you say you are in politics?” and “Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust information from the following” list of 15 news organizations specific to their country. (In the U.S., this list included ABC, NBC News, Breitbart and others.)

Read more [here](#).

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Deepe family provides record gift for journalism depth reporting at Nebraska (University of Nebraska-Lincoln)

A Nebraska family that built its farmlands into a multi-million-dollar enterprise near Hebron has gifted the land to support the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s College of Journalism and Mass Communications and its depth reporting program.

The proceeds from the \$4.65 million sale of the farmlands by the University of Nebraska Foundation established a permanently endowed fund called the Deepe Family Endowed Chairs in Depth Reporting, emphasizing the family’s commitment to journalism, education and the state. The gift represents the largest single gift received in support of the college.

“This gift continues the legacy of a Nebraska family built from the grit and thrift of the Dust Bowl generation,” said Shari Veil, dean of the College of Journalism and Mass Communications. “It will enable the college to continue its storied depth reporting program, which has won numerous prestigious awards, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards Grand Prize.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Niles Andersen, Doug Tucker.

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New York Times updates Twitter policy for reporters

(The Hill)

BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO

The New York Times is updating its policies for how its journalists use Twitter, and is emphasizing that use of the social media platform is optional given the dangers of online harassment.

In a memo to employees on Thursday shared with The Hill, Dean Baquet, the newspaper’s top editor, announced what he called a “reset in our approach,” handing down new guidance dictating that “maintaining a presence on Twitter and social media is now purely optional for Times journalists.”

Baquet wrote that he has been hearing from staffers about “the challenges that Twitter presents,” writing that staffers at the leading national newspaper often “can rely too much on Twitter as a reporting and feedback tool.”

Such feedback, Baquet wrote, can be harmful to the Times’ journalism when “our feeds become echo chambers.”

Baquet said it will be purely optional for Times journalists to use Twitter moving forward, and the organization’s leadership will take steps to support anyone who decides to stop using the platform.

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

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Russian Nobel-winning editor says he was attacked on train (AP)

Nobel Peace Prize-winning Russian newspaper editor Dmitry Muratov said he was attacked on a Russian train Thursday by an assailant who poured red paint over him, causing severe discomfort to his eyes.

Muratov told Novaya Gazeta Europe, a project launched by newspaper staff after the paper suspended operation last week under government pressure, that the assault occurred on a train heading from Moscow to Samara.

“My eyes are burning terribly,” Muratov was quoted as saying on Novaya Gazeta Europe’s Telegram channel. He said the assailant shouted: “Muratov, here’s one for our boys.”

The post showed photos of Muratov and a train compartment drenched in red liquid.

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

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NBC News journalists vexed by MSNBC's move to hire White House press secretary Jen Psaki (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy, CNN Business

New York (CNN Business) NBC News journalists are troubled by and have expressed dismay to network executives about MSNBC's intention to hire White House press secretary Jen Psaki when she exits the Biden administration, people familiar with the matter told CNN.

Noah Oppenheim, the NBC News president, even held an impromptu phone call Friday so that he could address the matter with vexed staffers from the Washington bureau, some of whom have complained to their superiors that the tentative hiring tarnishes the NBC News brand.

Oppenheim, attempting to quell the anger, reaffirmed the distinction on the call between NBC News and MSNBC's opinion programming, some of the people familiar with the matter said.

Oppenheim, who does not oversee MSNBC, told the journalists that NBC News did not have a role in hiring Psaki. And he noted to those on the phone that they work for the NBC News brand and that the hires made for MSNBC's opinion arm should be viewed as unrelated to their work, the people said.

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

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Haunting Canada boarding school shot wins World Press Photo (AP)



This image provided by World Press Photo which won the World Press Photo Of The Year award by Amber Bracken for The New York Times, titled Kamloops Residential School, shows Red dresses hung on crosses along a roadside commemorate children who died at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, an institution created to assimilate Indigenous children, following the detection of as many as 215 unmarked graves, Kamloops, British Columbia, 19 June 2021. (Amber Bracken for The New York Times/World Press Photo via AP)

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A haunting image of red dresses hung on crosses along a roadside, with a rainbow in the background, commemorating children who died at a residential school created to assimilate Indigenous children in Canada won the prestigious World Press Photo award Thursday.

The image was one of a series of the Kamloops Residential School shot by Canadian photographer Amber Bracken for The New York Times.

“It is a kind of image that sears itself into your memory. It inspires a kind of sensory reaction,” Global jury chair Rena Effendi said in a statement. “I could almost hear the quietness in this photograph, a quiet moment of global reckoning for the history of colonization, not only in Canada but around the world.”

It was not the first recognition for Bracken’s work in the Amsterdam-based competition. She won first prize in the contest’s Contemporary Issues category in 2017

for images of protesters at the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

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

Today in History - April 8, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 8, the 98th day of 2022. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

On this date:

In 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his expedition began exploring the Florida coastline.

In 1864, the United States Senate passed, 38-6, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. (The House of Representatives passed it in January 1865; the amendment was ratified and adopted in December 1865.)

In 1911, an explosion at the Banner Coal Mine in Littleton, Alabama, claimed the lives of 128 men, most of them convicts loaned out from prisons.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for popular election of U.S. senators (as opposed to appointment by state legislatures), was ratified. President Woodrow Wilson became the first chief executive since John Adams to address Congress in person as he asked lawmakers to enact tariff reform.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered a freeze on wages and prices to combat inflation.

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman seized the American steel industry to avert a nationwide strike. (The Supreme Court later ruled that Truman had overstepped his authority, opening the way for a seven-week strike by steelworkers.)

In 1973, artist Pablo Picasso died in Mougins (MOO'-zhun), France, at age 91.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance had gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1992, tennis great Arthur Ashe announced at a New York news conference that he had AIDS (Ashe died the following February of AIDS-related pneumonia at age 49).

In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland, Oregon, at age 96.

In 2010, President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the New START treaty in Prague.

In 2020, a 76-day lockdown was lifted in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the global pandemic began; residents would have to use a smartphone app showing that they had not been in recent contact with anyone confirmed to have the virus. Sen. Bernie Sanders ended his presidential bid, making Joe Biden the presumptive Democratic nominee to challenge President Donald Trump.

Ten years ago: A U.N.-brokered plan to stop the bloodshed in Syria effectively collapsed after President Bashar Assad's government raised new, last-minute demands that the country's largest rebel group swiftly rejected. The U.S. and Afghanistan signed a deal giving Afghans authority over raids of Afghan homes, resolving one of the most contentious issues between the two wartime allies. Bubba Watson saved par from the pine straw and won the Masters on the second hole of a playoff over Louis Oosthuizen (WUHST'-hy-zen).

Five years ago: Immigrant workers at the famed Tom Cat Bakery in New York who were threatened with being fired if they didn't produce legal work papers rallied outside President Donald Trump's Manhattan home.

One year ago: Medical experts testifying at the murder trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin said George Floyd had died of a lack of oxygen from being pinned to the pavement with a knee on his neck, emphatically rejecting the defense theory that Floyd's drug use and underlying health problems killed him. American author John Naisbitt, whose 1982 bestseller "Megatrends" was published in dozens of countries, died in Austria at 92.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shecky Greene is 96. Author and Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Seymour Hersh is 85. "Mouseketeer" Darlene Gillespie is 81. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 81. Songwriter-producer Leon Huff is 80. Actor Stuart Pankin is 76. Rock musician Steve Howe is 75. Former House Republican leader Tom DeLay is 75. Movie director John Madden is 73. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 71. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., is 67. Actor John Schneider is 62. "Survivor" winner Richard Hatch is 61. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 60. Singer Julian Lennon is 59. Actor Dean Norris is 59. Rock singer-musician Donita Sparks is 59. Actor Robin Wright is 56. Actor Patricia Arquette is 54. Actor JR Bourne is 52. Rock singer

Craig Honeycutt (Everything) is 52. Rock musician Darren Jessee is 51. Actor Emma Caulfield is 49. Actor Katee Sackhoff is 42. Actor Taylor Kitsch is 41. Rock singer-musician Ezra Koenig (Vampire Weekend) is 38. Actor Taran Noah Smith is 38. Actor Kirsten Storms is 38. Actor Sadie Calvano is 25.

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 as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.



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

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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