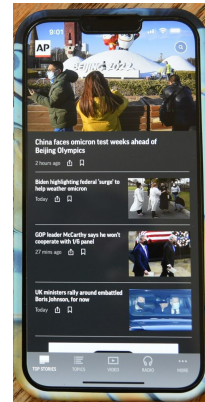


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Connecting

Dec. 20, 2022

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this Dec. 20, 2022,

A 27-year tradition of bringing holiday cheer to readers of AP member newspapers - begun just after the US entered World War II - is chronicled by our colleague **Francesca Pitaro**, archivist in AP Corporate Archives.

NewsFeature writer **Lucrece Hudgins Beale** was the author of the series which began in 1942.

Today's issue also brings some fond stories of our colleague **Jerry Schwartz**, retired recently after a 45-year AP career and profiled in Monday's Connecting.

One of journalism's shining stars, our colleague [George Stanley](#), is retiring as editor of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel at the end of the year. See lead item in Stories of Interest.

George is immediate past president of the News Leaders Association, formed with the combination of AP Media Editors and ASNE, and plans to remain active in journalism. He's long been an advocate for the AP.



He told me, "I am very worried about independent reporting in small cities, towns and rural areas. I just spoke at the Milwaukee Rotary Club about our role informing democracy, with some key examples, and was amazed afterward by how many people said they had never thought about how important journalism is to democracy before -- these were civic leaders and highly engaged people. We've got some work to do.

"I'm so happy to see AP getting involved in the renewal of local journalism that informs democracy because we're not going to keep our republic without it."

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

Santa Stories from the AP

SANTA and the SKEPTIC

© 1942 (A)

By LUCRECE HUDGINS
Chapter One

The Festival of The Fairies

ONCE in every century all of the fairies and wood sprites and hobgoblins and elves, and all of the spirits that inhabit the forests and the towns the wide world over, gather together for a five day Festival.

Sometimes it is held behind the East Wind and sometimes behind the West Wind. But the Festival I am telling you about was held right in the middle of a snow white cloud floating through the sky.

What a Festival it was! Positively *everybody* was there. There were ghosts and spooks and demons (all on their very best behavior, of course), as well as friendly little brownies and timid pixies. Only the Easter Bunny was absent and that was strange because he had never before been known to miss a Festival.

Father Time was there, resting himself in the very softest part of the cloud. He declared it was the nicest Festival (with the best food) he had been to in the past sixteen hundred years.

Mrs. Santa Claus and the Queen Fairy made pies and puddings and cream puffs by the hundreds over on a little side cloud that was being used as a kitchen. And the Seven Dwarfs washed dishes and licked out all the mixing bowls.

Three Hallowe'en witches, using their finest brooms, swept up the crumbs from beneath the banquet tables and didn't grumble a bit when Cupid dropped cigar ashes all over the cloud.

.....

SANTA CLAUS was the very gayest one at the party. He played tag with the littlest pixies. He borrowed a needle from Mrs. Claus and taught the spooks and ghosts how to wiggle through the needle's eye. He made all the lady fairies laugh till their sides



"I HAVE TERRIBLE NEWS", HE TOLD THEM.

ached when he took their Queen and danced a jig with her deep in the cloud.

Mrs. Claus told Will-of-the-Wisp she was glad Santa was having such a good time because it was the first vacation he'd had since the last Festival a hundred years ago.

When the sun went down at the end of the first day the little ones went to bed without fussing at all while the grown-ups sat around gossiping and talking about old times.

No one could have imagined that in a very short while all this peace and happiness would be shattered.

BUT at that very moment Easter Bunny was hurrying to the cloud and he was bringing terrible news. On his way to the Festival he had stopped overnight in the Kingdom of Poopo-Poona to visit with a family of moles he knew. And the moles had told him such distressing tales about certain goings-on in Poopo-Poona that Easter Bunny had had indigestion for ten days and three nights.

When he recovered he hurried on his way and arrived at the Festival at the end of the first day just as the grown-ups were yawning and *thinking* about turning in. Everyone was so glad to see the bunny that they got wide awake and sang songs and cheered loudly.

But Easter Bunny only stood and blew his nose in a big pocket handkerchief. "I have terrible news," he told them. But, by this time, they all had guessed that something was wrong.

A cold wind seemed to blow over the cloud and even Santa Claus shivered as the fairies and elves and all the spirits huddled closer together and waited anxiously for Easter Bunny to speak.

TOMORROW: The Terrible News from Poopo-Poona.

The first installment of Lucrece Hudgins' first Santa story as published in the Courier-News (Bridgewater, NJ), Dec. 7, 1942.

Francesca Pitaro – Beginning in 1942, AP News feature writer Lucrece Hudgins Beale, would bring holiday cheer to newspaper readers with her serialized Santa stories. Each story moved in 17 chapters, from Dec. 7-Dec. 24, and the series became a 27-year tradition.

The stories followed Santa through the various trials and tribulations he faced as he tried to meet his Christmas Eve deadline. The AP began publishing serialized

Christmas stories in 1931 and continued through about 1970. Other authors included Sigrid Arne and Luise Putcamp Jr.

Born in 1914 in Portsmouth, Virginia, Beale began her journalism career at the Boston Post after graduating from Wellesley College in 1937. She joined the AP in New York and moved to the Washington bureau in 1941 as a News features writer. Lu, as she was known, was married to William L. Beale Jr., a long-time AP staffer who was the Washington bureau chief from 1949 to 1969.



In addition to her writing skills, Beale was a gifted athlete. She coached the girls' tennis team at Sidwell Friends School in Washington for almost 30 years. She continued skiing and hiking into her 80s.

Lucrece Hudgins Beale died on October 6, 2004.

A Christmas cat and mouse offering

Gene Herrick - T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the house, creatures were stirring and chasing a mouse.

They didn't do this for fun. No, they were upset because the long-tailed creature was eating their food.

T'was up and it t'was down, and it t'was back and it 't'was forward; some were north, and some were South. The chase continued until all had curled up under the Christmas tree for a little rest.

When the panting stopped, the chase resumed. Up the stairs, down the stairs, the chase continued.

It was so rugged that they had to stop periodically for a rest.

The mouse lay against one wall, near an escape hole, and the cat near the door, preventing the mouse's escape down the hall.

Being the holidays, the food was extra-special. This is the season for belly aches because the food is usually plentiful, and, "Rich," and tasty (and fattening as well).

The pair finally decided this battle was not very smart. Why were they always in a fight?

One day the pair stopped and asked, "why are we doing this?"

"It was your fault," said one. "No, you started it!" Was the reply.

After a little haggling, they made up, and resumed their buddy-ship, with lots of laughter, and joy. After all, it was Christmas time, and we are directed from on-high “To love our relatives, friends, and neighbors.

The creatures enjoyed their personal relationship.

They agreed – on with the honoring of Christmas, what it is, and why. God directed us to love His Son, Jesus, the Christ, and celebrate His birth on Christmas Day.

The cheer went up: “Merry Christmas!”

New-member profile: Carol J. Williams

[Carol J. Williams](#) is a retired foreign correspondent living near Seattle with her husband and a tuxedo cat. She covered revolution and war for 30-plus years for The Associated Press and the Los Angeles Times, from USSR/Russia, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. She has been awarded more than a dozen international honors, including a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1994 for her coverage of the Balkan wars.

Retired from mainstream journalism, she curates “World Briefing by CJ Williams” on Twitter @cjwilliamslat, writes on foreign affairs for Seattle’s PostAlley.org, and speaks on media and foreign policy at events held by civic groups, libraries and her alma mater, University of Washington’s Jackson School of International Studies.

CJ is currently at work on a historical fiction trilogy set at the end of the Cold War and told through the work and life of a young American news agency correspondent. Her protagonist navigates the hardships of isolation and repression in countries with no concept of press freedom and the tumultuous events leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the anti-Communist revolutions in Eastern Europe, collapse of the Soviet Union and the wars that broke up Yugoslavia into its fractious ethnic pieces.



She adds: The one thing not on [my website](#) is my work as a Guardian ad Litem for the WA state courts, probably the most time-consuming of my post-mainstream journalism pursuits. I get appointed to investigate and evaluate petitions for guardianship of incapacitated adults. I retired from LA Times early in part to help my mother through her last years battling Alzheimer’s.

Memories of working with Jerry Schwartz



Photo by Matt Sedensky

Dave Bauder - I held my head in agony when Jerry told me he was taking the offer, then quickly caught myself. It's not about me.

And it was never about Jerry. It was always about the story, and his colleagues. I've never known a better editor. I hadn't been supervised by Kristin (Gazlay) and him for more than 20 years, but whenever I had a story I cared deeply about, I went to Jerry and he made it better. An endorsement that you're on the right track would make my week. I know there are countless more who can, and have, said the same. And there were no better sounding boards than Jerry and Kristin for career questions.

The AP always attracts good, dedicated people and that will continue long after any of us leave. I'm so glad you paid tribute to one of the best.

-0-

Dan Sewell - Congrats to Jerry on a long, storied (many, many-storied) AP career.

Being part of the team of writers when Kristin and Jerry were overseeing enterprise was a highlight in my career: Caring, skilled editors who also knew how to keep things fun.

Whether it was then or when he was on the desk, having Jerry edit one of your stories always meant it was going to be better when he was done with it.

-0-

[Dave Skidmore](#) - I have known Jerry since 1976 when I joined The Daily Collegian at Penn State. He was the editor. I looked up to him then and I look up to him now. And, it was Jerry, in 1983, who got me a second interview with The AP, with then NY Bureau Chief Jim Donna. (Unbelievably I had blown an earlier chance in Philadelphia by failing to complete the test because I didn't turn over the page and notice there was more test. I did well enough the second time to get a job offer from the Milwaukee bureau.) Jerry was, at 20 at Penn State, talented and funny. He, of course, still is. More important, and doubtless a key to his success as an editor, he conveyed an immense goodwill to his friends and colleagues. You felt that he appreciated your work and wanted you to succeed. And that helped you do just that.

-0-

[Chris Sullivan](#) - For about half of his 45-year AP career, I had the good luck to work pretty closely with Jerry Schwartz, especially in Newsfeatures. Witty, warm, an old-fashioned gentleman, he handled stories large and small (especially large, such as multi-part serial narratives) as he handled the folks who wrote and illustrated them: with a thoughtful, firm guiding hand that almost always brought out depth and grace. He edited many of my stories, making them stronger; and I had the easy job of editing his on many occasions. As Allen Breed said in his delightful tribute video, it's hard to imagine the AP without Jerry. But I know both will go on, solid and sure. At my retirement a few years ago, Jerry made a lovely speech, ending with a bit of Shakespeare, which I'll return to him here:

"Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly work has done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages ..."

Connecting mailbox

Immaculate Reception @ 50



Robert Meyers - Watching NFL yesterday there were repetitions of an advertisement for a 50th anniversary program on Franco Harris and the Dec. 23, 1972, game against the Oakland Raiders. Click [here](#) for an AP story - At 50, 'Immaculate Reception' still lifts a region's spirits – by Peter Smith and Jessie Wardarski.

Here is a photo I took of Harry Cabluck and the Wheaties box bearing his AP Photo of the event. I'm sure our Connecting colleague Harry has something better but I visited Harry at his Austin home on my bicycle ride across the USA in 2014.

-0-

Indianapolis reunion

Steve Graham - You know you're ancient when you pre-date "back in the day."

Except for Jan Carroll, with whom I worked when she joined the AP in '75-'76, all of the attendees of the Indianapolis Zoom reunion postdate my time in "NA " when John Marlow was bureau chief and Darrell Christian was news editor.

-0-

Cecily Strong says farewell to Saturday Night Live

EDITOR'S NOTE: Longtime SNL cast member Cecily Strong, whose farewell appearance was Saturday, is the daughter of former Associated Press journalist **William Strong**,

who in recent decades has worked in public relations in Illinois. Cecily was born in Springfield when Bill covered the Illinois Statehouse.

By **JULIANA KIM**

Cecily Strong, who made viewers hysterical with her spot-on impressions of celebrities, politicians and "The Girl You Wish You Hadn't Started a Conversation With at a Party," is leaving Saturday Night Live.

After 11 years, Strong made her final appearance as a cast member this weekend on the show's final episode of the year, hosted by actor Austin Butler and featuring musical guest Lizzo.

In a sketch where Strong pretended it was her last day working at a Radio Shack, cast member Kenan Thompson celebrated her career.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Steve Graham, Dennis Conrad

-0-

Remembering Bruce Handler

[Steve Yolen](#) - Bruce was a dear friend. We met through the two rival wire services, being in the same cities at the same time and the same age and similar backgrounds, continued our friendship into the 1980s after I had left UPI and was editor of a startup English language daily in Brazil, and then subsequently opened my own editorial and translation shop in Rio. He actually was a keen fan of the American bluegrass and folk music I pick and sing, coming to many performances, even before he met Gilda. A great loss.

New book released on Kiplinger and influence during New Deal

[Rob Wells](#) - I have a new book out about Willard Kiplinger and his influence during the New Deal. Here are the details. Thanks, Rob (I am now associate professor at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland).

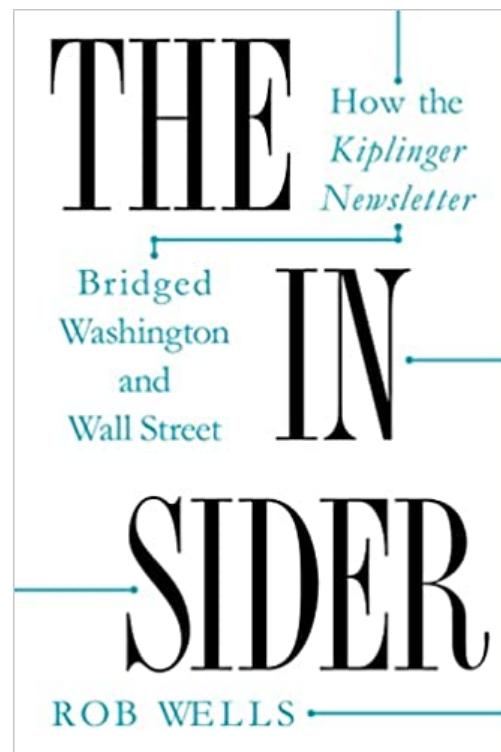
I am delighted to share that my new book, *The Insider: How the Kiplinger Newsletter Bridged Washington and Wall Street*, is now available on the University of Massachusetts Press website - <https://lnkd.in/eGmpQNh3> - and Amazon.com.

This book examines the remarkable career of Willard "Kip" Kiplinger, the pioneering business journalist who created *The Kiplinger Washington Letter*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine and many related publications that explore the worlds of money and policy. Kiplinger had a stint with *The AP* in Columbus and in Washington, D.C., and wasn't terribly impressed by the experience in some ways!

I focus on Kiplinger's influential role during the New Deal. Kiplinger was an important voice who urged businesses to give the National Recovery Act a try and to evolve beyond the failures of laissez-faire capitalism. I take you behind the scenes in the FDR White House to see how Kiplinger interacted with powerhouses such as Raymond Moley, Henry Morgenthau Jr. and many others.

The book also describes how Kiplinger made a few important innovations that apply to journalism today. The basic argument of the book is spelled out in this Washington Post Made by History piece:
<https://lnkd.in/ewvKCDdY>

I'll share more about the various strands of this research, which was based on unprecedented access to Kiplinger's personal and business records. Kathy Forde of the University of Massachusetts edited this book along with Sid Bedingfield of the University of Minnesota, and it's the first release in the new University of Mass Press Journalism and Democracy series.



Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Don Cooper](#)

Stories of interest

George Stanley stepping down as editor of Journal Sentinel after 43 years in journalism (Journal Sentinel)

Corrinne Hess
 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

George Stanley, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editor and regional editor of USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, announced Tuesday (Dec. 6) he will retire at the end of the year

after more than 43 years in journalism.

In the newsroom, Stanley is known as a strong, forceful leader who cares deeply about the role of journalism in democracy. He crusaded publicly for the critical role that independent journalism not beholden to special interests plays in our polarized culture.

“We need to be informed, we’re a self-governing society and knowing what is going on makes that possible,” Stanley said during an appearance at the Rotary Club of Milwaukee this month. “Our democratic society depends on it.”

Stanley also was known for engaging in deeply thoughtful conversations about family, history, religion and sports. He was keenly interested in developing the careers of young journalists at the Journal Sentinel. Many of those journalists kept in close touch with him even as their careers took them away from Milwaukee.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Minn. ‘ghost paper’ serves community of 200,000 with staff of 2 (Star Tribune)

By John Reinan

ST. CLOUD, Minn. — With falling circulation and a news staff that’s been slashed almost to nonexistence, the St. Cloud Times is a ghost of the publication that was once one of the best small daily newspapers in Minnesota.

Corporate owner Gannett Co. Inc., heavily in debt and under pressure to reverse revenue declines, has cut staff to the point that only two reporters remain to cover news and events in the central Minnesota region of about 200,000 residents.

“People have always relied on the St. Cloud Times to be the agenda-setter,” said Dale Zacher, chair of the Department of Mass Communications at St. Cloud State University.

“It’s not the civic institution it used to be. It’s a sad downward spiral.

“This would be a great time to be involved in political corruption, because there’s nobody watching.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Len Iwanski.

-0-

Veteran CNN investigative journalist Drew Griffin dead at 60 (CNN)

By Matt Lait and Samira Jafari

Drew Griffin, CNN's award-winning Senior Investigative Correspondent, known for getting even the cagiest of interview subjects to engage in a story, died Saturday after a long battle with cancer, his family said. He was 60.

A gifted storyteller, Griffin had a well-earned reputation for holding powerful people and institutions accountable.

"Drew's death is a devastating loss to CNN and our entire profession," CNN CEO Chris Licht said in a note to staff. "A highly acclaimed investigative journalist, Drew's work had incredible impact and embodied the mission of this organization in every way."

Griffin worked on hundreds of stories and multiple documentaries over the course of nearly two decades on CNN's investigative team. His reporting had been honored with some of journalism's most prestigious awards – Emmys, Peabodys, and Murrows among them.

"But people mattered more to Drew than prizes," Licht said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Latrice Davis.

Today in History – Dec. 20, 2022



Today is Tuesday, Dec. 20, the 354th day of 2022. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 20, 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States.

On this date:

In 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union as all 169 delegates to a special convention in Charleston voted in favor of separation.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Georgia, as Union Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman nearly completed his "March to the Sea."

In 1945, the Office of Price Administration announced the end of tire rationing, effective Jan. 1, 1946.

In 1963, the Berlin Wall was opened for the first time to West Berliners, who were allowed one-day visits to relatives in the Eastern sector for the holidays.

In 1987, more than 4,300 people were killed when the Dona Paz (DOHN'-yuh pahz), a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

In 1995, an American Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, NATO began its peacekeeping mission, taking over from the United Nations.

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded heterosexual couples.

In 2001, the U.N. Security Council authorized a multinational force for Afghanistan.

In 2002, Trent Lott resigned as Senate Republican leader two weeks after igniting a political firestorm with racially charged remarks.

In 2005, a federal judge ruled that "intelligent design" could not be mentioned in biology classes in a Pennsylvania public school district, delivering a stinging attack on the Dover Area School Board.

In 2016, President Barack Obama designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic Ocean as indefinitely off limits to future oil and gas leasing. Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova was injured in her playing hand by a knife-wielding attacker at her Czech Republic home and underwent surgery. (The attacker was sentenced to 11 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: The State Department acknowledged major weaknesses in security and errors in judgment exposed in a scathing independent report on the deadly Sept. 11, 2012 assault on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya. The National Hockey League, in a labor fight with its players, announced the cancellation of the 2012-13 regular-season schedule through Jan. 14, 2013.

Five years ago: The House gave final congressional approval to a \$1.5 trillion tax overhaul, the biggest package of tax changes in a generation and the first major legislative achievement of President Donald Trump and House and Senate Republicans; some Republicans warned of a potential backlash against an overhaul that offered corporations and wealthy taxpayers the biggest benefits. Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston, died in Rome at the age of

86; his failure to stop child molesters in the priesthood had triggered a crisis in American Catholicism.

One year ago: In a major step to fight climate change, the Biden administration raised vehicle mileage standards to significantly reduce emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases. Warning that extremism in the ranks was increasing, Pentagon officials issued detailed new rules prohibiting service members from actively engaging in extremist activities. Federal health officials said the omicron variant had accounted for an estimated 73% of new U.S. coronavirus infections in the preceding week. CBS and Universal Television said actor Chris Noth would no longer be part of the CBS series "The Equalizer" in the wake of sexual assault allegations against him; Noth had vehemently denied the allegations.

Today's Birthdays: Original Mouseketeer Tommy Cole (TV: "The Mickey Mouse Club") is 81. R&B singer-musician Walter "Wolfman" Washington is 79. Rock musician-music producer Bobby Colomby is 78. Rock musician Peter Criss is 77. Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is 76. Psychic/illusionist Uri Geller is 76. Producer Dick Wolf ("Law & Order") is 76. Rock musician Alan Parsons is 74. Actor Jenny Agutter is 70. Actor Michael Badalucco is 68. Actor Blanche Baker is 66. Rock singer Billy Bragg is 65. Rock singer-musician Mike Watt (The Secondmen, Minutemen, FIREHOSE) is 65. Actor Joel Gretsch is 59. Country singer Kris Tyler is 58. Rock singer Chris Robinson is 56. Actor Nicole deBoer is 52. Movie director Todd Phillips is 52. Singer David Cook ("American Idol") is 40. Actor Jonah Hill is 39. Actor Bob Morley is 38. Singer JoJo is 32. Actor Colin Woodell is 31.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that focuses on retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013 and past issues can be found by clicking Connecting Archive in the masthead. Its author, Paul Stevens, retired from the AP in 2009 after a 36-year career as a newsman in Albany and St. Louis, correspondent in Wichita, chief of bureau in Albuquerque, Indianapolis and Kansas City, and Midwest vice president based in Kansas City.

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!



Here are some suggestions:

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a

while.

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

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

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

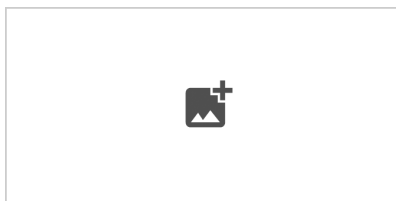
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

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

Paul Stevens

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