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Connecting

Dec. 7, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Dec. 7, 2022,

Connecting brings you sad news of the death of our colleague **Stephen Kent**, whose 51-year career in journalism got its start with The Associated Press.

Kent died Nov. 26 at the age of 80, according to his wife **Dolores Kent**, who said his passing was peaceful, surrounded by family.

Kent worked for the AP from 1969-74 – starting in the Seattle bureau, then a move to Olympia, back to Seattle and then Baltimore. In November of 1971, his wife said, "He took the phone call that announced the hijacking of an airplane on Thanksgiving Evethat turned out to be DB Cooper!"

If you have a favorite memory of working with Steve, please send it along.

We bring you first responses to our call for your experiences in putting out an Extra edition following a major news event. Hope you share yours...

Related to Extras: Today is the 81St anniversary of the <u>Japanese bombing of Pearl</u> <u>Harbor</u>, thrusting the United States into World War II. My dad was managing editor of the Brainerd (Minn.) Daily Dispatch at the time, and later that Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7, 1941, the small daily published a rare Special Edition. About three months later, dad entered the U.S. Army and spent the next three years in combat in the European Theatre.

One more birthday note from <u>Larry Margasak</u> relating to our newsletter: "It occurs to me that on your birthday and every day, you are giving us a present rather than the other way around. I'm obviously referring to Connecting in our mailboxes each morning. Thank you."

Maybe it was the Black Friday effect, but a recent rash of additions to our readership has pushed Connecting over the 1,800 reader mark. Thank you for the support, and a welcome to newbies.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Stephen Kent, who devoted 51 years of his life to journalism, dies at 80

Stephen Kent of Indio, California and Middletown, Delaware died peacefully at home on Saturday November 26, 2022, after nearly 81 full years of life and a relative brief decline. Steve will be remembered by all who knew him as a loving husband, nurturing father, insightful journalist and all-around gentleman.

Steve was born to Edward M. and Elizabeth R. Kent in Baltimore, MD. His father's U.S. Coast Guard career led to a peripatetic childhood that had him moving from coast-to-coast and sometimes up and down the coasts. The family eventually settled in Seattle, WA where Steve attended and graduated from Seattle Prep. Steve attended Santa Clara University where he discovered and honed his love of journalism; met the group of self-described ne'er-do-wells known as the Machiavellian Society who would be his lifelong friends; and served as the assistant editor of the Santa Clara paper.

Graduating from Santa Clara, Steve began a 51-year career in journalism, first with the Associated Press, then with individual newspapers in cities across the country. His career led him to cover big stories, such as the D.B. Cooper hijacking and Spiro Agnew's resignation, but not the big one that got away. The day Mount Saint Helens erupted, blanketing the town he lived in under a couple of feet of volcanic ash, he was on a plane to his next job. Can't report'em all!

His journalism career created a life that was as on-the-move as his childhood with jobs in Olympia, WA, Seattle, Baltimore, Albany, NY., Yakima, WA, Dubuque, IA, and Omaha, NE. before returning to Seattle. At his side for 56 years was his beloved wife Dolores. They met because Steve's best friend happened to be her college



chemistry TA. After a first date in October, they got engaged on the following Valentine's Day and married that August—and never looked back.



• GOVERNOR DAN EVANS OF WASHINGTON STATE RECEIVES AP BOOK. Gov. Evans (I.) said he was glad to get a copy of "Footprints on the Moon," especially for his three boys. Presentation was made by Olympia AP Correspondent Dale Evans (2nd from I.). Two at right are AP Newsmen Bill Mertena and Stephen Kent.

1969 photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

A man of deep faith, a mid-life career shift saw Steve move from secular to Catholic publishing, serving as editor of the *Catholic Voice* in Omaha, NE, and the *Northwest Progress* in Seattle. Not content to live his faith, he wanted to understand it better and went back to school and earned a masters in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University.

Steve was an award-winning Catholic journalist and would return home every year from the Catholic Press Association awards with an arm full of trophies for stories that he shaped as an editor, as well as for work that he wrote. As a Catholic journalist he traveled to Haiti, Guatemala, Mexico, and Jordan, among other places, to report on, and call attention to, the less fortunate and neglected peoples—particularly children—in these regions. He was also fortunate enough to travel to Rome and meet His Holiness, St. John Paul II.

After retiring in 2014, Steve was able to focus on a lot of things in life that did not go well: his golf game, the Seattle Mariners, the pre-Russell Wilson Seattle Seahawks. What he took particular joy in (in addition to the Russell Wilson-led Seahawks) was playing family patriarch to his three children Christopher (Rachel), Erin (John), and Nicholas (Erin) and his five adored grandchildren, Owen, Brendan, Molly, Alice, and Violet.

Always interested in flying, Steve in retirement served as docent-guide at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, imparting his love of planes and flying in answering questions of the children (and adults) who visited the museum. But he did not just talk about planes, he also rode on them. Post-retirement travel saw him and Dolores visiting China, England, Greece, and France.

Retiring to California allowed him to avoid the depressingly short winter days of the Pacific Northwest, and he was often teased by his son Christopher for being partially Druid, as his favorite day of the year was December 20/21, after which the days began to get longer again.

All the days seem long now, but we know it will be a short time until we all see Steve again.

A memorial service will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic church, Middletown, DE on January 28, 2023 at 11 am, preceded by a visitation at the church at 10am. Donations can be made to the Santa Clara University Department of Communications.

On Extra Editions

<u>Carl P. Leubsdorf</u> - Six weeks after I became Washington Bureau Chief of The Dallas Morning News, President Ronald Reagan was shot as he walked out of the Washington Hilton Hotel in downtown Washington. The shooter was identified as John Hinckley, who had grown up in the Dallas area.

Eager to show how we were transforming the once sleepy paper, Executive Editor (later Publisher) Burl Osborne decided to publish an Extra, the first one since President John F. Kennedy was shot on the streets of Dallas 18 years earlier.

As a 15-year veteran of The Associated Press, where Burl had been Managing Editor, writing breaking copy was one of my skills. Our bureau eagerly joined the project, though we were still in transition from the staff I inherited to the one I was building. I dispatched our new economics reporter, Anne Swardson, to the White House and holdover Barbara Strong to GW Hospital, where Reagan was undergoing surgery. Jim Landers, on his first day as our new energy reporter, did some police checks. And I cobbled together as quickly as I could the main story, drawing on what I was watching on television and the reporting of our staff. My new deputy, Janet Battaile, was not in the bureau that day, but for a very good reason. She was travelling with Vice President George Bush, en route to some planning conferences in Dallas. So we lucked out on that one.

The extra hit the streets of Dallas in late afternoon, and copies were quickly gobbled up. The next morning, as it became evident Reagan would survive (although the severity of his wounds was only made evident long afterwards), we put out a second extra. That one was so eagerly snatched up that none of us even have copies of it. It was a great way to show how we were transforming the paper. And also a lot of fun.

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<u>John Bolt</u> - The only extra I was ever involved with came on Jan. 20, 1981, when I worked on a small PM daily (remember those?) in Anderson, SC. For those who don't recognize the date, it was the day Americans taken hostage in Iran were released AND Ronald Reagan's first inauguration – both of which were happening virtually simultaneously.

I was news editor of the paper, and we were going back and forth on what was the lead story – clearly dependent on the AP for the story, we prepped two front pages because it wasn't clear which would happen first – or if the hostages were actually going to be released. (For context, the Iranians didn't want to release the hostages while Jimmy Carter was still president.)

The news that the hostages were in the air leaving Iran came just in time to allow us to lead the paper with it.

Our headline, as big as we could get it, was "They're free!"

Some circulation folks grabbed a bunch of copies and actually went downtown to street corners and hawked them just like you see in old movies. I'm not sure if they shouted, "Extra, extra. Read all about it," but they may have.

But much to our chagrin, some of the would-be buyers misunderstood the headline.

They thought the newspapers were free! SMH (see, I can exist in both worlds.)

Connecting mailbox

Hey, that's me!

<u>Arthur Max</u> - Thanks to Neal Ulevich for highlighting the AP character in the Booker prize-winning novel The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida. Set in Sri Lanka in 1990 when I was South Asia news editor (later COB) covering the Sinhalese-Tamil civil war, I was delighted when I first encountered our fictional reporter. HEY, THAT'S ME, I said. As the pages turned, however, he emerged as a thoroughly unsavory character selling arms to both sides in the conflict and, as Neal pointed out, never filing a story. I don't think Mr Karunatilaka did the AP brand any favors in his story. Still, it was a good read!

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Use of Morse Code in newspapers

Steve Paulson - It was great to see the discussion on the use of Morse Code by newspapers. I got my amateur radio license three decades ago, and recently upgraded to my Extra license, the top tier in ham radio, after I retired. It was a grueling test that involved a lot of complex math, including imaginary numbers like the square root of -1, which does not exist in real math, because it tells us how our antennas are working. The test is hard because we operate next to the police, aircraft and fire bands, and a bad transmitter or antenna can knock them off the air.

We still use the Morse Code signals for 73 (Best Wishes) and 30 (End of Transmission) that were developed by railroads in the 1850s because long conversations on CW are tedious and the Q codes are short and sweet. We even have our own version of LOL. It's Hi Hi, or dit dit dit _ dit dit, which sounds like Shave and a Haircut, Two Bits.

It is a great hobby and I am learning a lot about geography. In the past month, I have communicated with Banaba Island, which is a coral reef in the South Pacific, Slovenia, Indonesia and a place called the Kingdom of Eswatini. Yes, there is such a place, it was previously called Swaziland. This is not CB radio, and hams are a great bunch of people. If police radios get knocked out by a tornado, we take our radios to them and set up our towers. We chase tornadoes because the National Weather Service needs real time information when a tornado touches down. We have a network of antennas across Colorado because some people do not have cell towers, and it is monitored around the clock for emergency traffic. During Hurricane Ian, the Federal Communications Commission used two of our frequencies so people could call for help and talk to their families. We can bounce radio signals off the moon, talk to the International Space Station and communicate using satellites. It is a great hobby, so I'll say 73 and QRT, which is Bye Bye for Now. This is KBOKUC with my XYL, my wife Torrey, KBOKWS. (I know it's sexist, XYL is ex-young lady in Morse Code, Hi Hi).

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On objective journalism in Ukraine

<u>Dan Perry</u> - I participated in an interesting TV discussion Tuesday about the role of media in covering the Ukraine war, with (anti-regime) Russian journalist Maxim Katz and Ukrainian journalist Irina Matviyishyn. The discussion was sparked by Latvia's punitive actions against Rain TV – a dissident Russian state in exile – for what was perceived as a pro-Russian report.

I argued against the shut-down – but also urged my very passionate colleagues to try to maintain a reasonable degree of professional journalism, if only to maintain credibility. I advocated for maintaining the fine but clear line between reportage, analysis and opinion.

I was struck by Irina's dispassionately rendered yet rather sharp response: "I just invite everyone who likes to speak about not taking any sides to live nine months under missiles and working from shelters and working during air raid alerts. It's easy to speak and they should take into account who is the aggressor and who is the victim and blurring lines is not helping anyone and is not helping journalism."

See the video here.

More of your favorite journalism movies

<u>Lelieu Browne</u> - Having read the list of favorite journalists' movies that our Connecting colleagues pointed out as their favorites, I cannot help but add one of my own, Roman Holiday.

In general, these journalists' movies represented the mood of the period and journalists and foreign correspondents needed to contribute their experiences and personal trauma in books for history. Movie makers fictionalized these books to include romance and actions for the purpose of entertainment.

Roman Holiday was made during the time when Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II, had to give up marrying her beloved Captain Philip Townsend, (I forgot his true title and full name,) because he was a divorced common citizen.

The movie was about an American journalist, Ed Bradley, working in Rome, who failed to cover Her Royal Highness, from some unnamed country, visit. He lied to his editor to cover up he overslept that day. When shown the newspaper with the Princess' picture and the announcement of her sickness, Bradley realized that the princess was the woman whom he reluctantly took to his apartment the night before thinking that she was homeless. He turned around and parlayed with his editor that he could provide all the details of the princess' agenda of that day.

Once Bradley recognized that she was really the princess, he and his friend photographer pursued her and offered to be her guide of the day. I don't need to tell more as "Roman Holiday," has been showing since 1960s up to recently.

"Roman Holiday" is a comedy and a farce vaguely based on the scandals that turned Princess Margaret to cause-celebre for decades. She ended up marrying the Court Photographer whose name I forgot. The movie ended as anybody can guess. The

Princess remains Princess and Ed Bradley silently and lonely stares in space after she leaves the conference room.

Would any journalist encounter in such a situation be willing to give up reporting the event for the love of the princess? And lose the big bonus and fame? Or humbly accept his fate?

P.S.: Malcolm, my husband, met Princess Margaret in London during one of these ceremonies during his Pulitzer Prize promotion that AP organized. Asked what his impression of her was. "She is very beautiful."

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<u>Jim Carrier</u> - I happened upon, and highly recommend, The Bang Bang Club, free on Prime Video. Based on the story of four white photographers who covered the final days of apartheid in South Africa.

Two of them won Pulitzer Prizes, including the unforgettable shot of a starving child being stalked by a buzzard in Sudan.

The movie is based on a book by two of the shooters, Greg Marinovich and Joao Silva.

The buzzard shot by Kevin Carter was roundly criticized as poverty porn, and four months later Carter committed suicide.

Welcome to Connecting



Veronique Foucault

Frank Griffiths

Bart Jones

Stories of interest

The trial kept a courtroom artist sketching. (New York Times)

Lola Fadulu

Jane Rosenberg, a sketch artist, sat alone on the 15th floor of the Manhattan State Supreme Court building on Tuesday evening after the verdict in the Trump Organization trial was reached. She had produced three sketches on Tuesday alone and said she felt happy and relieved that the case was over.

Ms. Rosenberg — who has been a sketch artist in New York City since 1980, and got her start at 100 Centre St., the same courthouse where the trial took place — said this proceeding stood out from others.

"There wasn't a famous star of the show that I had to nail a likeness," she said. "It wasn't like a Hollywood actor — like I did Kevin Spacey, and that was terrifying," she said. She also sketched Harvey Weinstein during his sexual assault trial, which was held in the same courtroom.

Read more here.

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A Mental Health Guide for Journalists Facing Online Violence (International Women's Media Foundation)

Online violence is often only considered a digital safety issue, but the impact of online abuse on journalists' mental health is significant and has serious consequences for them, their work, and for press freedom. This is particularly true for women and diverse journalists who are disproportionately targeted by online attacks.

The culture of silence around online violence and mental health has made it difficult for journalists to get long-term practical help. A Mental Health Guide for Journalists Facing Online Violence was created with the needs of journalists in mind by mental health professionals specialized in working in trauma and the media. The guide:

Helps journalists understand the psychological reasons why abusers attack online and how to take steps to better protect their mental health

Provides a mental health self-evaluation chart so journalists can assess how online violence is affecting their wellbeing

Provides easy-to-implement, downloadable exercises to help manage the mental health toll of online abuse

Suggests resources and organizations that can support journalists with issues related to online violence

Read more **here**. Shared by Linda Deutsch.

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Latvia Hosted Russian Journalists in Exile. Then Their Loyalties Were Questioned (New York Times)

By Anatoly Kurmanaev

The outbreak of the Ukraine war left journalists at Russia's most prominent independent television channel with a stark choice: risk arrest because of a new government ban on their work, stop reporting or leave the country.

And so journalists at the channel, TV Rain, joined hundreds of Russian peers in exile. Eventually, they settled in neighboring Latvia, where they continued to counter the Kremlin's propaganda and denounce its aggression to millions of viewers back home.

On Tuesday, however, days after a correspondent made an unscripted call to provide unspecified aid to Russian soldiers, the Latvian media regulator revoked the channel's broadcasting license because of what it called "threats to national security." As Latvian and Ukrainian authorities accuse the station of supporting Russia's war effort, TV Rain is now engulfed in the biggest crisis of its turbulent 12-year history.

The controversy, which also cost the journalist his job, has also exposed how Russian political exiles are struggling to find a role in the conflict unleashed by their nation, particularly in Eastern European states like Latvia, which were once controlled by Moscow. In these countries, support for Ukraine is partly driven by fears of Russian aggression and suspicion of their own ethnic Russian minorities, and it plays out against a historical backdrop of hardships endured under the Soviet Union.

Read more **here**. Shared by Dennis Conrad, Michael Rubin.

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More newspapers consider a pivot to postal delivery to cut costs and ease headaches (Poynter)

By: Greg Burns

This article was originally published on Northwestern University's Medill Local News Initiative website and is republished here with permission.

Switching newspaper delivery from costly carriers to the U.S. Postal Service seemed like a no-brainer for Jordan Brechenser, president and publisher of Vermont News and Media. But things quickly got complicated, and that was before a local postmaster

obtained an order of protection and moved to a new post office after a confrontation in a local bar.

The decline of print journalism has left penny-pinching publishers with fewer and fewer levers to pull. Stepping back from carriers last year enabled Brechenser to increase staff and pursue his mission of covering local news in southern Vermont. His advertisers were on board, too.

Brechenser figured out how to obtain a postal permit, label and assemble the newspapers by mail route and drop them off in individual totes before 6 a.m. at local post offices, so they could arrive in readers' mailboxes that same day.

Read more <u>here</u>. Shared by Mike Holmes.

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Facebook parent Meta threatens to remove news from platform (AP)

By The Associated Press

Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. said Tuesday it will be "forced to consider" removing news content from its platform if Congress passes legislation requiring tech companies to pay news outlets for their material.

The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, if passed, would allow news companies to collectively negotiate with social platforms over the terms on which their material appears on their sites.

Meta said it would rather pull news from its platforms than "submit to government-mandated negotiations that unfairly disregard the value we provide to news outlets." The value, Meta said in a statement tweeted by spokesman Andy Stone, includes "increased traffic and subscriptions."

Meta, which is based in Menlo Park, California, has taken similar stands in the past. Last year, it briefly blocked news from its platform in Australia after the country passed legislation that would compel tech companies to pay publishers for using their news stories. It later struck deals with Australian publishers.

Read more here.

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Dominique Lapierre, French author and journalist, dies at 91 (AP)

NICE, France (AP) — French writer Dominique Lapierre, who was celebrated for his novels about the World War II struggle to liberate Paris and depicting a life of hardship

in a Kolkata slum, has died. He was 91.

Lapierre died Friday, a local newspaper in southern France reported Monday, citing an interview with the author's wife, Dominique Conchon-Lapierre.

She told the Var Matin newspaper that Lapierre died "of old age" and that she was "at peace because (her husband) is no longer suffering."

French Culture Minister Rima Abdul Malak praised Lapierre as an author and journalist whose travels around the world - from Mexico to India, New York City to Jerusalem – made him an "eyewitness of the 20th century" and enriched his novels with facts.

"We have lost a great writer, who was generous in his texts and was generous in his life," Abdul Malak said in a statement.

Read more **here**. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

Today in History – Dec. 7, 2022



Today is Wednesday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2022. There are 24 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched an air raid on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as well as targets in Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines and Wake Island; the United States declared war against Japan the next day.

On this date:

In 1787, Delaware became the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1796, electors chose John Adams to be the second president of the United States.

In 1917, during World War I, the United States declared war on Austria-Hungary.

In 1963, during the Army-Navy game, videotaped instant replay was used for the first time in a live sports telecast.

In 1972, America's last moon mission to date was launched as Apollo 17 blasted off from Cape Canaveral.

In 1982, convicted murderer Charlie Brooks Jr. became the first U.S. prisoner to be executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas.

In 1988, a major earthquake in the Soviet Union devastated northern Armenia; official estimates put the death toll at 25-thousand.

In 2001, Taliban forces abandoned their last bastion in Afghanistan, fleeing the southern city of Kandahar.

In 2004, Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAHR'-zeye) was sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

In 2017, Democratic Sen. Al Franken said he would resign after a series of sexual harassment allegations; he took a parting shot at President Donald Trump, describing him as "a man who has bragged on tape about his history of sexual assault." Republican Rep. Trent Franks of Arizona said he would resign, after revealing that he discussed surrogacy with two female staffers.

In 2018, the man who drove his car into counterprotesters at a 2017 white nationalist rally in Virginia was convicted of first-degree murder; a state jury rejected defense arguments that James Alex Fields Jr. acted in self-defense.

In 2020, retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles "Chuck" Yeager, the World War II fighter pilot ace and quintessential test pilot who in 1947 became the first person to fly faster than sound, died at 97.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama asked Congress for \$60.4 billion in federal aid for New York, New Jersey and other states hit by Superstorm Sandy (lawmakers ended up passing a \$50.5 billion emergency relief measure in addition to a \$9.7 billion bill to replenish the National Flood Insurance Program).

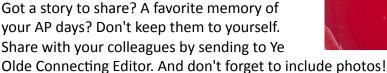
Five years ago: A white former South Carolina police officer, Michael Slager, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the fatal shooting of an unarmed black motorist, Walter Scott, in North Charleston in 2015. Demonstrators in the Gaza Strip burned U.S. flags and pictures of President Trump, and Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli forces in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, after Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

One year ago: During a video call lasting more than two hours, President Joe Biden warned Russia's Vladimir Putin that a Russian invasion of Ukraine would bring sanctions and enormous harm to the Russian economy. A major outage in Amazon's cloud computing network severely disrupted services at a wide range of U.S. companies for more than five hours, impacting everything from airline reservations and auto dealerships to payment apps and video streaming services.

Today's Birthdays: Linguist and political philosopher Noam Chomsky is 94. Bluegrass singer Bobby Osborne is 91. Actor Ellen Burstyn is 90. Broadcast journalist Carole Simpson is 82. Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench is 75. Actor-director-producer James Keach is 75. Country singer Gary Morris is 74. Singer-songwriter Tom Waits is 73. Sen. Susan M. Collins, R-Maine, is 70. Basketball Hall of Famer Larry Bird is 66. Actor Priscilla Barnes is 65. Former "Tonight Show" announcer Edd (cq) Hall is 64. Rock musician Tim Butler (The Psychedelic Furs) is 64. Actor Patrick Fabian is 58. Actor Jeffrey Wright is 57. Actor C. Thomas Howell is 56. Actor Kimberly Hébert Gregory (TV: "Kevin (Probably) Saves the World") is 50. Producer-director Jason Winer is 50. Former NFL player Terrell Owens is 49. Rapper-producer Kon Artis is 48. Pop singer Nicole Appleton (All Saints) is 47. Latin singer Frankie J is 46. Country singer Sunny Sweeney is 46. Actor Chris Chalk is 45. Actor Shiri Appleby is 44. Pop-rock singer/celebrity judge Sara Bareilles (bah-REHL'-es) is 43. Actor Jennifer Carpenter is 43. Actor Jack Huston is 40. MLB first baseman Pete Alonso is 28.

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.





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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