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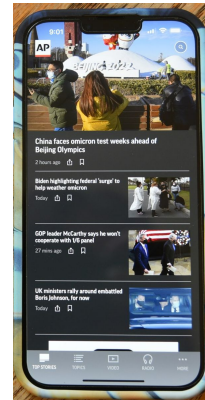
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Connecting

Oct. 10, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this Oct. 10, 2022,

We lead today's Connecting with a great account of life in the AP's Los Angeles bureau, when it was located in the annex of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner – just across the street but in far more – spartan may be too kind a word? – surroundings.

Our colleague **John Rogers** writes about his memories of bureau life there, in response to our call for memories after we published a story last week by colleague **Michele Stueven** on the historic building's conversion to a satellite campus of Arizona State's journalism school.

Your memories and any photos of the bureau from that time are welcomed.

Our colleague **Carl Robinson** and his wife **Kim** were featured in Vietnam's national newspaper, Thanh Nien, which wrote about their stay in the country where he once

covered the Vietnam War as an Associated Press photographer. "My entire adult life, Vietnam is me," he said. "I feel quite honoured."

While Carl recently celebrated his 79th birthday, the article said it was his 80th. 79 is correct, he said, "but in Vietnam you're a year old at birth." And the headline's reference to "Mr. Tay"? Translation from Carl: Western man.

CONNECTING AUTHORS: The time nears for Connecting's annual presentation of books authored by its colleagues in the past 12 months. This gives you the reader a head start on holiday book buying, for one. So if you have written a book that was published in the past year, send me the following: 300 to 400-word synopsis of the book, jpg image of the book cover and jpg closeup image of you the author.

Finally, a Happy Birthday to my dad – who celebrated 96 of them on Earth and has celebrated the next 10 as editor of the Heavenly Messenger...

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A tale of two buildings, one housing LA Herald-Examiner and the other AP's LA bureau

**WHEN L.A. FREEZES OVER**

Los Angeles photo editors Paul Harrington and Herb Hemming try to stay warm around a portable heater during a pre-Christmas cold snap that sent bureau temperatures into the 40s. The Los Angeles bureau — soon to move from its present location in a vacated Herald Examiner building — was experiencing heating problems at the time. (Photo: Nick Ut)



Carolyn Skorneck, night supervisor at the Los Angeles bureau of The Associated Press fields questions during a two-hour power outage, Jan. 16, 1986, in downtown Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Reed Saxon) (Photos courtesy AP Corporate Archives)

John Rogers – Stories of working in the AP bureau in the old HerEx annex: Have I got a ton of them from my 1987-90 tenure there. Here are just a few.

First, although faded by the time I arrived there in 1987, the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner building was still an architectural marvel, just as Michele Stueven described it in her LA Weekly story. The annex across the street, on the other hand, was already a falling-down dump with an elevator that sometimes broke down, toilets that backed up and a first-floor intercom system so filled with static that you rarely knew who you were letting in. I once refused to let Associated Press ACOB Larry Gerber in after he forgot his key because I couldn't recognize his voice over the static and there was no video feed.

The annex was a three-story building but there was no second floor. Instead, the first floor was a huge two-story warehouse where the Herald-Examiner stored the paper rolls for its press, moving them across the street through a tunnel when it needed them. As they were loaded onto a forklift the whole annex would shake and we were never sure if it was the paper or a small earthquake. Usually, we guessed right. One night when just Lauren Bartlett and I were working there a real earthquake did strike, knocking out the lights and phones for several minutes, although I managed to grab one in time to speed dial the General Desk in New York, which didn't believe me at first. As I was talking to them Lauren, now an executive in the University of Southern California's communication office, emerged from the bathroom in the dark, shouting, "Are you all right?"

The surrounding neighborhood, as Michele notes, has gentrified significantly in recent years, but in those days to call it dicey was to do it a huge favor. Bob Jablon, now the bureau's night breaking news staffer, was working with me there on one particularly cold and blustery day when a homeless woman began pressing the buzzer repeatedly, demanding to be let in out of the cold. We finally asked a security guard to tell her to leave. A few minutes later he arrived in the newsroom with blood gushing from his mouth. She'd busted his lip when he threatened to call the police. On another day a young homeless man followed a reporter in before the door closed and went from desk to desk politely panhandling until a security guard arrived and told him to leave before he threw him out.

Yet another time I was heading home after a weekend day shift when I saw a security guard named Leroy, a brawny, jovial fellow, guarding our cars in the adjacent parking lot. We spoke for a few minutes before saying we'd see each other tomorrow. The next day I read the LA Times before heading to work and saw a story about a gunfight that had broken out on a transit bus the afternoon before. After one guy shot the other guy he jumped off the bus and fled to a parking lot, where he saw a uniformed security guard and opened fire on him. As I pulled into the parking lot Leroy smiled and said, "Hey, you just missed all the excitement." I asked if he was the security guard the guy was shooting at and he laughed and said yes, but the guy was a lousy shot.

Another thing about the local parking lots. After 5 p.m. all the pay ones became unstaffed so everybody working at that hour had to stop what they were doing, retrieve their cars and park them in the parking lot of a small bank building next door where Leroy and other security guards would protect them. If you didn't you risked having them broken into or even stolen. One time I had my trunk opened and its contents, which included a toolbox and snow chains, removed. I had recently arrived from Northern Nevada, where I sometimes needed the snow chains. The guy in charge of the lot said he had no idea who did it. I'm sure it was him, as I had to leave my keys there with him during the day. I asked him what he planned to do with snow chains in Southern California. He didn't reply and I never parked there again. We could only park in the bank parking lot, by the way, after the bank closed, and woe be to the newly arrived employee who didn't know that, especially if he or she parked in the bank manager's space. It would prompt the bank manager to angrily threaten to ban us all from the lot if it ever happened again, although she never did.

The day the Herald-Examiner folded I called a couple reporters I knew there to get quotes for the AP story and, from what I was told later, that was the day that Corky's, the dive bar Michele mentions, stopped running tabs for HerEx employees.

AP shared the top floor of the annex with folks from the Herald's classified and circulation departments. They were a very friendly bunch and I was sad to see them pack up and leave in the weeks that followed the newspaper's closure. After they left the Hearst Corporation made no visible effort to maintain the annex. As a result, the toilets started backing up and the elevator breaking down more frequently. I left in September 1990 for the General Desk in New York, and a few months later the AP moved the bureau about a mile away to its current and much nicer digs.

I returned to LA in 1999 and, until the pandemic sent us all home, worked there for 20 years.

Although everything in the current bureau building is much nicer, I do have to say that the HerEx annex did have a certain charm. At times you felt like you were right in the middle of a scene out of an old newspaper movie like "His Girl Friday," although I don't recall any of us dressing as well as Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell did in that film.

Worked for AP in early career
**Nikki Finke, Veteran Entertainment
 Journalist and Deadline Founder, Dies at 68**



In an AP News Special for AMs May 14, Moscow's Nikki Finke reported on Russia's street gangs and why the young members are beginning to wonder whether this is what they really want.



FINKE

(1979 image, courtesy, AP Corporate Archives)

By **ABBEY WHITE**
 The Hollywood Reporter

Nikki Finke, the polarizing entertainment journalist who founded the website Deadline and wielded immense power by focusing an acerbic and unrelenting lens on

Hollywood, has died. She was 68.

Finke died Sunday in Boca Raton, Florida, following a prolonged illness, a family spokesperson told The Hollywood Reporter.

At L.A. Weekly, Finke headed its Deadline Hollywood Daily column from 2002-09. In 2006, she launched Deadline Hollywood Daily, an around-the-clock online version, and became a key source of news surrounding the 2007 WGA strike.

That year, The New York Times' Brian Stelter wrote that Finke's blog had "become a critical forum for Hollywood news and gossip, known for analyzing (in sometimes insulting terms) the behind-the-scenes maneuvering of moguls," with her reporting on the strike ultimately solidifying "her position as a Hollywood power broker."

Finke landed scoops with a cut-throat style that both impressed and incensed industry members. The late Brad Grey, then-chief executive of Paramount, told the Times a year after the Deadline blog launched that even with her in-your-face reporting style, her reach was to be respected. "Like it or not," he said, "everyone in Hollywood reads her."

In 2008, Elle magazine named her one of its 25 most influential women in Hollywood, and two years later, she was ranked 79th on Forbes' list of "The World's Most Powerful Women."

Read more [here](#). Shared by Pat Milton.

EDITOR'S NOTE: From her Wikipedia entry: Finke's first job after Wellesley was in New York congressman Ed Koch's Washington, D.C. office. According to Finke, she decided to become a reporter after seeing how Koch and his staff "would genuflect to journalists". Finke joined the Associated Press (AP) and covered Koch's successful 1977 New York City mayoral campaign, and worked on the AP's foreign desk at the New York City headquarters, Baltimore, Boston, Moscow, and London.

80-year-old Mr. Tay travels the Northwest by motorbike



Mr. Carl Robinson on a trip to the Northwest in September 2022. Source: Thanh Nien

By Pham Ba
Thanh Nien newspaper
Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

Although he has returned to Vietnam many times, Carl Robinson still exclaims excitedly: 'I love waking up in Vietnam with iced milk coffee!'

Mr. Carl Robinson - former war correspondent for the Associated Press in South Vietnam since the 1960s - celebrated his 80th birthday in Vietnam last September with friends and Mrs. Kim Dung, his wife, by traveling the Northwest mountains.

"Late April 1975. We waited to see who would lead South Vietnam after President Nguyen Van Thieu resigned and left the country. I asked Big Minh whether he would accept the presidency or not, but he didn't answer. He evaded...", Carl Robinson recalled the moment he took his last job as an AP journalist, when interviewing General Duong Van Minh.

Mr. Carl Robinson and his family left Saigon in the last days of April 1975 and did not return until 20 years later. Since then, every year they have spent time visiting Vietnam. The recent Covid-19 outbreak made it impossible for Robinson and Kim Dung to return to Vietnam. About this time, on the occasion of his 80 birthday, Robinson and some friends made a "trip" to the Northwest by an ordinary motorbike in four days with a road of nearly 750 km.

Diary of a journey in the clouds

Although he has passed the age of 80, this "old West man" is still enthusiastic with his friends to make a "trip" to the Northwest by motorbike. On an old Yamaha Sirius

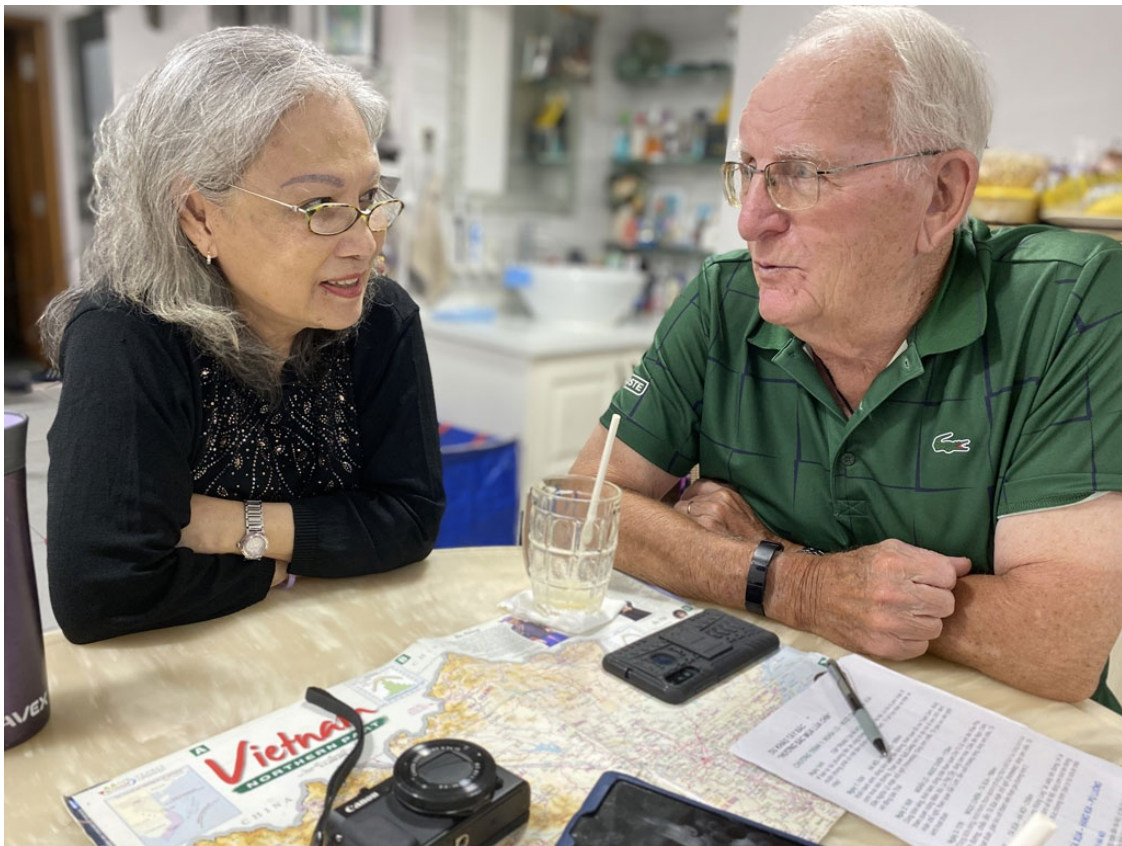
motorbike, the tour group rented from a motorbike shop, he persevered with them to overcome the zigzag and twisty roads on this route.

On the road, many young people driving large displacement motorcycles or car riders often look back or have the opportunity to stop together and run over to ask: "Oh, how old are you? Is it okay for you to go with this motorbike?". Robinson happily shared with them: "Everything is wonderfully normal. In front of the high mountains, we walked in the clouds, from early morning and rested when it was dark. Just a little bit numb in the shoulder, but now it's fine." Once a resident AP reporter in Vietnam and a Vietnamese son-in-law, Mr. Robinson speaks Vietnamese quite fluently.



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!



The wife with the most beautiful smile in Go Cong of Mr. Nam

Turning life direction for Go Cong girl

Mr. Carl Robinson considers Vietnam a part of his life, perhaps from the wife he had to work very hard to marry. Mrs. Kim Dung, 74, Mr. Robinson's wife, calls him by his Vietnamese name, "Mr. Nam". Since then, his friends both Western and Vietnamese often call him "uncle Nam" or "Mr. Nam". Mr. Nam can listen and speak Vietnamese to communicate and is always interested in learning new words whenever he hears Vietnamese people "talking" in Vietnamese.

Mrs. Kim Dung shared: "Mr Nam and I are the fate of each other's lives. In 1964, I was still a high school student in Go Cong, Dinh Tuong province, now Tien Giang. At that time, Mr. Nam worked for USAID (American international social security organization) Vietnam branch. I did not dare to look at him when I met him! But he said he's been in love with me ever since because I have the most beautiful smile in Go Cong and speak English well!". Mr. Carl affectionately looked at his wife telling the story and agreed: "She is still the most beautiful in Go Cong".

The relationship of Mr. Nam and Mrs. Dung experienced many difficulties. They said that at that time Vietnamese women who married American men were discriminated

against. "When we got to Saigon, there were death threats. When I was in the countryside, my father would definitely not allow me to get married, but fortunately, Nam's reputation for building bridges, repairing houses, and distributing food to the poor people of Go Cong was well known. Thanks to that, my father agreed. On the day of the wedding, I was still afraid that my father would change his mind, so when I did the ceremony to bow to my parents, I kept crying. Nam saw that he didn't understand anything, so he immediately bowed down and prostrated himself for fear of not being able to get married again," Mrs. Dung recalled.

After the wedding, Mr. Nam took Mrs. Dung back to Saigon and he quit his job at USAID, transferred to work as a reporter for the AP news agency from 1969 until he left Saigon in 1975. Until his return to Vietnam was full of events. In this novelty, Carl always calls his wife's hometown a second home. When asked by Mrs. Dung if she wanted to move back in, Carl said that he would come back, and where his wife was, he was there.

Although both Mr. Carl and Mrs. Dung do not hold Vietnamese citizenship, they both want to return to Vietnam to reunite with their family and friends who have been with them for more than half a century.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Stories of interest

New Hampshire journalist James Foley honored with memorial statue at hometown church (WMUR)



By TROY LYNCH

ALTON, N.H. — A memorial service was hosted by late journalist James Foley's hometown church Sunday to honor his legacy.

Although Foley was killed eight years ago by Islamic State fighters, the church he grew up going to will now forever remember his legacy.

“He just would've been profoundly humbled by this gesture,” said Diane Foley, James Foley's mother.

To honor the slain journalist and Wolfeboro native, St. Katharine Drexel Church, where James Foley grew up going to, unveiled a memorial outside its facility.

“We wanted to do something so we would never forget that he's a member of us and he's part of our family,” said Father Bob Cole, pastor at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church.

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

-0-

Grace Glueck, 96, Dies; Arts Writer Fought for Equality at The Times (New York Times)

By Joseph Giovannini

Grace Glueck, a transformative journalist who broke new ground by making the art world a distinct beat at The New York Times, and who then helped bring an important sex-discrimination lawsuit against the paper, her employer of more than 60 years, died on Saturday at her home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. She was 96.

Her stepdaughter Susan Freudenheim confirmed the death.

In more than 3,000 crisply written, sometimes contentious articles for The Times, Ms. Glueck (pronounced gluck) approached art as a reporter rather than as a critic, effectively inventing the art beat at the newspaper and inspiring other newsrooms across the county to make it a journalistic standard.

Her news articles, interviews and profiles, filled with revelatory fact and often laced with wit, became a staple of the paper's coverage of the visual arts in New York in during the 1960s and '70s in particular, a fertile and tumultuous period in which she began uncovering fractures in the glamorous white box of that art world.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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The Sun-Times' new chapter: Our digital content is now free for everyone

By Nykia Wright, Jennifer Kho and Celeste LeCompte

In recent years, Chicago has proven its reputation as an exceptional news town — one in which residents care passionately about its future and invest in its success. Our city has become known as a hub of innovation for local news. This year alone we've seen a number of great examples: City Bureau's Documenters program, which trains people to document public meetings, is expanding nationally. Block Club Chicago is building an investigative reporting team. South Side Weekly and the Hyde Park Herald merged to form a South Side-focused nonprofit newsroom.

And in January, the Chicago Sun-Times became a nonprofit newsroom as part of Chicago Public Media.

The nation is watching what happens here to see whether Chicago can be a model for how to defend and rebuild local news. And it's all thanks to you, the people of Chicago.

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

Today in History – Oct. 10, 2022



Today is Monday, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2022. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 10, 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

On this date:

In 1911, Chinese revolutionaries launched an uprising that led to the collapse of the Qing (or Manchu) Dynasty and the establishment of the Republic of China.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-Black cast, opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 124 performances.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy, responding to the Thalidomide birth defects crisis, signed an amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act requiring pharmaceutical companies to prove that their products were safe and effective prior to marketing.

In 1964, entertainer Eddie Cantor, 72, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1966, the Beach Boys' single "Good Vibrations" by Brian Wilson and Mike Love was released by Capitol Records.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion, and resigned his office.

In 1981, funeral services were held in Cairo for Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, who had been assassinated by Muslim extremists.

In 1985, U.S. fighter jets forced an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (ah-KEE'-leh LOW'-roh) to land in Italy, where the gunmen were taken into custody. Actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70; actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

In 1997, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator, Jody Williams, were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 2001, U.S. jets pounded the Afghan capital of Kabul. President George W. Bush unveiled a list of 22 most-wanted terrorists, including Osama bin Laden.

In 2004, Christopher Reeve, the "Superman" of celluloid who became a quadriplegic after a May 1995 horse riding accident, died in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 52.

In 2014, Malala Yousafzai (mah-LAH'-lah YOO'-suhf-zeye), a 17-year-old Pakistani girl, and Kailash Satyarthi (KY'-lash saht-YAHR'-thee), a 60-year-old Indian man, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for risking their lives for the right of children to receive an education and to live free from abuse.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama conceded he did poorly the previous week in his first debate with Republican rival Mitt Romney, telling ABC he'd "had a bad night"; Romney, meanwhile, barnstormed battleground state Ohio and released a new commercial pledging not to raise taxes. Football star-turned-actor Alex Karras died in Los Angeles at age 77.

Five years ago: The U.S. soccer team failed to qualify for the World Cup, eliminated with a 2-1 loss to Trinidad and Tobago; it ended a run of seven straight U.S. appearances at soccer's showcase event. A flood of new allegations poured in against movie executive Harvey Weinstein, including testimonies from Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. Reacting to reports that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had called him a "moron" after a classified briefing, President Donald Trump challenged Tillerson to "compare IQ tests;" the White House insisted Trump was only joking.

One year ago: After the first direct talks between U.S. officials and Afghanistan's new Taliban leaders, the Taliban said the U.S. had agreed to provide humanitarian aid while

refusing to give political recognition to the new rulers; the U.S. said only that the two sides had discussed the provision of U.S. humanitarian aid to the Afghan people. After more than 18 months of pandemic delays, Daniel Craig's final James Bond film, "No Time to Die," was the top earner at the box office on its opening weekend, grossing \$56 million in North America.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Coyote is 81. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 76. Actor Charles Dance is 76. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 74. Actor Jessica Harper is 73. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 72. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 69. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 68. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 64. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 64. Actor Julia Sweeney is 63. Actor Bradley Whitford is 63. Musician Martin Kemp is 61. Actor Jodi Benson is 61. Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 59. Actor Rebecca Pidgeon is 57. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is 55. Rock musician Mike Malinin (mah-LIHN'-ihn) (Goo Goo Dolls) is 55. Pro Football Hall of Famer Brett Favre is 53. Actor Manu Bennett is 53. Actor Joelle Carter is 53. Actor Wendi McLendon-Covey is 53. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 49. Retired race car driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 48. Actor Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 44. Singer Mya is 43. Actor Dan Stevens is 40. Singer Cherie is 38. MLB outfielder Andrew McCutchen is 36. Actor Rose Mclver is 34. Actor Aimee Teegarden is 33.

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!

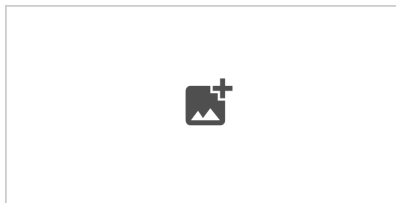


Here are some suggestions:

- **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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