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Connecting Dec. 8, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Dec. 8, 2022,

The 200-word AP story relayed news that a group of small newspapers in northwest Kansas had been sold.

It was a blip on the screen amidst the major events of the world – but a really big deal for the readers whom **Steve** and **Cynthia Haynes** had served for four decades.

I knew the Haynes' from the time I moved to Kansas City as chief of bureau in 1984. A few of their papers were AP members. They remain friends – and Connecting colleagues – to this day. They authored a farewell to their readers that is presented in today's Final Word. A great reminder of what a newspaper means to a community.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Steve Kent remembered as positive, principled editor

John Brewer - Steve Kent was a positive, principled editor. He was gracious, patient and good-humored -- and my good friend.

We met when he was managing editor of the Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic. I was the young Seattle AP bureau chief, in charge of news and AP sales for Washington state and part of Idaho.

Steve's wry wit, integrity and enthusiasm enriched not only his newspaper and its readers but also our friendship.

He had a deep respect for AP and talked about the lessons he had learned as an AP newsman.

He was committed to fairness and ethics. He lived true to his beliefs. He was the perfect AP member.

Both AP and UPI had served the Herald-Republic for more than 50 years.

But now it was the late 1970s, and costs were rising at the newspaper. The publisher decided the newspaper could afford only one general news service. Your pick, the publisher told Steve.

Steve's response? He shut down his preferences for AP. He stood aside and had the AP and UPI state-national-international news reports carefully -- and objectively --



evaluated for several weeks by the Herald-Republic's editors.

There was a long list of performance categories, from who was consistently first on breaking news stories to evaluating the value of individual stories to Yakima area readers.

The winner would stay. The losing news service would be booted out. May the best news service win!

In those days UPI was still a very viable competitor, especially on the state level, and its price was no more than half that of AP.

Steve also threw in a curve and had us also measured against a third, dark-horse competitor, the Knight-Ridder News Service.

AP won . . . getting the highest marks and every one of the deciding votes from more than a dozen top editors.

In public I had applauded Steve's "unbiased and objective" process -- but I was secretly upset.

I had no doubt AP would win. But I was irked that Steve had decided to stay neutral, despite his background in AP, despite our solid friendship. I was in my mid-20s, and it seemed like a slap in the face.

But we had won.

It was a big win in a fair contest, and I realized that's what counted.

And maybe Steve always knew we would win. He had no comment when I asked him, only that the decision to go to one news service was too big to be just his call.

What was left of my petty irksomeness evaporated when Steve took me to the publisher's office.

The publisher handed me a letter immediately lifting the Herald-Republic's protective notice of cancellation.

UPI left the newspaper two months later.

Going to only one general news service, AP or UPI, to save money was a nationwide trend in the '70s and early '80s.

AP's victory at Yakima helped convince other two-service newspapers in Washington state that AP was the best pick, despite being more expensive. Several papers did similar head-to-head tests in the coming years, and we won them all.

The same results across the United States and internationally soon spelled doom for UPI.

Steve and I continued our friendship without a hitch. We stayed in touch over the years. He would call on me to be a judge for the annual Catholic Press Association awards contest.

When I turned 74 last year, I got a birthday note from him:

"You probably don't look a day over 50. Still have fond memories of the Seattle-Yakima days — work and fun . . ."

Less is Morse

<u>Neal Ulevich</u> - My old journalism teacher, Wilmot Ragsdale, long since passed, told the story of a time when the teleprinter had not yet taken over and most papers of any size had telegraphers to receive the incoming Morse newsfeed from AP and other sources. Morse sending is liable to human quirks just like anything else, and one

operator at the receiving end grew so angry with the unseen sender pounding the key in a distant city that he stood up, walked out the door, took a train to the Morse miscreant's location...and punched him out.

An aside: During the Vietnam War, Hanoi sent their screeds by radioteletype but also by Morse. AP Saigon monitored the Morse on the off chance something not otherwise reported might be available. We had a teletype puncher named Tam who was also an ace at receiving Morse. He would sit, earphones on, typing it all down. Until that day in December 1972 when his report simply said "No Signal Received." American B-52s, unleashed by Henry Kissinger to prod Hanoi back to negotiations, had blasted the Morse cast (and other transmissions) off the air.

Memories of Extra editions

<u>Adolphe Bernotas</u> - On Friday, Nov. 22, 1963, I was headed from the University of Connecticut at Storrs for a long weekend in Manhattan for jazz, opera and a good time with friends.

Somewhere around Hartford the AM radio, tuned to WDRC in my 1952 Hudson Hornet Special, broke in with a bulletin that President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas.

Near New York, WINS, at the time a key rock station, had the best information on the assassination. I anticipated the newspapers in the city would be printing extras. At age 22 I already was a news junkie – summer jobs at the Naugatuck (Conn.) Daily News and long hours at three UConn student publications, including the Daily Campus, and a paying job at the university flackshop.

Stationed myself at a news stand in Times Square and gathered enough extras to fill the back seat of the Hudson. New ledes from Dallas or Washington were covered in replated new extras, dropped in bundles at the kiosk.

My memory is a bit cloudy on which papers printed extras, but I believe I gathered many copies of Daily News, Daily Mirror, Journal-American, World-Telegram, Post, perhaps Herald Tribune. I don't recall the Times printing an extra.

During my several changes of address, some of those extras were lost. And when I sold the house in Concord a quarter-century ago, the attic had to be emptied and the newspapers ended up with Concord AP and Connecting colleague David Tirrrell-Wysocki. David had become director of the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications, a perfect home for the extras.

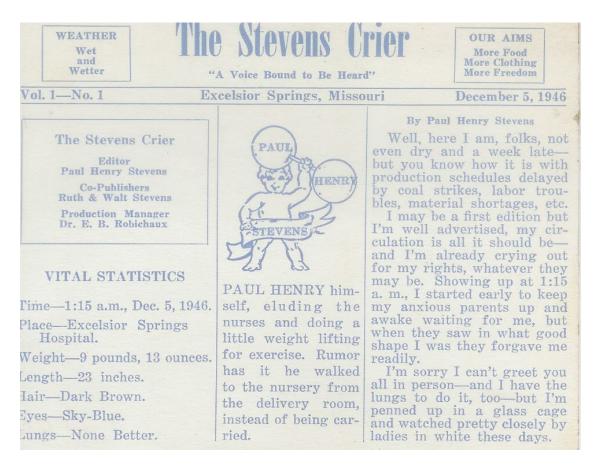
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<u>Alan Flippen</u> - I was involved in an Election Day extra in 2008. I wonder if it's the most recent one ever done.

I was working at the International Herald Tribune in Paris at the time, as one of the New York Times liaison editors there. The top editor, Marty Gottlieb, thought it would be good for morale and buzz to take advantage of the time difference -- Paris is six hours ahead of New York, so the election was called somewhere around 4:30 am local time. That made the Extra essentially a PMs edition of the paper. The few of us involved in the project arrived around 6, closed the paper around 9, and were on the streets by around noon.

I don't know how many copies were sold or whether many even noticed, but it was a thrill to be involved.

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Paul Stevens – I was a few days old when I was part of a Special Edition.

When you're born into a newspaper family, then birth announcements like the one above are not all that surprising. It was the first Special Edition for my mom and dad – he, at the time, just back from war and the new editor/publisher of the Excelsior Springs Standard in a suburb just north and east of Kansas City. They also gave me my first byline! It is a tradition they continued with my sister and brother, and one Linda and I continued with the birth of each of our three children.

Your favorite journalism movies

<u>Ed McCullough</u> - If someone mentioned this already, I missed it. Otherwise, The Shipping News, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Annie Proulx.

Kevin Spacey captures the woebegone drabness of the Poughkeepsie News typesetter almost but just not quite beaten down by life who reinvents himself without any

conscious plan to do so as a reporter for a Newfoundland newspaper run by an eccentric publisher who on the whole would rather be fishing.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Veronique Foucault

Frank Griffiths

Bart Jones

Stories of interest

New York Times journalists, other workers on 24hour strike (AP)

By ALEXANDRA OLSON

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of journalists and other employees at The New York Times began a 24-hour walkout Thursday, the first strike of its kind at the newspaper in more than 40 years.

Newsroom employees and other members of The NewsGuild of New York say they are fed up with bargaining that has dragged on since their last contract expired in March 2021. The union announced last week that more than 1,100 employees would stage a 24-hour work stoppage starting at 12:01 a.m. Thursday unless the two sides reach a contract deal.

The NewsGuild tweeted Thursday morning that workers, "are now officially on work stoppage, the first of this scale at the company in 4 decades. It's never an easy decision to refuse to do work you love, but our members are willing to do what it takes to win a better newsroom for all."

Negotiations took place Tuesday and some of Wednesday, but the sides remained far apart on issues including wage increases and remote-work policies.

Read more here. Shared by Ken Kusmer, Sibby Christensen.

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US court dismisses suit against Saudi prince in killing

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. federal judge on Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit against Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, bowing to the Biden administration's insistence that the prince was legally immune in the case.

District of Columbia U.S. District Judge John D. Bates heeded the U.S. government's motion to shield Prince Mohammed from the lawsuit despite what Bates called "credible allegations of his involvement in Khashoggi's murder."

A team of Saudi officials killed Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018. Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post, had written critically of the harsh ways of Prince Mohammed, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler.

The U.S. intelligence community concluded the Saudi crown prince ordered the operation against Khashoggi. The killing opened a rift between the Biden administration and Saudi Arabia that the administration has tried in recent months to close, as the U.S. unsuccessfully urged the kingdom to undo oil production cuts in a global market racked by the Ukraine war.

Read more here. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

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No one takes the lead after polls close. Let's stop saying that. (Washington Post

Analysis by Philip Bump

It has been a long time since I have seen the show "Survivor," but, the last time I did, each episode culminated in a bit of drama: host Jeff Probst slowly counting the votes that determined who would be booted off the show. Surrounded by flickering torchlight, Probst would pull out each vote, read the name and let the rest of the cast (and viewers at home) calculate who was at risk and who wasn't. Then the deciding vote, a bit of tumult and the credits.

Probst was deliberate about the vote-counting. He's described how he would order the votes to maximize tension. No point in making clear that the loser was going home with the first five votes, right? Gotta draw it out. The end results are the same, but you can heighten or dampen engagement simply by changing how you count them.

"Survivor" is a tightly edited television show intended to sell commercials by keeping the audience on the edge of their seats for a full hour. Journalists are not in the same business, so we should stop pretending that there is a back-and-forth jostling for a lead once the results of an election are being counted. Just as on "Survivor," the end results are the same no matter what. But by pretending one candidate is taking or losing a lead as vote counting moves forward, we reinforce a sense that those results are still fungible — and that, maybe, they're being manipulated.

Read more here. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Report: Killing of Pakistani journalist in Kenya 'planned' (AP)

By MUNIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The killing in Kenya of an outspoken Pakistani journalist was a "planned assassination," a team of Pakistani investigators said in a report released Wednesday, weeks after the mysterious slaying triggered condemnations and calls for an independent probe.

Meanwhile, Islamabad police charged two Pakistani businessmen living in Kenya who had hosted Arshad Sharif in the African country with involvement in his killing. The report offered no evidence for its claims and there was no immediate comment from Kenya.

The 50-year-old Sharif was hiding in Kenya to avoid arrest at home on charges of maligning Pakistan's national institutions — a phrase used for critics of the powerful military, which has ruled Pakistan for half of its 75-year history.

He was killed on Oct. 23, when the car he was in sped up and drove through a checkpoint outside the Kenyan capital and police opened fire. Nairobi police later expressed regret over the incident, saying it was a case of "mistaken identity" during a search for a similar car involved in a child abduction case.

Read more here. Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word

Looking back on a lifetime of service in newspapering



From left, Jesse Mullen, Cynthia and Steve Haynes, announce the sale of the newspapers with their staff over a video conference in Oberlin, Kansas.

From the AP wire:

OBERLIN, Kan. (AP) — Six northwestern Kansas newspapers and a shopper have been sold to brothers from Washington and Montana, The Oberlin Herald reported.

Jesse and Lloyd Mullen of Mullen Newspapers purchased The Herald, Colby Free Press, The Goodland Star-News, The Norton Star-Telegram, The St. Francis Herald, Bird City Times and The Country Advocate shopper from Steve and Cynthia Haynes, who are retiring after nearly 30 years with the newspapers.

The Mullen brothers said they were born into a newspaper family in Wyoming, and have bought and operated several newspapers in the western and northwestern U.S.

They named Frank Perea of Holyoke, Colorado, as publisher. Perea said he plans to move to northwestern Kansas in 2023.

The Hayneses, both 74, have been in the newspaper business for over 40 years and hope to spend more time with their family, the newspaper reported.

"We may do more traveling now," Mr. Haynes said, "but who knows?"

And their farewell message to readers:

By STEVE AND CYNTHIA HAYNES

How do you sum up 42 years of your life together, doing a job where your every product was exposed to the scrutiny of not the town, but of people all over the country, and these days all over the world?

Cynthia and I feel fortunate to have been able to do something we loved. To live and work in towns we have loved. To have gone places, met people and seen and done things that many do not get to experience.

We have loved our jobs, most days anyway. I suppose everyone has those days. Dealing with the public is seldom particularly easy, whether it's a reader, a customer or a public official with a problem.

It's never been that hard, either, especially because people here are pretty nice. That's one thing we noticed when we moved to Oberlin in 1993. People would walk across the street to introduce themselves, or maybe that was just Jay Anderson.

But northwest Kansas is a peaceable place. Murders tend to happen once or twice a century in any given county. Bar fights are just as rare. Hardly anyone locks their car – or their house.

I think we can be proud of what we accomplished in our 29 years here. We managed to put our newspapers into the top tier of small-town publications in Kansas, won many awards (not that those are important in and of themselves, but they show what other newspaper editors, in other states, thought of our work). And by our, I mean our entire staff.

We received national recognition for what we had accomplished here, again from other, distant newspaper people.

More than that, when we looked at the papers, we had a sense that we had made them better, had focused them on serving their towns and counties and that readers liked them.

We hope, moreover, that we were thought of as fair, as treating everyone, rich or poor, obscure or widely known, the same. People knew if we got a traffic ticket, our names would be in the paper just as theirs would.

We expected nothing less from public officials. Most of the time, I think we got it. Public administration in this part of the world is mostly fair and honest; it's done by people who want to do the right thing. That's good.

Cynthia pointed out that when we signed the papers to sell our newspapers on Thursday, Dec. 2, it was 42 years to the day that we bought our first paper, The Mineral County Miner and South Fork Tines (and no, that's not a typo; that's a pun) in tiny Creede, Colo. We were 32, and our kids ranged from 5 months to 6 years.

That was 1980. If you do the math, you'll know that today, those kids are 42, 45 and 48, and their parents are 74. It's not that we didn't love our jobs anymore, just that

we seemed to be tired much of the time, and we seemed to be working more and traveling less.

If we were going to have any retirement together, we realized, we had to get with it. We're not going anywhere, at least not right away. We do want to spend more time at our place in Creede, with our kids and especially with our grandkids in Arkansas. We still have a lot of places we haven't seen. Of all the travel we've done, only one trip has been to Europe. There's a lot of this country we haven't been to, either.

I like to tell people there are a lot of people I haven't met, a lot of books I haven't read, a lot of trails I haven't walked and a lot of fish I haven't caught.

So, time is fleeting. We're excited to get with it.

We'll be giving up a lot.

Being at the newspaper is like having a ringside seat for the affairs of the town, the state and the world. You get to meet people, and politicians seek you out. We've been fortunate enough to get to know some of the best public servants in the nation, including Congressman, later Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, and later Sen. Ken Salazar, then Secretary of the Interior Salazar, and his former boss, Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado come to mind. We met Gov. (and then Sen.) Ben Nelson of McCook, whom we ran into over the weekend. Gov. Dave Heineman of Nebraska and his wife Sally Ganem.

In Kansas, Congressman, later Sen. Jerry Moran, impressed us when he was in the Legislature. Rep. Tracey Mann we met when, barely out of K-State, he ran his first, losing statewide race.

In Washington, we met so many interesting people. I got to introduce Sen. Barak Obama, and former Sens. Bob Dole and John Kerry – my is he tall. With Sen. Dole, we got nearly two hours to talk about the old days in Kansas politics.

I never imagined myself, growing up, in one of those gilt-trimmed formal reception rooms where you see foreign leaders meet with people, but as president of the National Newspaper Association, I spent time in several with foreign ministers and most notably, the president of Taiwan.

Having to make a presentation to him without warning, I blame Allen Beerman for that. Allen is another story, for another day, all by himself.

And over all that time and travel, we met so many people, and made so many friends. None better, or more interesting, I have to say, than the ones we have here.

Then the adventures: I recall hiking up to watch an Army team recover a Pershing missile lost in the wilderness for something like 20 years, and flying one bitterly cold morning with the game warden and a crazed helicopter pilot to count the elk. You had to fly low to chase them out of the trees, you see. Then there was doing runway traction checks with the airport police when it snowed in Kansas City.

Cynthia got to wrestle mountain sheep one day – few people can say that – and she got to drive some of the first GM vehicles equipped with experimental antilock brakes on glare ice – just jam on the brake, the guy told her.

The people in our business we met, the friends we made, including Bill Snead of the Lawrence Journal-World, the Washington Post, one of the great news photographers and one of the nicest men you'd ever meet. Rick Atkinson, now a famous historian, but a star even when we worked together on the staff in Kansas City.

And there was the day I got to interview, after what seemed like weeks of negotiation with his wife, Thomas Hart Benton, the Kansas City painter. I had an hour with him in his studio, wrote three pages and wound up with two paragraphs in Newsweek. But what an hour.

All that is mostly behind us now, I suspect. What's to come should be just as interesting and just as much fun.

My Uncle Will had a pretty good career as an editor in Emporia. He figured out how to build a national brand in a day when magazine writers were as famous as television anchors in the 20th century. We never aspired to such heights, but in our own way, got at least a peek at the summit.

I hope we will be remembered as good stewards of your newspaper, and as good people who worked to do the right thing.

Today in History – Dec. 8, 2022



Today is Thursday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2022. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date:

In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1886, the American Federation of Labor was founded in Columbus, Ohio.

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1980, rock star and former Beatle John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by Mark David Chapman.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1991, AIDS patient Kimberly Bergalis, who had contracted the disease from her dentist, died in Fort Pierce, Florida, at age 23.

In 2001, the U.S. Capitol was reopened to tourists after a two-month security shutdown.

In 2008, in a startling about-face, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed told the Guantanamo war crimes tribunal he would confess to masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks; four other men also abandoned their defenses.

In 2011, the 161-day NBA lockout ended when owners and players ratified the new collective bargaining agreement.

In 2014, the U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to topple the Taliban-led government.

In 2016, John Glenn, whose 1962 flight as the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth made him an all-American hero and propelled him to a long career in the U.S. Senate, died in Columbus, Ohio, at age 95.

In 2020, the Supreme Court rejected Republicans' last-gasp bid to reverse Pennsylvania's certification of President-elect Joe Biden's victory in the electoral battleground; the court refused to call into question the certification process in the state.

Ten years ago: Police charged Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Josh Brent with intoxication manslaughter after he flipped his car in a pre-dawn accident that killed teammate Jerry Brown. (Brent was convicted in Jan. 2014 and sentenced to 180 days in jail; he was reinstated by the NFL in Sept. 2014.) Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.

Five years ago: Japanese pitching and hitting star Shohei Ohtani announced that he would sign with the Los Angeles Angels.

Connecting - Dec. 08, 2022

One year ago: With more than two dozen states poised to ban abortion if the U.S. Supreme Court were to give them the OK, California clinics and their allies in the state Legislature revealed a plan to make the state a "sanctuary" for those seeking reproductive care. President Joe Biden signed an executive order to make the federal government carbon-neutral by 2050, aiming for a 65% reduction in planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an all-electric fleet of car and trucks five years later. The number of Americans fully vaccinated against COVID-19 reached 200 million. Nearly 17 years after being sentenced to die, Scott Peterson was resentenced in California to life without parole for the Christmas Eve killing of his pregnant wife, Laci, in 2002. (The state Supreme Court found that Peterson's jury was improperly screened for bias against the death penalty.) Center-left leader Olaf Scholz became Germany's ninth post-World War II chancellor.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 83. Singer Jerry Butler is 83. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 81. Actor Mary Woronov is 79. Actor John Rubinstein is 76. Actor Kim Basinger (BAY'-sing-ur) is 69. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 66. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 65. Country singer Marty Raybon is 63. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 61. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 60. Actor Wendell Pierce is 59. Actor Teri Hatcher is 58. Actor David Harewood is 57. Singer Sinead (shih-NAYD') O'Connor (AKA Shuhada' Davitt) is 56. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 56. Baseball Hall of Famer Mike Mussina is 54. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 50. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 46. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 44. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 43. R&B singer Chrisette Michele is 40. Actor Hannah Ware is 40. Country singer Sam Hunt is 38. MLB All-Star infielder Josh Donaldson is 37. Rock singer-actor Kate Voegele (VOH'-gehl) is 36. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 33. NHL defenseman Drew Doughty is 33. Actor Wallis Currie-Wood is 31. Actor AnnaSophia Robb is 29.

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!



- 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.

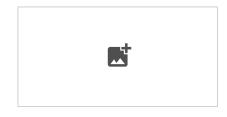
- Multigenerational AP families - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- 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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