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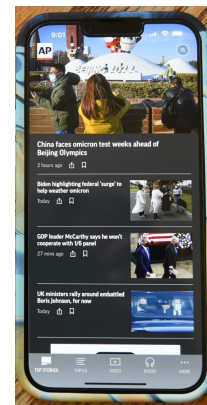
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# Connecting

Sept. 14, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Sept. 14, 2022,

Here's an idea for a Connecting feature that may take off – or go nowhere...

Let's call it The Connecting Name Game?



Did you know there is Lou Boccardi's Italian Restaurant on The Hill in St. Louis? It's not owned by our colleague **Louis D. Boccardi**, once president and CEO of The Associated Press. It's an institution in St. Louis begun by Luigi "Lou" Boccardi in 1964 after coming to the US from Naples. It's on the bucket lists of our Lou and me to dine together there one day and watch the face of the waiter when our Lou hands him his credit card.



Did you know there is Mike Hammer Moving based in a Kansas suburb of Kansas City? It's not owned by the AP's own **Mike Hammer**, who is editor of AP Today in History and former broadcast news editor based in Washington. Mike's parents were born and raised in Kansas City, and he still has relatives on both sides of the state line, but the moving company? Not his.

I might add that there's a Stevens Worldwide Van Lines (no Paul in it) – I see its trucks on the road from time to time – but Ye Olde Connecting Editor has no ownership. Darn.

So it's now time for you to take up the mantle for your own entries to the Connecting Name Game – a business that carries the name of a Connecting colleague (even your own name, if you like!) but is not hers or his.

**SIGNS OF FALL - [Gene Herrick](#)** – While I ate breakfast this morning, I saw the first leaf of Fall, flipping one way and then another on its short trip to earth. It was beautiful, but sad. The leaf sliding left and then right. It has been a beautiful Summer, but it looks like Mother Nature is sending her signal that things are going to change. Oh well, it is that time, and the summer was great!

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

## Broadcast Wire Was Source of Pride

**[Dave Lubeski](#)** - A few weeks ago, there were several items in Connecting regarding the end of the Broadcast Wire and additional stories from those AP veterans who were tasked to participate in writing for the wire at some point in their careers.

No one in the Broadcast News Center who was writing for the Broadcast Wire would ever try or get away with intentionally composing tongue twisters or writing splits that were nearly impossible to read even though they were grammatically correct.

When I worked in the Broadcast News Center, my sports staff, in addition to their network sportscasts, wrote stories, game separates and various sports roundups for the Broadcast Wire for member stations to read over their airwaves. They did not have to edit or rewrite anything we sent to them.

Our roundups were proofread by another sports staffer before being sent to an editor. Then, like for any news, sports, or business item for the Broadcast wire, the editor checked it thoroughly and sent it to the filer, who proofed it one more time before putting it on the wire.

Broadcast Wire editors, such as Mike Hammer, Pat Fergus and the late Gene Kim, led a team of professionals who accommodated the AP member radio and TV stations by helping thousands of stations get the news out to their listeners over the years.

The dedicated people I worked with on the Broadcast Wire took pride in what they did and would never have intentionally jeopardized the reputation of the AP by purposely sabotaging their work.

*Carl Robinson's sentimental journey*

To where peace prevails where war once raged



**Carl Robinson** – excerpts from the first weeks of a two-month tour of Vietnam, where he once served as an AP photographer and photo editor from 1968-7 during the Vietnam War.

Old memories are everywhere in Vietnam and my very earliest is from Feb '64 as our Messageries Maritimes 'paquebot' the SS Cambodge from



Hong Kong docked beside the company's landmark headquarters alongside the Saigon River, one of the nascent French colony's first major downtown buildings back in 1866. (The so-called Dragon House is now a museum to Ho Chi Minh, then Nguyen Tat Thanh), who left for France from this same dock in June 1911 and came back 30-something years later as a revolutionary.) At the Pointe des Blagueurs (Jokers' Point) opposite at the mouth of the Ben Nghe Canal running up to Saigon's Chinatown, Cholon, a Signal Mast was later raised with a bar & restaurant at its base and still functioning during the Vietnam War and one of Saigon's few Vietnamese restaurants, Le Tour D'Argent, where my wife Kim-Dung and I occasionally dined, as in 1970. But no sign of that today, of course, at the southern end of the pleasant riverside parkland illustrated here last week. Earlier, I walked through the heart of Saigon's financial district, including the early 1930's building once home to South Vietnam's Senate and now Stock Market and the other once featured on its currency. Mekong Gourmet's gotta' be for the Whole Foods Mob while further back one of my absolute favourite French colonial buildings. Finally, Vietnam's very first McDonalds -- and what you pay & get for your Happy Meal!



During the Vietnam War, the An Quang Pagoda was a hotbed of (non-communist) opposition to the Saigon Regime, under constant riot police surveillance and hardly the place for a casual visit, especially for journalists. So, what a wonderful discovery on modern-day returns and always a pleasant visit, a short morning walk from home, today under wonderful blue skies. Built in 1953, the temple was South Vietnam's key centre of Buddhist learning and remains so today. Behind the main chamber is a

lovely bas-relief of the Goddess of Mercy, or Quan Am, who is also honored with a three-storey stupa. Nobody paid me a second glance as I took off my walking boots and spent a peaceful half hour in meditation & taking photos, a peaceful sanctuary in this non-stop city of 10 million people.



I'm off to Hanoi and travelling light for my motorcycle tour to the terraced rice harvest in Vietnam's north-west so won't be posting as regularly. I also look forward to gifting my memoir of my Vietnam Days, published two years ago, to a couple dear Vietnamese friends up there. And so, bye-bye Saigon with recent pix downtown of lotus in bloom in front of L'Hotel de Ville (City Hall). Up another street, I found a copy of my own pre-1975 Citroen



11, now a prop for wedding photos, outside the Gia Long Palace, now the Ho Chi Minh City Museum. I bought the car in 1973 and had to leave it behind with the fall of Saigon in 1975. And a bit further along the magnificent Palais de Justice (Hall of Justice) where trials continue to take place. And a nice sample of Saigon's enduring French Colonial Architecture -- and more to see in Hanoi.

## Moon over Niles Pond, Gloucester, MA



Claude Erbsen - Image shot by my nephew -- Todd Saunders -- a couple of hours after my sunset shot you ran Monday.

***BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER***  
**AP multiformat pair gains access to  
Midwest abortion clinics, documents one  
woman’s procedure**





At left, Interstate 70 in New Paris, Ohio, the route Monica Eberhart traveled from Indianapolis after receiving abortion care. At right, Eberhart stands outside her home in Columbus, Ohio, August 25, 2022. Reflection on the abortion, she said she feels an overwhelming sense of relief — that she was able to find a clinic to give her the care she wanted, and that the fast-closing window for abortion had remained open long enough. “I just want to do what’s right for my body and my life,” she said. AP PHOTOS / PATRICK ORSAGOS (LEFT); JAY LAPRETE

Two of the most challenging aspects of covering the ongoing abortion story in the U.S. are getting inside abortion clinics and telling the stories of women who have decided to end their pregnancies. So it was significant when two AP journalists gained exclusive access to a pair of abortion clinics — and to a woman who allowed them to follow her through the entire abortion process.

Since the Supreme Court’s June decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, AP medical writer Lindsey Tanner has sought unique stories about new abortion restrictions and how they affect patients. Tanner, who has been covering abortion for years, was working on a different story when she connected with a clinic manager several months before the ruling. After the Supreme Court ruling, she reached out again to her sources, discovering a timely situation: a clinic in Ohio that was counseling patients, then sending them to a sister clinic in Indianapolis for abortions. The arrangement is temporary, because Indiana is slated to add more abortion restrictions on Sept. 15. But it offered a window into how women across the U.S. are navigating a patchwork of ever-changing state laws.

Tanner worked with the clinic staff to let her and video journalist Patrick Orsagos see both clinics in operation. Their hope: to find one woman willing to fully share her story. They found her in Monica Eberhart, who agreed to let Orsagos record video — from her early morning routine at home to, crucially, the clinic room during her abortion.

Read more [here](#).

***BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER***

**AP journalists capture the despair, dignity of people forced to live in flooded homes**



### AP Photo/Dita Alangkara

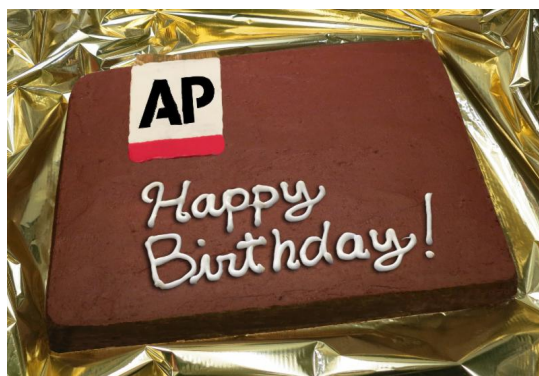
Erosion resulting in loss of land mass is one of the biggest impacts of global climate change, forcing countless people to leave their homes. With that in mind, Indonesia chief photographer Dita Alangkara and Jakarta-based reporter Victoria Milko set out to capture what happens to people for whom relocation is not an option, who have nowhere else to go as their homes are repeatedly flooded or engulfed by the ocean.

The idea for the story emerged last year when Alangkara heard rumors of villages that were permanently inundated by ocean water, the residents sometimes trapped in their flooded homes by the rising tides. Alangkara visited villages on the northern coast of Central Java, an eight-hour drive from Jakarta, to see for himself. The trip resulted in a small photo package, but he knew there was much more.

Then, this summer, AP's Climate and Environment team launched a series on climate-driven migration. Alangkara and climate photo editor Alyssa Goodman began brainstorming how best to document people who were forced to live in flooded homes. They landed on the idea of environmental portraits, posed images of people at home despite the ever-present water.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Chris Carola](#)

[Michelle Morgante](#)

[Richard Pienciak](#)

[Niko Price](#)

[Kay Reed](#)

**Welcome to Connecting**



[David Beard](#)

**Stories of interest**

***1,300 New York Times employees refuse to return to office*** (The Hill)

**BY DOMINICK MASTRANGELO**

More than a thousand New York Times staffers are refusing to return to the office and are threatening a strike if the company does not meet demands from an employee union.

On Monday, the Times Guild said it had delivered a letter to the news organization's corporate leadership with the names of nearly 1,300 NewsGuild member employees who have signed a pledge to continue to work remotely this week, the first week the company wants its journalists back in the office.

"We will continue to produce high-quality, award-winning work, while reminding the company it cannot unilaterally change our working conditions," the Times Guild said.

Any return to office policy "as a matter of workplace health and safety, should be a part of our negotiated contracts," the union argued, noting it believes any return to office procedures should fall in the same negotiating camp as "provisions for fair wages, equitable treatment for members" and other matters as it relates to the Times's workplace.

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

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## ***By making obituaries free to publish, these Ohio news outlets hope to play the long game*** (Nieman Lab)

**By HANAA' TAMEEZ**

Obituaries have long been a reliable revenue stream for newspapers both in print and online. But at the news site Richland Source in Ohio, senior ad and marketing manager David Yoder and director of client coaching and strategy Audrey Longstreth wanted to fix the publication's obituary section.

Richland Source had been charging \$50 per obituary, which is relatively low (costs at larger papers rise into the hundreds of dollars). The obituaries section was one of the most-visited parts of the website, and, in 2021, it brought in over \$12,000. But platform director Zac Hiser didn't want to charge more. He had heard from readers that payment was a hurdle. And so instead of optimizing for revenue, Hiser, Yoder, and Longstreth — who all grew up and went to high school in the area — decided to make obituaries free to publish.

"Effective Aug. 1, funeral homes and readers alike will be able to directly publish an obituary to Richland Source, Ashland Source, and Knox Pages for free using a short web form," Source told readers in an announcement in July. "Changes in the local media landscape in recent years have resulted in a clear message from local readers: They want a convenient and inviting space where they can find all the recent obituaries."

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Opinion The horror of Jeff German's killing*** (Washington Post)

**By Erik Wemple**  
**Media critic**

When Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter Jeff German wrote an article in May on allegations of mismanagement facing the Clark County public administrator's office, he conducted a videotaped interview with the subject, Robert Telles. German had documented allegations of a hostile workplace environment as well as favoritism for an employee with whom Telles was carrying on an "inappropriate relationship."

As German's article notes, Telles's unhappy subordinates had gone to the extreme of videotaping a rendezvous between Telles and the employee in the back seat of her car at a parking garage.

"Obviously you can't talk to the people I deal with on a daily basis," Telles told German. "But from my social media, from everything you can see, I am about nothing but justice, fairness and just being a good person. And it sickens me; it destroys me that someone would even level, like, accusations like that."

Rhonda Prast, the Review-Journal's assistant managing editor for investigations and engagement, worked on the piece with German, and she remembers the tone of that interview: "The exchange looks professional and courteous," she says.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***'Wildfire of disinformation': how Chevron exploits a news desert*** (Guardian)

**By ADAM GABBATT**

The dire state of local journalism in the US has been well documented in recent years, as the closure of hundreds of local newspapers has created American "news deserts" where people struggle for information on local politics and happenings.

It has also created openings for companies and political groups to swoop in, serving up a mixture of local news and propaganda, with the latest being Chevron, in Texas' news starved – and oil-rich – Permian Basin.

The launch of Chevron's "Permian Proud" site, in August, was first reported by Gizmodo.

The banner at the top of Permian Proud does state that the site is “sponsored by Chevron”. But at first glance, the sponsorship seems like a benevolent grant. On Wednesday Permian Proud’s front page included stories about an upcoming air show and a storytelling workshop – typical local newspaper fare.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Terry Anderson.

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## ***Mass firing at UAE newspaper raises question of censorship*** (AP)

By ISABEL DEBRE

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The story about high fuel prices was safe, editors agreed, even under the strict press laws of the United Arab Emirates.

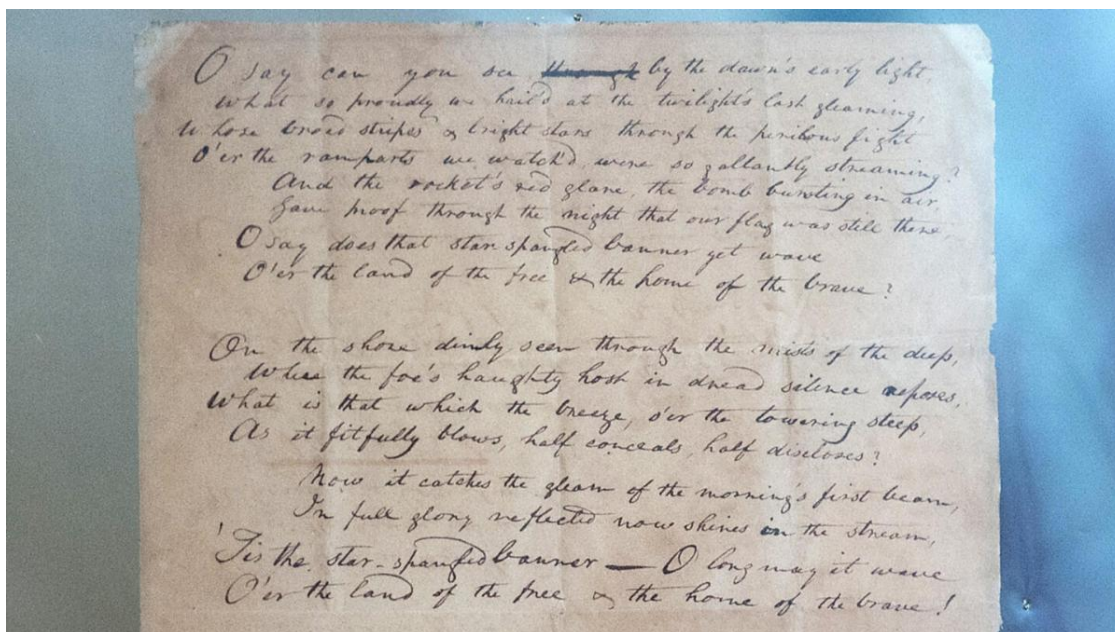
Instead, it unleashed a firestorm at Al Roeya newspaper in Dubai. Within days, top editors were interrogated. Within weeks, dozens of employees were fired and the print paper declared dissolved.

The newspaper’s publisher, Abu Dhabi-based International Media Investments, or IMI, said Al Roeya’s closure stems only from its transformation into a new Arabic language business outlet with CNN. However, eight people with direct knowledge of the newspaper’s mass firings told The Associated Press that the layoffs came in the immediate aftermath of the article on the UAE’s gas prices.

Their accounts, given on condition anonymity for fear of reprisals, show the limits of speech in the autocratic nation that tightly controls its domestic media. Self-censorship is rife among journalists at local outlets expected to provide a stream of good news in the UAE, which advertises itself as a globalized destination attractive to tourists, investors and Western media companies.

Read more [here](#).

## **Today in History – Sept. 14, 2022**



Today is Wednesday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2022. There are 108 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

#### On this date:

In 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort McHenry" (later "The Star-Spangled Banner") after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British naval bombardment during the War of 1812.

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1867, the first volume of “Das Kapital” by Karl Marx was published in Hamburg, Germany.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly film star Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon’s president-elect, Bashir Gemayel (bah-SHEER’ jeh-MAY’-el), was killed by a bomb.

In 1991, the government of South Africa, the African National Congress and the Inkatha (in-KAH’-tah) Freedom Party signed a national peace pact.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

In 2001, Americans packed churches and clogged public squares on a day of remembrance for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. President George W. Bush prayed with his Cabinet and attended services at Washington National Cathedral, then flew to New York, where he waded into the ruins of the World Trade Center and addressed rescue workers in a flag-waving, bullhorn-wielding show of resolve.

In 2009, death claimed “Dirty Dancing” star Patrick Swayze at 57; former White House press secretary Jody Powell at age 65; and comic character actor Henry Gibson at age 73.

In 2012, fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai.

In 2015, Rowan County, Kentucky, clerk Kim Davis returned to work for the first time since she was jailed for defying a federal court and announced that she would no longer block her deputies from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Ten years ago: Fury over an anti-Muslim film ridiculing the Prophet Muhammad spread across the Muslim world, with deadly clashes near Western embassies in Tunisia and Sudan, an American fast-food restaurant set ablaze in Lebanon, and international peacekeepers attacked in the Sinai.

Five years ago: CIA Director Mike Pompeo canceled a planned appearance at Harvard University over the school’s decision to name Chelsea Manning a visiting fellow. Former CIA deputy director Mike Morell resigned from his post at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, saying he couldn’t be part of an organization that “honors a convicted felon and leaker of classified information.”

One year ago: The Justice Department said it was curtailing federal agents’ use of “no-knock” warrants, and would also prohibit its agents from using chokeholds in most circumstances. South Carolina state police said Alex Murdaugh, a prominent lawyer, had tried to arrange his own death so that a son would get a \$10 million life insurance payment, but that the planned fatal shot only grazed his head. (Murdaugh was later



charged in the deaths of his wife and their younger son; he is also charged with stealing \$8.5 million from people who hired him as an attorney.) Standup comic and former "Saturday Night Live" star Norm Macdonald died at 61; his management team said he'd had cancer for nine years, but kept it private. Signaling that Broadway was inching back to normalcy, three powerhouse shows — "The Lion King," "Hamilton" and "Wicked" — reopened to audiences at full capacity.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Walter Koenig (KAY'-nihg) is 86. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 82. Singer-actor Joey Heatherton is 78. Actor Sam Neill is 75. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 75. Actor Robert Wisdom is 69. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 67. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 66. Actor Mary Crosby is 63. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 63. Country singer John Berry is 63. Actor Melissa Leo is 62. Actor Faith Ford is 58. Actor Jamie Kaler is 58. Actor Michelle Stafford is 57. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 56. Actor Dan Cortese is 55. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 53. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 53. Actor Ben Garant is 52. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 52. Actor Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 51. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 49. Rapper Nas is 49. Actor Austin Basis is 46. Country singer Danielle Peck is 44. Pop singer Ayo is 42. Chef/TV personality Katie Lee is 41. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 40. Actor Adam Lamberg is 38. Singer Alex Clare is 37. Actor Chad Duell (TV: "General Hospital") is 35. Actor Jessica Brown Findlay is 35. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 33. Actor Emma Kenney is 23.

## 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!

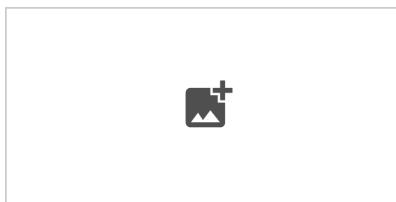


Here are some suggestions:

- **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.

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