SHARE:

Join Our Email List

View as Webpage















Connecting

Feb. 2, 2023

Click here for sound of the Teletype



Top AP News
Top AP Photos
AP Merchandise

Connecting Archive
AP Emergency Relief Fund
AP Books

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this Feb. 2, 2023,

Are you still a subscriber to a print edition of a newspaper?

Ye Olde Connecting Editor is one who is — to the Kansas City Star and USA Today on a daily basis and the weekend Wall Street Journal. But as I pick up my newspapers off the driveway and scan up and down the street, neighbors who get any print delivery are rare. Linda and I still like the feel of newsprint in the morning, I guess, and more than once, a friend or neighbor has asked us to save an article from a print edition. We accommodate, with no charge!



Connecting colleague **Bill Hancock**, who comes from an Oklahoma newspaper family and still writes a column for his hometown newspaper, is one of a growing number of readers who have dropped print editions altogether and get their news digitally. That's not to mention those who get neither print nor digital news...

In today's lead story, Bill – who lives in a Kansas City suburb - tells why he has dropped print delivery for the first time in his 72 years.

How about you? If you're a print subscriber, how come? If you're digital only, are you missing print? And if you're neither, why?

In his piece, Bill mentions a couple newspapers whose names are included in song lyrics and invites you to share your own.

WANTED: AP MUSIC JOURNALIST: Could this be the coolest job in the world? Click here.

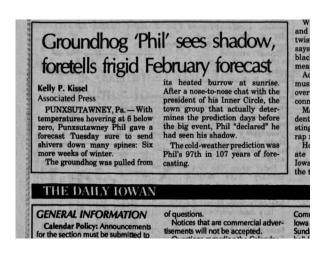
WANTED: CONNECTING ARCHIVIST: Our colleague Jo Steck succeeded the late Paul Shane in performing this service for her Connecting colleagues and is unable to continue. Drop me a note if you're interested in learning more. It takes little time or technical skills.

TODAY IS GROUNDHOG DAY - and here's a great memory from our colleague <u>Kelly</u> **Kissel** -

Thirty years ago Wednesday night, I was tucked into bed early in western Pennsylvania so I'd be up in time the next morning to catch the world's best-known prognosticating rodent, Punxsutawney Phil.

I don't relive it every morning, like in the movie, but I do recall it fondly every time Candlemas Day comes around.

It likely was my coldest outdoor assignment ever, at 6 below. I remember visiting Gobblers Knob the day before and paying someone who lived nearby \$50 to use their phone to file a couple stories when all was said and done.



Even with the cold, the drunken college kids who drove up from Virginia and the ungodly hour, this was among my favorite AP memories.

Here is today's Groundhog Day forecast.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

A personal farewell to 72 years of print delivery



A newspaper sits on the driveway of a home in Eagle, Idaho, just after midnight. Photo: Margaret Carmel/BoiseDev

<u>Bill Hancock</u> - I am a newspaper guy born and bred. But for the first time in my life, I no longer have access to a paper copy because we cancelled the print edition of the Kansas City Star. It was hard! I'm not angry - only sad. The paper has had little timely hard news, because of its 3 p.m. deadline. No Royals, no Chiefs, no college football and basketball until two days later. (We will still read the paper digitally, but it won't be the same. Thank goodness we can find sports columnists Vahe (Gregorian) and Blair (Kerkhoff) on our phones.)

For all of my 72 years, someone has delivered a paper to my house. (Or apartment for a few years in college.) And from about 1962 to 1964, I delivered the Hobart (Okla.) Democrat-Chief to my own house!

My print history: 1950-1978 – Daily Oklahoman and Oklahoma City Times; 1950-1968 and then again 1974-1978 – Hobart (Okla.) Democrat-Chief; 1978-2022 – Kansas City Star; 1978-1990 -- Kansas City Times; 1986-1988 – USA Today.

By the way, two of those newspapers were mentioned in song lyrics: "Kansas City Star, that's what I are" by Roger Miller. And "But I gotta be more than just two lines in the

Oklahoma City Times" by Bobby Sherman.

While I no longer receive a print newspaper, I subscribe to these digital publications: The Athletic, Daily Oklahoman, Dallas Morning News, Hobart Democrat-Chief, Kansas City Star, National Geographic, New York Times, New Yorker, Sports Business Journal, Sports Illustrated, Washington Post – and, of course, Connecting!

(Bill Hancock, a Connecting colleague, is executive director of College Football Playoff,

which oversees the annual postseason tournament to determine the NCAA Division I champion. His late father, Ransom Hancock, published the Hobart (Okla.) Democrat-Chief, which Bill apologetically admits was a longtime UPI client. Bill still writes a weekly column about Hobart's history to assist his nephew, Todd, who now owns the newspaper. He says he has about 50 columns in the can, ready to publish. "Writing columns is what I do on long airplane flights," Bill says.)

Connecting series:

Quitting in a huff

<u>Kevin Noblet</u> - I quit in a huff from a short-order grill job in Providence's Italian neighborhood, Federal Hill, in the mid-70's. It was a small place that offered breakfast and lunch, serving up coffee and delicious slices of Italian omelet in a crusty baguette. Among its regulars was mob boss Raymond Patriarca, who operated out of a pin-ball machine storefront half a block away. Nobody talked about it.

I was trying my hand at freelance and fiction writing and taking cooking jobs to pay the bills. The place's owner was proud to have a "college boy" working for him but that didn't mean he treated me well. On the day of the "Festa di San Giusseppi," celebrated on the street in front of our shop, I worked especially hard and late serving up hundreds and hundreds of meals to an endless stream of customers. When it was over, he tipped me a measly \$5.

It was my job to open every morning, fire up the grill and the three coffee pots and make eggs, bacon, toast etc. for the early crowd, who were a cranky bunch. But the night of the cheap tip, I put my shop key in an envelope, addressed it to my boss and dropped it in a mailbox near my apartment. That was Saturday. Monday morning, I stayed in bed and didn't answer the ringing phone or my door, where some emissaries he sent came and knocked several times. I heard later business was a mess that day, with a lot of angry customers, maybe Patriarca among them, crowded at the door, wondering why they couldn't get their eggs and coffee.

A couple of weeks later, a photo of my boss appeared in the Providence Journal. He was in the hospital, in traction, both arms and legs suspended from cables. Some goons had come into the shop and smashed it up. They'd smashed him up, too. The caption said he didn't want to name his attackers, that he was calling it "a case of

mistaken identity." I quickly figured out why he'd tipped me so little: He'd fallen behind on his payments to the mob, maybe for his business, maybe for gambling, I don't know. But I still didn't feel bad about quitting.

Another One Bites the Dust

From <u>Bryan Brumley</u> - who, as AP Chief of Bureau in Portland (2001-08), visited the Medford Mail Tribune and East Oregonian at least once a year.

-0-

Damian Mann, longtime reporter for the Medford Mail Tribune, remembers the moment he realized there might be no place for him in the media world envisioned by the newspaper's new owner, Steven Saslow.

A local television station had asked Mann to appear on camera to discuss a recent story.

Next thing he knew, makeup was being applied to his face and he was being instructed to simplify and energize his script.

"OK, this is not the same world I knew," the veteran reporter remembers thinking. "I almost quit that day."

Saslow, an East Coast media entrepreneur, came to Jackson County in 2017 convinced he could transform a daily newspaper into something better and more relevant. The vision he laid out was of a hybrid source of local news combining the best of print journalism and the compelling visuals of broadcasting — packaged with the reach of social media and streaming video.

How exactly he settled on a small-town daily in Southern Oregon was a riddle the Mail Tribune journalists never figured out. Some speculated that if he could pull it off in Medford, it could be a template for other markets nationwide. And newspapers certainly could use a lifeline: Hundreds were closing as print ad revenues plummeted.

-0-

The Medford experiment lasted nearly six years. Then, in 2022, Saslow put the paper up for sale. It's unclear whether anyone submitted a bid. "He had made such a mess of things, it was irredeemable," said Steve Forrester, chief executive of EO Media Group, which owns the East Oregonian in Pendleton and 13 other Oregon newspapers.

Click here.

Inclusive or Alienating? The Language Wars Go On

By Nicholas Kristof Opinion Columnist The New York Times

Before the millions of views, the subsequent ridicule and finally the earnest apology, The Associated Press Stylebook practically oozed good intentions in its tweet last week:

"We recommend avoiding general and often dehumanizing 'the' labels such as the poor, the mentally ill, the French, the disabled, the college educated."

"The French"?

Zut alors! The result was a wave of mocking conjecture of how to refer sensitively to, er, people of French persuasion. The French Embassy in the United States proposed changing its name to "the Embassy of Frenchness."

The A.P. Stylebook deleted its tweet, citing "an inappropriate reference to French people." But it doubled down in recommending that people avoid general terms with "the," such as "the poor, the mentally ill, the wealthy, the disabled, the college-educated."

It's not obvious to me that "the college-educated" is a label that dehumanizes people. I'm guessing George Santos wishes he were included in that category.

The flap over the French underscores the ongoing project to revise terminology in ways that are meant to be more inclusive — but which I fear are counterproductive and end up inviting mockery and empowering the right.

Read more **here.** Shared by Larry Blasko, Sibby Christensen.

More hires announced for U.S. leadership posts

This memo from Josh Hoffner, AP national news director, was sent to news staff Monday:

I have said time and time again how optimistic we all should be about where we are going in 2023 and beyond in U.S. news and at the AP as a whole. Today marks an important step in this process as we announce several promotions and hires of journalists who will all play an important role in our success as a unified all-formats team in the U.S. that works in concert to own the biggest stories of the day.

They include Assistant News Directors, Assignment Managers and Video Journalists, and there's more to come in the next few weeks in our next batch of promotions and hires. Please join me in congratulating all of these talented journalists on their new roles.

Kathleen Ronayne is the Assistant News Director for California. She comes to the role after more than a decade of reporting on both coasts, including four years overseeing AP's state government coverage in California. She also was on the national elections team for two presidential campaigns. She reported extensively on the recall of California Gov. Gavin Newsom, the historic Western drought and California's agendasetting environmental policies.

Caleb Jones is the new Assistant News Director for New England (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine): Caleb is an all-formats journalist in every sense of the word, working as a photo editor, video journalist and reporter in more than a decade at AP and most recently helping oversee video coverage in the western half of the country. We are excited for him to bring his all-formats talents to New England as he moves to Boston in the spring.

Felicia Fonseca is the new Assistant News Director for the Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada): Felicia started her career as an AP intern 18 years ago and went on to a stellar reporting career that saw her consistently deliver high-level stories on Native American communities, wildfires and drought. She is a member of the Native American Journalists Association, was a Nieman fellow in 2017 and has served as a mentor to many young journalists.

Brady McCombs is the Assistant News Director for the Rockies (Colorado, Utah, Montana and Wyoming). Brady has been the Rockies News Editor since 2020, overseeing coverage of several major stories including mass shootings at a gay nightclub in Colorado Springs and supermarket in Boulder and a wildfire that burned 1,100 homes outside Denver. He has taken on several special assignments over the years, helping coordinate coverage of the pandemic by overseeing the national spot team. He also shoots and produces video.

Jonathan Drew is the new Assistant News Director for the Mid-South (North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland): Jonathan is a veteran journalist who has had a hand in writing, editing or managing many of the South's biggest stories for over a decade. For the past year, he's managed the fourstate Mid-Atlantic territory as acting news editor. Before that, the North Carolina native had led the state as administrative correspondent since 2019 after several years as a bureau reporter. Jonathan will remain based in Raleigh.

Jim VanAnglen is the new Assistant News Director for the Deep South (Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas): Jim joined the AP in 2011 after stints at a variety of newspapers across the South and New England. At AP, he has led coverage of everything from the overtime 2020 Georgia election and subsequent Fulton County investigation of Donald Trump to multiple hurricanes, such as Ida and Laura, tornado strikes and other natural disasters to cases of racial injustice, including the killings of Alton Sterling, Rayshard Brooks and Ahmaud Arbery.

Jill Bleed is the new national Assignment Manager for the early part of the day: Jill joined the AP in 2006 as a reporter in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has played a key role in breaking news coverage there and in Oklahoma and Texas for more than a decade. She has been involved in countless major stories since then, including mass killings in El Paso and Uvalde. Jill has extensive experience covering severe weather, courts and crime, the death penalty and elections. She will continue to be based in Little Rock.

Nebi Qena is the new weekend national Assignment Manager. Nebi has been a senior producer for Israel, West Bank and Gaza since 2015 and has directed and coordinated coverage of a range of big stories including the Russian invasion of Ukraine last year. He has covered conflict in Syria and Kosovo as well, and is known for his calm under pressure in these high-stress environments. Nebi is a terrific video manager, especially in breaking news situations, and we are excited for him to join the U.S. operation. He will be based in Washington, D.C.

Julie Wright is the new State Government Editor, the point person for helping statehouse reporters connect the dots and in all-formats across the biggest themes emerging from state capitols nationwide. Julie joined the AP as Missouri/Kansas news editor in 2015. Prior to joining AP, she led teams for the World Company in Kansas, The Anchorage Daily News in Alaska and the Star Tribune in Minnesota.

Kendria LaFleur is our new video journalist in Dallas. Kendria joins the AP from WCPO in Cincinnati, where she works as a multimedia journalist. She formerly worked at the ABC affiliate in her hometown of Lafayette, Louisiana, where she covered everything from natural disasters to the death of Alton Sterling. Kendria's first day is Feb. 20.

Laura Bargfeld is our new video journalist in Tampa. Laura graduated in December 2022 with a master's degree in mass communication from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. While there, they worked as a graduate fellow for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Southwest Health Reporting Initiative, telling stories in all formats about health disparities in the southwestern U.S. Their first day is March 6.

Nick Ingram is our new video journalist in Missouri: Nick comes to the AP from the ABC affiliate in St. Joseph, Missouri, outside Kansas City, where has worked as a reporter and digital content manager. He is also a licensed drone pilot. Nick will be based in Kansas City, and his first day is Feb. 27.

We will name the next group of hires for Assistant News Director and Assignment Manager very soon, along with new VJs, photographers and reporters nationwide. And stay tuned for upcoming job posts for the player/coach roles for text, photo and video.

Welcome to Connecting



Lynne Bernstein

Stories of interest

Opinion | The New York Times' Obsession with Itself (Politico)

Opinion by JACK SHAFER

Jack Shafer is Politico's senior media writer.

If Page A1 of the New York Times is the most valuable two square feet of real estate in newspaper history, what then is the paper's next page, A2?

Even print subscribers who don't read the paper in its entirety reliably flip to A2 before abandoning it for their commute or web browsing. A2's value, and that of its sister page, A3, was reflected in the premium that advertisers paid for placement in those spaces two decades ago, as luxury retailers like Cartier, Tourneau, Burberry, Tiffany, Mikimoto, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bulgari, Cole Haan and other high-end shops would line up to park their ads in that privileged space.

Even though advertisers no longer flock to A2 — or any other part of the paper, for that matter — A2 remains choice real estate. But for unfathomable reasons, Times editors routinely dedicate a majority of its acreage to what appears to be their favorite topic: The Times itself. Most days, a self-glorifying feature titled "The Story Behind the Story" runs on A2 that presents "insider" looks at Times coverage that can only be read as advertisements for the Times itself.

Defying the journalistic maxim that reporters should never be the story, "The Story Behind the Story" frequently chronicles the mundane mechanics of assembling the Times. Recently, the space has featured a first-person piece by a Times reporter about how she got her story about the things people stand in line for these days; how its book critic read and reviewed Prince Harry's Spare in a day; how its reporter found sources for a piece about young people and personal finance; how its reporter covered the recent 5.6 magnitude earthquake in West Java; inside commentary on the

paper's crossword; a profile of the paper's photography department; and a profile of a food-truck proprietor who vends on the street outside the Times' offices.

Read more **here**.

-0-

Photo Shoot: Lessons from an old-school Cape Cod Times photo editor (Cape Cod Times)

Steve Heaslip
Cape Cod Times

When you work at a newspaper you meet a lot of interesting people over the years and many of them right in the newsroom — Saturdays were always the best. There was the proofreader, arriving in the morning to get an early start on the Sunday pages, often wearing a kimono. He was on the other side of our cubicle and would wander into photo land to see what slides were on the light table.

The soundtrack of westerns could be heard coming from a small black and white TV in the composing room as the backshop crew set type with fortification from glazed doughnuts they brought in from Ma's Donut shop in New Bedford.

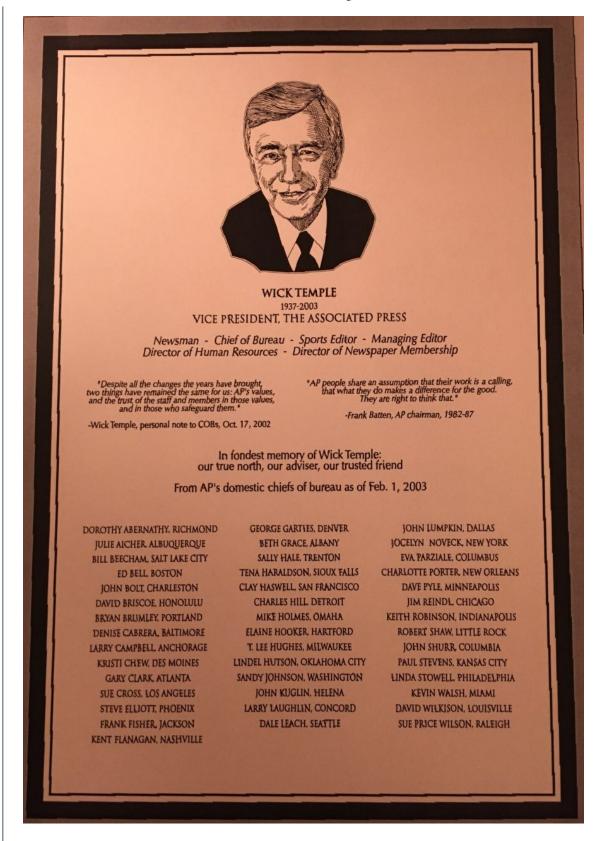
Thanks to a folding step ladder, a higher vantage point gave this photograph the composition it needed. A favorite photographer's tip from former Cape Cod Times Photo Editor Manuel Lopez.

Then there was my first meeting with the new photo editor on a Saturday afternoon. I had covered a whale stranding. The film was fresh on the light table when Sunday Editor Jim Kershner came around with the Time's newest hire, Manuel Lopez. I thought it was a good set of photos, Jim suggested Manuel give them a look. He picked up a loupe and went to work. After a long edit, he made a couple of selects. I asked what he thought, thinking he might be impressed.

Read more **here**. Shared by Bill Sikes.

The Final Word

Remembering Wick Temple – 20 years later



When Wick Temple died on Feb. 1, 2003, a hole was left in the hearts of the many Associated Press people who admired and worked with him in his 40-year career with the AP.

The 20th anniversary of his death was Wednesday – and Connecting brings you the remembrance above – a plaque that was paid for by contributions from AP's domestic bureau chiefs and presented to the AP for display at headquarters.

Wick's wife Margy McCay is a Connecting colleague and good friend to many of us.

Click **here** for this Feb. 5, 2003, wire story on his death. It begins:

By The Associated Press

Wick Temple, an Associated Press vice president whose four-decade career ranged from news gathering in the South in the civil rights era to leading the A.P.'s sports, news, personnel and newspaper membership departments, died suddenly on Saturday on the way to a hospital in New York. He was 65 and lived in Millburn, N.J.

He had been undergoing treatment for throat cancer, his wife, Margy McCay, said.

After heading A.P. bureaus in St. Louis, Seattle and Helena, Mont., Mr. Temple moved to New York in 1973 to be the sports editor. In that position, he directed coverage of major events like the Olympics, the Super Bowl and the World Series.

In 1980, he was promoted to managing editor, directing day-to-day news operations, and in 1985, he became the A.P.'s first director of human resources. Since 1988, he had served as director of membership, a key position at The A.P., a nonprofit cooperative made up of member newspapers and broadcasters.

Today in History - Feb. 2, 2023



Today is Thursday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2023. There are 332 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1990, in a dramatic concession to South Africa's Black majority, President F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on the African National Congress and promised to free Nelson Mandela.

On this date:

In 1536, present-day Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

In 1887, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, held its first Groundhog Day festival.

In 1913, New York City's rebuilt Grand Central Terminal officially opened to the public at one minute past midnight.

In 1914, Charles Chaplin made his movie debut as the comedy short "Making a Living" was released by Keystone Film Co.

In 1925, the legendary Alaska Serum Run ended as the last of a series of dog mushers brought a life-saving treatment to Nome, the scene of a diphtheria epidemic, six days after the drug left Nenana.

In 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman sent a 10-point civil rights program to Congress, where the proposals ran into fierce opposition from Southern lawmakers.

In 1980, NBC News reported the FBI had conducted a sting operation targeting members of Congress using phony Arab businessmen in what became known as "Abscam," a codename protested by Arab-Americans.

In 2006, House Republicans elected John Boehner (BAY'-nur) of Ohio as their new majority leader to replace the indicted Tom DeLay.

In 2016, health officials reported that a person in Texas had become infected with the Zika virus through sex in the first case of the illness being transmitted within the United States.

In 2017, using a backhoe to smash through a barricade of water-filled footlockers, police stormed Delaware's largest prison, ending a nearly 20-hour hostage standoff with inmates; one hostage, a guard, was killed.

In 2020, the Philippines reported that a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan had died in a Manila hospital from the new coronavirus; it was the first death from the virus to be recorded outside of China. Authorities in parts of China extended the Lunar New Year holiday break well into February to try to keep people at home.

Ten years ago: Former Navy SEAL and "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle was fatally shot along with a friend, Chad Littlefield, at a gun range west of Glen Rose, Texas; suspect Eddie Ray Routh was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison without parole. Coach Bill Parcells, Warren Sapp, Cris Carter, Jonathan Ogden and Larry Allen were elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Adrian Peterson of the Minnesota Vikings closed out the season with two of the top NFL awards from The Associated Press: Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year. Actor John Kerr, 81, died in Pasadena, California.

Five years ago: At the sentencing hearing in Michigan for former sports doctor Larry Nassar, a distraught father of three girls who'd been sexually abused tried to attack Nassar before being tackled by sheriff's deputies and hauled out of court. (Randall Margraves later apologized; the judge said there was "no way" she would fine him or send him to jail for trying to attack Nassar.)

One year ago: CNN President Jeff Zucker abruptly resigned after acknowledging a consensual relationship with another network executive. The relationship came to light during the investigation that led to the firing of the news network's anchor Chris Cuomo. Four men were charged with being part of the drug distribution crew that supplied a deadly mix of narcotics to actor Michael K. Williams of "The Wire," who had overdosed five months earlier.

Today's birthdays: Comedian Tom Smothers is 86. Rock singer-guitarist Graham Nash is 81. Television executive Barry Diller is 81. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 77. TV chef Ina Garten is 75. Actor Jack McGee is 74. Actor Brent Spiner is 74. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 74. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, is 71. The former president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye, is 71. Model Christie Brinkley is 69. Actor Michael Talbott is 68. Actor Kim Zimmer is 68. Actor Michael T. Weiss is 61. Actor-comedian Adam Ferrara is 57. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Army of Anyone; Stone Temple Pilots) is 57. Actor Jennifer Westfeldt is 53. Rapper T-Mo is 51. Actor Marissa Jaret Winokur is 50. Actor Lori Beth Denberg is 47. Singer Shakira is 46. Actor Rich Sommer is 45. Country singer Blaine Larsen is 37. Actor Zosia Mamet is 35.

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
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com



Connecting newsletter | 14719 W 79th Ter, Lenexa, KS 66215

<u>Unsubscribe stevenspl@live.com</u>

<u>Update Profile</u> | <u>Constant Contact Data Notice</u>

Sent by paulstevens46@gmail.com powered by

