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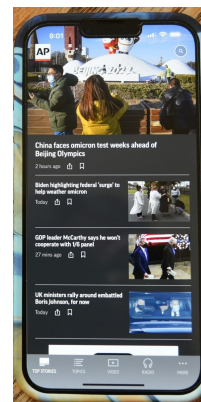
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Connecting

August 24, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Aug. 24, 2022,

Have you ever been called to serve on a jury – and if so, were you selected to serve?

That’s the question Connecting poses to our readers. Our colleague **John Rogers** – retired after a great AP career - gets the ball rolling with an account of his own recent experience with a call to jury duty in Los Angeles.

There’s the old saw that journalists are never selected to serve on a jury. Not so. I know that personally from the time when, near the end of my AP career in 2009, I was called to serve on a federal jury. Asked during jury selection about my profession and responding that I was an Associated Press employee, that fact mattered not. Did AP cover this case? No. Did I cover the officers involved? No.

I passed muster and was seated for the trial of a young man charged with distribution of child pornography. It was an ugly topic, especially when asked as a juror to view the subject matter, but a fascinating experience - especially when both the prosecutor and

defense attorney - with our permission - asked jurors how they did and what were the deciding factors in our guilty verdict.

So, tell us your story if you've been called. Were you accepted for a jury? If so, did your background as a journalist benefit or hinder you as a juror? I look forward to your story. (A thanks to Mark Mittelstadt for suggesting this.)

DEATH OF LEN DAWSON – Kansas City and the sports world were saddened this morning with news that Hall of Fame Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson has died.



He was active in national and local broadcasting circles, as noted in [this excerpt](#) from the Kansas City Star story:

Dawson, a strapping 6-footer with wavy hair and a killer smile, began working as a sports anchor for KMBC-TV (Ch. 9) during his playing days in 1966, not stepping down until 2009. He also served as an NFL color commentator for NBC Sports for six years;

was co-host for HBO's "Inside the NFL" for 24 years; and was the Chiefs' radio analyst from 1984 to 2017. He entered hospice care on Aug. 12. Through KMBC, the Dawson family issued this statement: "With wife Linda at his side, it is with much sadness that we inform you of the passing of our beloved Len Dawson. He was a wonderful husband, father, brother and friend. Len was always grateful and many times overwhelmed by the countless bonds he made during his football and broadcast careers.

"He loved Kansas City and no matter where his travels took him, he could not wait to return home."

(Photo above by Jim Barcus, Kansas City Star)

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Jury Duty Chronicles

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Jury Duty Chronicles



John Rogers - "Free at last, free at last. I just spent 51/2 hours in a downtown LA courthouse waiting for a jury pool call that never came," I posted on Facebook upon returning home from a day at a Los Angeles Superior Court building last week.

I went on to explain that in the 22 years I've spent in Los Angeles since returning home from the Midwest I've never served on a jury despite being summoned for jury duty at least seven times. Not to mention twice calling in every day during my assigned service week, only to be told I wasn't needed after all.

To my surprise, this prompted dozens of replies and nearly 100 likes from various people, many of whom took part in a spirited debate over whether journalists are ever called to sit on juries. (It turns out some are.) It also inspired my former boss, Ye Olde Connecting Editor, to wonder what your jury duty stories are.

But first, here are some of mine:

Twice I've made it to a jury pool, where during voir dire the criminal defense attorneys asked me if as a journalist I ever interacted with police officers. After I said yes they let me know my services weren't needed. Another time I spent hours waiting with about 50 other people in the hallway outside a courtroom when a handful of briefcase-toting attorneys emerged looking angry. They were followed by a bailiff who said the judge told them because they had wasted so much time resolving pre-trial issues that he was dismissing the jury pool and they'd have to start all over on another day. One woman in our group suggested we do a happy dance down nearby Broadway but we declined, instead heading to the jury room to get our certificates thanking us for our service and, more importantly, promising we wouldn't be called again for at least a year.

Other times I simply sat in the jury room all day and never got placed in a jury pool.

This time I expected my luck had indeed run out. I was retired now and could no longer say, "Yes, I sometimes hang out with cops," an answer seemingly guaranteed to scare away any criminal defense attorney. Plus, I was summoned on the second day of my five-day on-call week. Surely that couldn't be good.

Unlike most people called in, however, I had filled out all the required paperwork online ahead of time. I do that because then court officials allow you to show up two hours later. When I got there this time, though, I learned my name had already been called for a jury pool and I had to hustle over to join the others at a second-floor courtroom. By the time I got there the courtroom was already filled and I was told not to worry, just return to the jury room and if they still needed me later they'd call. Five hours later the judge called to say the jury had been seated, which meant I could grab my certificate and go home.

Hallelujah!

But let me be clear. Someday I really would like to serve on a jury.

Bernd Helling – 'definitely one of a kind'

[Russ Kaurlo](#) - It was very sad news to hear that our top AP Technical Center Engineer, Bernd Helling, passed on and is now above the satellite systems he helped engineer. He was definitely one of a kind who made an enormous impact on our AP news delivery systems - industry wide. The small man with a heavy German accent whose mind never stopped working was definitely one of a kind will be missed, but most of all, his humor which surpassed many.

Most of his humor cannot be repeated in this newsletter since his superlatives intertwined with his accent were legendary. On one occasion while I was in training at the East Brunswick shop (Elkins Rd.) where we had our lunch breaks in the cafeteria, I ran into one of the EB tech's who I can't recall his name, but he was a tall man standing nearly 7' in height but known for his endless talking which on this day he was in full gear but sporting an ankle cast recovering from a broken ankle. Out of nowhere, Bernd comes storming into the cafeteria, walks right up to him, and while looking straight up says, "I only have one question", and points down at his cast and says, "Is that where you keep the battery that runs the motor for your mouth....."

For me that was quintessential Bernd.

More thoughts on the farewell to the AP Broadcast Wire

[Jim Spehar](#) - I've been hesitant to weigh in on the demise of what used to be called the radio wire. That's despite a checkered history that includes being an AP Broadcast Editor and Broadcast Executive as well as stints in radio and television news and station ownership. A couple of contributions, from Jim Carrier and Marc Wilson, prompt me to put aside my reticence.

When Jim Hood messaged me about the end of the service, he so carefully recrafted in the 1980s, I told him I wasn't surprised. Even back in those dark ages, we sold the A Wire, Sports Wire, Business Wire and other services to television and radio stations, mostly in major markets, serious about doing news. But for small-market stations, the broadcast wire was the lifeblood of their news efforts.

Some of us smart enough to sell the local revenue possibilities as well as news values spread the gospel far and wide and did well for ourselves and the AP. A few of us secretly cheered despite the unfortunate impacts to AP revenues and public awareness when the worm turned, and broadcast and other services finally sent more to the bottom line than the "lead setters."

This past weekend I headed to Denver on I-70 and worried if the fire-scarred Glenwood Canyon might be closed due to a mudslide, a not-infrequent occurrence during heavy rains. Cruising the entire radio dial using the seek button, not a single station offered any news of highway conditions. Then we reached the Colorado Department of Transportation roadblock that took us off the busiest highway in western Colorado and over 12,000' Independence Pass near Aspen. The alternate route added hours to our journey.

That's the sorry state of smaller market radio news these days. Most stations are on satellite-delivered autopilot, jukeboxes with little localization. That market, thousands of stations, disappeared for the broadcast wire. It's a tragedy for both listeners and the craft of writing.

Marc's telling of Jules Loh's efforts to write "nearly impossible to read" radio splits may prompt some grins, It also appropriately describes some of the wire copy Hood and I endured at our separate radio news gigs in Tucson and Phoenix and when we joined forces to do all-news radio in Phoenix.

Denver COB Dorman Cordell apparently tired of complaints about splits "written" by AP staffers content to snag the first few graphs of AMs and PMs (remember those?) stories and package them up to send off as "broadcast ready" copy.

Cordell decided to hire broadcasters to write broadcast news, first bringing me in and then Hood a short while later. Carrier apparently benefited from the same forward thinking by another bureau chief.

Done right, writing for broadcast is a study in the art of effective communication. Short declarative sentences written most effectively in present tense. Stories that look to what's next, not what happened yesterday. Not only easily read but also easily understood. Crafted and edited by folks used to a deadline every minute rather than those who, back in the day, mostly awaited copy from AMs and PMs papers. Writers who didn't have hours, days, sometimes weeks to produce a final product worthy of the Poets Corner.

All forms of writing have their place. Some of my favorite authors write sentences that even my late college professor aunt with a doctorate in literature couldn't diagram. But isn't communication and understanding the ultimate goal of mass

communication? That's something I still struggle with after nearly 20 years of opinion columns. Even struggled with while finally composing these thoughts.

But change, to borrow a hackneyed phrase, is inevitable and evolution is desirable. I also related to Jim Hood what I told my son, now a successful editor and photographer at the CBS-owned station in Denver, when he expressed a desire to study broadcast journalism. Then he wanted to be a reporter or anchor and won national awards as a student at Arizona State's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. After graduation he was a successful TV reporter for several years in a couple of markets.

"If you go into this with a narrow focus," I told Tony, "it might be a struggle. But if you adopt the idea that people will always be curious and you'll be one of the people to answer their question, whatever that takes, you can make a career of it."

It's sad but understandable to me that "whatever it takes" no longer includes the broadcast wire. I'm happy that AP's core strength, an unequaled world-wide news gathering apparatus, continues to adapt to changing times.

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Marc Wilson - The death of the AP broadcast wire coupled with the demise of state news reports has only added to the problem of so-called "news deserts" – vast stretches of America unserved or underserved by professional journalists.

I grant that the AP probably made the right business decisions to ensure survival in the changing media landscape. The original funding for the AP news report came from member newspapers and, later, broadcast members. Those sources of income have, sadly, dried up. So the AP restructured to cut costs and produce a news report funded primarily by new Internet-age customers. The AP continues to do a splendid job covering Washington, the major commerce centers, and international events.

But the state reports – print and broadcast – are no more, or shadows of memories.

Gone are the state broadcast editors, the state news editors, the bureau chiefs. What a void.

With those changes, gone, too, is the vast stringer network that the AP created when it relied on newspapers and broadcast stations.

AP members were the eyes and ears of the nation's news gathering infrastructure. The beat reporters who covered courts, cops, councils, planning boards, etc., are mostly relics of the past. Few radio stations have news departments. TV stations struggle, too, with declining audiences and revenue.

So how do we know about significant lawsuits filed in many courthouses? How do we monitor public officials and potential corruption? How – especially in rural America -- do we know about mudslides, weather events, small plane crashes, auto fatalities, personal tragedies and successes, the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat?

I wonder what stories of importance occur without us knowing in a timely fashion.

The loss of state bureaus, state reports, bureau chiefs, broadcast splits and – most importantly – local professional journalists bode ill for our democracy.

I fear we get too much of our news now from pundits and spinsters who care more about politics than journalism.

Filming from Mexico-US border



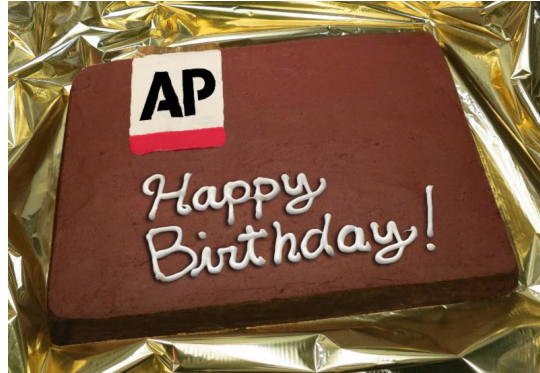


He may be retired but our Los Angeles colleague [Nick Ut](#) still points his camera where there is news. He files this dispatch and these photos:

I just come back (Sunday) afternoon and send you pictures as hundreds of immigrants arrive at US and Mexico Border in San Luis, Arizona, Saturday August 20. Many people

from Columbia and Venezuela crossing from Mexico to US Border in San Luis, Arizona. At least 400 people arrived.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Dave Lubeski](#)

Stories of interest

With Brian Stelter's 'Reliable Sources' Canceled, Who's Left to Keep Tabs on the Media? (Variety)

By Brian Steinberg

When Brian Stelter signed off from the last installment of CNN's "Reliable Sources" Aug. 21, the number of mainstream vehicles analyzing an increasingly confusing media industry shrank even further.

Stelter bid farewell the same day Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan ended her run — asking such notables as Carl Bernstein and Jeffrey Goldberg on air whether the press is doing enough to cover topics ranging from disinformation to climate change. The lead story of his hour was a dire one: his program's own cancellation after three decades. "It's going to be on you to hold CNN accountable," Stelter told viewers in the show's waning moments, later adding: "The free world needs a reliable source."

Why did CNN terminate a show that has been on its Sunday schedule since the early 1990s? Since acquiring the company once known as WarnerMedia, executives at new corporate parent Warner Bros. Discovery have been eager to steer the popular news outlet to less rocky terrain. Under former chief Jeff Zucker, CNN anchors were given leeway to show passion and express opinion on hot news topics. New leader Chris Licht has vowed to rein that in.

Read more [here](#).

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U.S.' largest newspaper owner cuts Iowa staff, leaving small papers' futures in question (Iowa Public Radio)

By Zachary Oren Smith

Laigha Anderson wanted to be her own person. Coming from a big family Leavenworth, Kansas, that was hardly a given. She had to get out.

“I didn’t want to be so-and-so’s daughter or so-and-so’s cousin,” she said. “I just wanted to be Laigha.”

In December 2018, she graduated from the University of St. Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, and six weeks later, she moved from the place she’d spent her young life to Burlington, Iowa. A small newspaper — “Iowa’s oldest” — hired her on to cover local government.

In February 2019, then-general manager of The Hawk Eye Sean Lewis wrote a column telling the community to welcome her to Burlington. He explained that the paper was aware of newspaper delivery issues, but things were changing for the better: Anderson was a part of a slate of hires that were “good news” for the local paper.

“We have made headway over the last few months at The Hawk Eye because of the hard work and integrity of the staff here. Some are new and some have been here most of their adult lives. They all share a common goal of restoring The Hawk Eye to the community newspaper everyone wants and deserves.”

Read more [here](#).

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Victim was religion reporter at Providence Journal for 47 years Man Dies After Drawbridge Opened As He Was Crossing It (Huffington Post)

By Elyse Wanshel

A 77-year-old Rhode Island man visiting Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on vacation with his wife fell to his death earlier this week when a drawbridge he was crossing on foot opened while he was still on it.

Richard Dujardin of Providence was about halfway across a bridge Monday when it began to rise, per a Milwaukee County medical examiner’s report obtained and posted online by CBS affiliate WDJT-TV.

Dujardin and his wife, Rose-Marie Dujardin, were due to fly home to Rhode Island on Monday, but wanted to make it to mass at a nearby church before they left.

They were crossing the bridge over the Milwaukee River at Kilbourn Avenue and Riverwalk Way on their way to the church when the incident occurred, per the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

His wife had already made it across to the other side when the drawbridge began to open, per the report.

“The lights, bells, and arms came down at each end of the bridge, however, Richard was hard of hearing and it is thought that he didn’t notice them,” the medical examiner’s report said. Dujardin — who walked slowly and wore a hearing aid — was also looking at an iPad as he crossed the bridge.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Neal Ulevich.

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Bye, journalism: Learning, informing and swaggering was a cool career (Medium.com)

By Alan Stamm

This may be my last shot at journalistic self-indulgence, so thanks for clicking.

Fact is, a newsman can’t slink off-stage silently. Writers write. So here’s a quick glide through a half-century of shaping words into paragraphs now that my closing act fades into an archive in the cloud.

Career steps began as a teen part-timer at a community weekly, looped through five other papers (counting a campus daily) and ended with 10 years at Deadline Detroit, a spunky startup where I’ve been a part-time writer/editor.

This arc from The Riverdale Press in the Bronx, N.Y, to an online publication is balanced by continuity amid change, by bedrock values applied in ways that didn’t exist back when. It’s also rooted in a distant era of print deadlines, family-owned papers and journalists whose standing came from employers rather than personal brands.

Pardon the shop talk, outsiders: I’ve been in the biz so long I remember typewriters, letterpress printing, AP and UPI teletypes, hand-counting headline widths, overset galleys, paste pots, pica poles, photo-sizing wheels, newsroom switchboards and pneumatic tubes for sending copy to Linotype operators.

Read more [here](#).

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People of color at 'New York Times' get lower ratings in job reviews, union says (NPR)

By DAVID FOLKENFLIK

An analysis of comprehensive data for roughly 1,000 The New York Times employees conducted by members of the union that represents its newsroom found that Black and Latino staffers are far less likely than their white peers to receive strong job ratings.

There are financial consequences to job ratings because they influence the size of employee bonuses, the NewsGuild union says. But staffers tell NPR the differential is even more important because it indicates an underlying systemic problem that the paper is failing to address. It is demoralizing, they say, and contributes to the premature departure of some colleagues.

The guild's study, released today, comes amidst uneasy negotiations over the newspaper's contract with the NewsGuild. The paper is still operating under the terms of the last one, which expired in 2021.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – Aug. 24, 2022



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 24, the 236th day of 2022. There are 129 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 24, A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died.

On this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings.

In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast.

In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon. (Chapman remains imprisoned.)

In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm.

In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet."

In 2016, a 6.2 magnitude earthquake reduced three central Italian towns to rubble and killed nearly 300 people.

In 2019, police in Aurora, Colorado, responding to a report of a suspicious person, used a chokehold to subdue Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old Black man; he suffered cardiac arrest on the way to the hospital and was later declared brain dead and taken off life support. (Three officers were placed on leave but returned to the force after a prosecutor found insufficient evidence to support charging them; the officers and two paramedics were later indicted by a grand jury on manslaughter and other charges following an investigation by state Attorney General Phil Weiser ordered by Gov. Jared Polis.)

In 2020, Republicans formally nominated President Donald Trump for a second term on the opening day of a scaled-down convention; during a visit to the convention city of Charlotte, North Carolina, Trump told delegates that "the only way they can take this election away from us is if this is a rigged election." Anger over the shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake, by police spilled into the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin for a second night.

Ten years ago: A Norwegian court found Anders Behring Breivik guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder for twin attacks on July 22, 2011 that killed 77 people; he received a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended as long as he is considered dangerous to society. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency wiped out 14 years of Lance

Armstrong's cycling career — including his record seven Tour de France titles — and barred him for life from the sport after concluding he'd used banned substances.

Five years ago: Presidential adviser Jared Kushner met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to try to jumpstart peace talks. Former Carter administration Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus, who engineered the conservation of millions of acres of Alaska land, died at the age of 85. Mavis Wanczyk, a hospital worker from the western Massachusetts town of Chicopee, was announced as the winner of the biggest undivided lottery jackpot in U.S. history, a \$758.7 million Powerball prize; lottery officials said she chose to take a lump sum payment of \$480 million, or \$336 million after taxes.

One year ago: President Joe Biden said he would stick to his Aug. 31 deadline for completing a risky airlift of Americans, endangered Afghans and others seeking to escape Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Kathy Hochul became New York's first female governor after the resignation of Andrew Cuomo took effect; on her first day in office, Hochul acknowledged that the state had nearly 12,000 more deaths from COVID-19 than Cuomo had told the public. Former football star Herschel Walker filed paperwork to enter the U.S. Senate race in Georgia after months of speculation; the Republican had the backing of former President Donald Trump. Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts died in a London hospital at the age of 80.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-musician Mason Williams is 84. R&B singer Marshall Thompson (The Chi-Lites) is 80. Actor Anne Archer is 75. Actor Joe Regalbuto is 73. Actor Kevin Dunn is 67. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee is 67. Actor-writer Stephen Fry is 65. Actor Steve Guttenberg is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. is 62. Actor Jared Harris is 61. Talk show host Craig Kilborn is 60. CBS News correspondent Major Garrett is 60. Rock singer John Bush is 59. Actor Marlee Matlin is 57. Basketball Hall of Famer Reggie Miller is 57. Broadcast journalist David Gregory is 52. Movie director Ava DuVernay is 50. Actor-comedian Dave Chappelle is 49. Actor James D'Arcy is 49. Actor Carmine Giovinazzo (jee-oh-vihn-AH'-zoh) is 49. Actor Alex O'Loughlin is 46. Actor Beth Riesgraf is 44. Actor Chad Michael Murray is 41. Singer Mika is 39. Actor Blake Berris is 38. Actor Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter" films) is 34.

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.

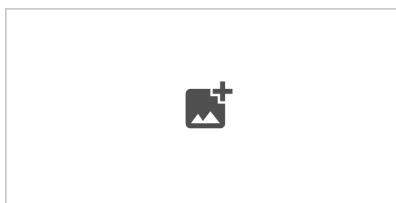
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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