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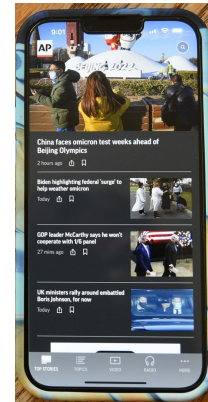
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Connecting

March 13, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this March 13, 2023,

Welcome to the Connecting 90s Club, **Malcolm Barr Sr.** – and we’re proud that one of the attendees at a party for our colleague last week was someone who got introduced to Malcolm through our newsletter.

Steve Herman, a former AP newsman who is now chief national correspondent for Voice of America, was on hand to join the celebration.

This is **Sunshine Week** – and our colleague **Tara Bradley-Steck** relates one way you can take part. She shares:

The open public record system has been the mainstay of the U.S. democracy and economy since the earliest colonial days—



as essential to our infrastructure as roads, telephone lines and airports. Now, at a time when facts can easily become obscured by bias and watchdog media resources continue to decline, access to public records has never been more essential. Yet the task of obtaining public records is often more onerous and expensive than it should be.

The Duquesne University Institute for Ethics and Integrity in Journalism is holding an in-person and livestreamed symposium on open records featuring the executive director of Pennsylvania's Open Records Office and a panel of experts in the Power Center Ballroom from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, March 16 - during Sunshine Week. Participants will be able to search for records during a hands-on workshop following the formal program, when journalists will show the audience where to look, how to look and what to do with the information. Those who participate in person are encouraged to bring a laptop or similar device.

The symposium is free and open to the public. [Registration](#) is required. To access the livestream, click [here](#).

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

Paul

Reaching 90 – with a little help from his friends



ABOVE: Malcolm Barr Jr., left, with his dad, hovering over the birthday cake.

RIGHT: Steve Herman and Malcolm.

Former AP newsman Steve Herman of Voice of America (VOA) in Washington, D.C., joined former AP newsman Malcolm Barr Sr. in celebration of the latter's 90th birthday March 10 at a Front Royal, Va., beer museum, along with some 50 other guests whose gifts included several hundred pounds of dog and cat food, destined for the local animal shelter.



Barr's son, party organizer Malcolm Barr Jr., said his dad had insisted "no gifts" but donations to the overcrowded shelter would be welcome. Barr (AP WX and AP Hula) has a lifelong interest in animal welfare and had as another of his guests, shelter director Meghan Bowers. Ignoring the "no gifts" plea, Herman drove the 150-mile round trip with a bottle of fine wine! The pair had first become acquainted through "Connecting" about three years ago when Herman and his wife visited the Barrs' home in the little civil war town about 70 miles west of the nation's capital.

Veteran and retired AP staffers may remember Barr as president of the Wire Service Guild Local 222 when, in 1969, he led the first (and last) strike against The Associated Press, stepping out from its Rockefeller Plaza headquarters on a cold, January morning. Barr resigned from the AP shortly thereafter to join the staff of U.S. Sen. Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii) as press secretary.

There followed 25 years of government service at the Departments of Labor, Justice, and Commerce, during which he was instrumental in introducing McGruff, the national "bite out of crime" dog spearheaded by the Justice Department.

In retirement, for the past 25 years, he has been a contributing writer for all four of his area's newspapers.

Malcolm's email - barr127@yahoo.com

Charlie Price Memorial

November 7, 1952

Mr. Charles A. Price, Jr.
51 Halpin Avenue
Stamford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Price:

This is with reference to your letter dated
November 6 to Mr. Kimbell.

The situation with respect to Teletype
maintenance men has not changed to date, but on the
basis that you are interested in some other capacity,
we have a temporary opening in this department in which
you may be interested.

Please drop by to see me the first of next
week.

Yours very truly,

CH McDonald
Automatics Department

CHMcDonald/lc

m A.P. I started to work on 11/12/1952. Mr. Kimbell is "the" E. Blanton
retired and a good friend.

[Hal Spencer](#) - My wife and I attended a memorial service Sunday for Charlie Price, the late, great AP Seattle chief of communications who died Jan. 7 at 94. (See Connecting Archives, Jan. 9, 2023.) A few of us old AP codgers were there with his family and friends to help celebrate his life. Here's a picture from a display of memorabilia about this talented, resourceful man. Truly, Charlie Price started at the bottom and never again looked anywhere but up.

AP's Prengaman to speak at Northern Kentucky University

[Mark Neikirk](#) - *executive director, Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement, Northern Kentucky University* - Each year (for 15 years now), an AP journalist has come to Northern Kentucky University to speak to our students and the community at a free public lecture.

This year's talk will be from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST on March 22. This year's speaker is [Peter Prengaman](#), who leads AP's newly created team of editors, reporters and photographers covering climate change worldwide. This team is doing some incredible work, illuminating this issue.

Prengaman will speak and take questions at NKU's Rieveschl Digitorium, located on campus in Griffin Hall. But you can also attend virtually from anywhere in the country.

Register [here](#). The talk is free and open to the public, so if you know others interested, please share. [Link](#) to press release.

Peter also will be speaking to a journalism class while on campus.

Obits don't die until the person does

[Linda Deutsch](#) - I wrote this obituary of Robert Blake before I retired from the AP. Obits don't die until the person does. I was glad to give him a nice sendoff. I guess I got to know him better than any reporter did and had a couple of great interviews with him which are being quoted in everyone else's obits. The last voicemail I received from him was last year. He was watching a documentary in which I talked about the case, and he said he wanted to thank me for telling the truth, as usual.

RIP, Robert. You were one of a kind.

[Link](#) to the story, which begins:

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Robert Blake, the Emmy award-winning performer who went from acclaim for his acting to notoriety when he was tried and acquitted in the killing of his wife, died Thursday at age 89.

A statement released on behalf of his niece, Noreen Austin, said Blake died from heart disease, surrounded by family at home in Los Angeles.

Blake, star of the 1970s TV show, "Baretta," had once hoped for a comeback, but he never recovered from the long ordeal which began with the shooting death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, outside a Studio City restaurant on May 4, 2001. The story of their strange marriage, the child it produced and its violent end was a Hollywood tragedy played out in court.

Once hailed as among the finest actors of his generation, Blake became better known as the center of a real-life murder trial. Many remembered him not as the rugged, dark-haired star of "Baretta," but as a spectral, white-haired murder defendant.

More on recycling newspapers...

Paul Albright - The note from John Rice (Connecting, March 10) on converting print-to-pinatas brought to mind the way that we recycle our newspapers. They are donated to RezDawg Rescue, an animal rescue organization that partners with shelters in New Mexico to transport dogs and cats to communities along Colorado's front range.

Several of those cats have been adopted into our extended family in Colorado. To illustrate, here is a photo of an eligible female rescue cat named Chewy standing on a recycled newspaper that covers the floor of her transportation carrier.

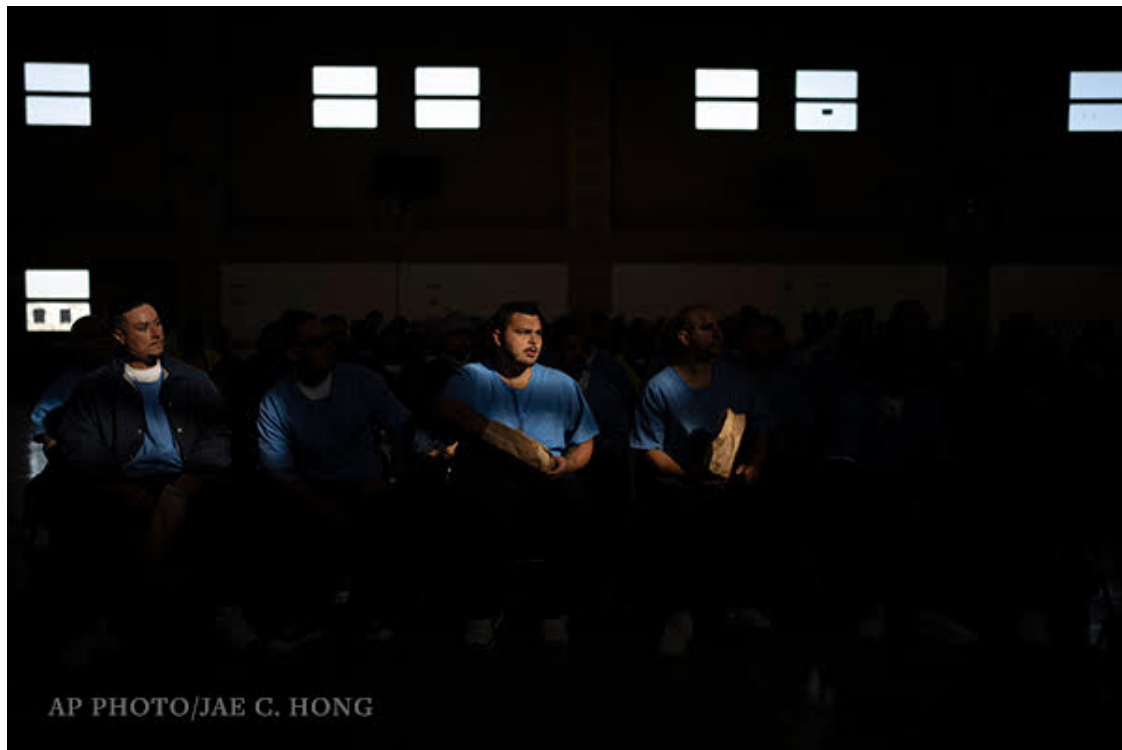


Sedona Reunion



Sally Hale - Three retired APers met up last week in Sedona, Ariz. - (from left) Linda Franklin, Sally Hale and Beth Grace. This shot is from the Chapel of the Holy Cross.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER
Rehab on hold: COVID devastates prison learning programs



A shaft of light falls on prisoners as they watch a documentary film produced by director Sol Guy in Valley State Prison's gymnasium in Chowchilla, Calif., Nov. 4, 2022. The gym had been closed for recreational activities like basketball as part of ongoing COVID restrictions. About 150 prisoners were allowed in for the film – individual bags of buttered popcorn and cold beverages included with admission – their excitement palpable after many months of isolation. AP PHOTO/JAE C. HONG

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, tearing through prisons and killing thousands, it severely disrupted or shut down the very programs prisoners most desperately need to prepare them for eventual release. Trauma counseling, college courses, and job training in carpentry, masonry and barbering were slow to adjust to pandemic learning. Isolation and uncertainty replaced creative outlets and mental health therapies for months on end. National Writer Aaron Morrison and video journalist Noreen Nasir, both from the Race and Ethnicity team, paired with Los Angeles photographer Jae C. Hong for a behind-the-scenes look at a California prison.

Visual access inside U.S. prisons is extremely rare; Morrison got the AP incredible access using connections with sources from previous reporting about prison education programs. The stories of prisoners are often told through statistics, or by the advocates who work with them and prison officials, so the team was particularly mindful of how to humanize the men beyond just their blue uniforms and tattoos, especially as they expressed themselves with such vulnerability through the intensive therapy work and programs. It was important to center the voices and faces of the prisoners themselves throughout the video and photo coverage. The team also worked with AP radio producer Ben Thomas on an audio version of the story, and with the social media team on tailored mobile pushes and promotions for Twitter, Instagram and TikTok.

An illustration by Peter Hamlin, presentation by Samantha Shotzbarger and Ed Medeles, and editing and production support from Global Enterprise, rounded out the

package.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Fast, smart multiformat coverage puts AP ahead on train collision in Greece



Smoke rises from trains as firefighters and rescuers operate after a collision near Larissa city, Greece, March 1, 2023. The collision between a freight and passenger train occurred near Tempe, some 380 kilometers (235 miles) north of Athens, and resulted in the derailment of several train cars. AP PHOTO/VAGGELIS KOUSIORAS

A passenger train carrying hundreds of people collided at high speed with an oncoming freight train in northern Greece, and The Associated Press was the first major news agency to deliver live, visual coverage. Dozens of people died, and dozens more were hurt in the country's deadliest rail disaster.

Speed and activation of stringer networks allowed AP to dominate early, with all formats capturing the details at the scene before other outlets started their news cycles. The quick decision to make the story AP's lead and to promote it with customer-ready videos and other promotional material put the news organization ahead for hours.

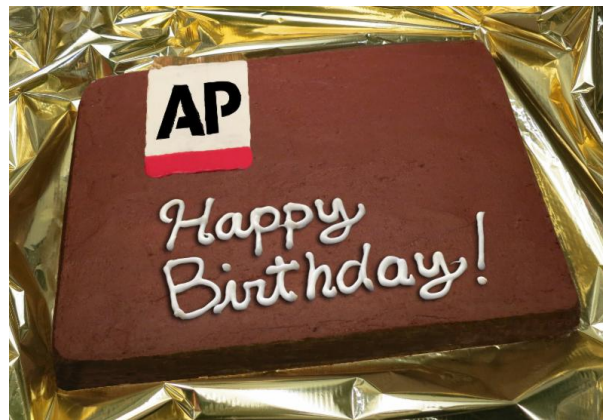
Several university students were among those who died after being trapped in the twisted, smoking wreckage. The fiery Feb. 28 collision near Tempe sparked intense protests in several cities over the perceived lack of safety measures in Greece's rail

network. A stationmaster has been charged with negligent homicide and other offenses.

The core team of AP's Derek Gatopolous on the text side, Thanassis Stavrakis for photos and Theodora Tongas in video reacted early. The teamwork was a great example of cross-format multitasking, with Thessaloniki stringer Costas Kantouris working with local photographer Vaggelis Kousioras and Thessaloniki freelancers Giannis Papanikos and Vassilis Kommatas, who not only produced comprehensive and striking visuals but also contributed crucial details for the text story.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Steve Hurst](#)

[Sandy Johnson](#)

[Estes Thompson](#)

[Nancy Trott](#)

Welcome to Connecting



Glenn Ritt

Stories of interest

Records in Fox defamation case show pressures on reporters (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — It wasn't critics, political foes or their bosses that united Fox News stars Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham when they gathered via text message for a gripe session shortly after the 2020 election.

It was their own network's news division.

"They're pathetic," Carlson wrote.

"THEY AREN'T SMART," Ingraham emphasized.

"What news have they broken the last four years?" Hannity asked.

The Nov. 13, 2020, conversation was included among thousands of pages of recently released documents related to Dominion Voting Systems' \$1.6 billion defamation lawsuit against Fox for its post-election reporting. Like much of what was uncovered, the exchange ultimately may have little bearing on whether Fox will be judged guilty of libel.

Instead, the material offers insight into how Fox's stars and leadership responded at a time of high anxiety and how giving its audience what it wanted to hear took precedence over reporting uncomfortable truths.

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

-0-

Pence says Trump 'endangered my family' on Jan. 6

(AP)

By ZEKE MILLER and CHRIS MEGERIAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday harshly criticized former President Donald Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, widening the rift between the two men as they prepare to battle over the Republican nomination in next year's election.

"President Trump was wrong," Pence said during remarks at the annual white-tie Gridiron Dinner attended by politicians and journalists. "I had no right to overturn the election. And his reckless words endangered my family and everyone at the Capitol that day, and I know history will hold Donald Trump accountable."

Pence's remarks were the sharpest condemnation yet from the once-loyal lieutenant who has often shied away from confronting his former boss. Trump has already declared his candidacy. Pence has not, but he's been laying the groundwork to run.

In the days leading up to Jan. 6, 2021, Trump pressured Pence to overturn President Joe Biden's election victory as he presided over the ceremonial certification of the results. Pence refused, and when rioters stormed the Capitol, some chanted that they wanted to "hang Mike Pence."

Read more [here](#).

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AP journalist from 1994-2004

Politico's Executive Editor Steps Down After a Year in the Job (New York Times)

By Katie Robertson

Dafna Linzer, the executive editor of Politico, is stepping down from her role just a year after joining the company.

In an email to staff, Matthew Kaminski, the publication's editor in chief, said that Ms. Linzer had decided to leave Politico later this month.

"We have always been aligned on the goal of making Politico the world's premier source of news on politics, policy and power. But we saw ourselves diverging over the best way to get there," Mr. Kaminski wrote. "Dafna and I first began discussing the possibility of this move last December."

Ms. Linzer, a former managing editor for politics at NBC News and MSNBC, joined Politico in March 2022, shortly after the publication was bought by Axel Springer, a

German media behemoth, for more than \$1 billion.

Reporting to Mr. Kaminski, she oversaw daily coverage across the newsroom, focusing on Washington and politics. Days after Ms. Linzer joined, Politico published a groundbreaking scoop: a leaked draft opinion from the Supreme Court that would strike down Roe v. Wade.

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

(According to her LinkedIn account, Linzer worked for AP from 1994 to 2004 - starting as a foreign correspondent, then senior editor on the Foreign Desk from 1999-2000 and then United Nations correspondent from 2000-2004.)

-0-

More than 40 News Outlets, Universities Partner to Expose the Money Behind Disinformation in the Americas

International Center for Journalists

Journalists selected for ICFJ's Disarming Disinformation program will work with 41 partners – from news outlets and individual reporters to universities and tech companies – to pursue and publish hard-hitting investigations revealing the people who fund disinformation in the Americas.

ICFJ selected 17 investigative projects led by reporters, editors and researchers from 12 countries. In April, the lead investigators will come together for 48 hours of intensive work in Austin, Texas, as part of the first annual "Investigathon." They will learn tools and techniques that help them execute their projects. Twelve of the participants are supported by the Scripps Howard Foundation, an affiliate organization of the Scripps Howard Fund and the lead funder for Disarming Disinformation. The additional five participants are from Brazil and receive support from the Serrapilheira Institute to investigate who/what funds scientific disinformation.

ICFJ selected the journalists based on several criteria: the originality of their investigative proposals, the impact of the online falsehoods they will be addressing in their work, and the amount of data they've already collected about their research. The selected projects all involve collaborations, including with news outlets such as Televisa Univision and Deutsche Welle, academic partners such as the Columbia Journalism School and Universidade de São Paulo, as well as tech companies like Palver that develop tools the participants may need, such as social media and messaging app trackers.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Bill would eliminate public notice requirement in newspapers (Iowa Capital Dispatch)

BY: JARED STRONG

A bill approved Wednesday by an Iowa Senate committee would create a new state website to publish public notices and eliminate a long-standing requirement for cities, schools and other entities to publish the notices in newspapers.

Proponents of Senate File 480 say it would result in significant savings for public entities that are required by state law to notify residents of meetings, public hearings, proposed budgets, elections, legal actions and a variety of other information.

Opponents say the legislation would lead to a less-informed public and to the closures of community newspapers that depend on revenue from the notices to operate.

“I don’t believe that it is the government’s job to support the newspaper industry,” said Sen. Chris Cournoyer, R-LeClaire. “So if that’s an issue with their business model, perhaps that’s something they need to look at.”

The bill advanced from the Senate Ways and Means Committee in a split vote, with largely Democrats in opposition.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - March 13, 2023



Today is Monday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2023. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today’s highlight in history:

In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a bill prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. (Gov. Austin Peay signed the measure on March 21; Tennessee repealed the law in 1967.)

On this date:

In 1781, the seventh planet of the solar system, Uranus, was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a measure prohibiting Union military officers from returning fugitive slaves to their owners.

In 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a “holiday” declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1938, famed attorney Clarence S. Darrow died in Chicago.

In 1943, financier and philanthropist J.P. Morgan Jr., 75, died in Boca Grande, Florida.

In 1946, U.S. Army Pfc. Sadao Munemori was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for sacrificing himself to save fellow soldiers from a grenade explosion in Seravezza, Italy; he was the only Japanese-American service member so recognized in the immediate aftermath of World War II.

In 1954, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu began during the First Indochina War as Viet Minh forces attacked French troops, who were defeated nearly two months later.

In 1995, two Americans working for U.S. defense contractors in Kuwait, David Daliberti and William Barloon, were seized by Iraq after they strayed across the border; sentenced to eight years in prison, both were freed later the same year.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

In 2011, the estimated death toll from Japan’s earthquake and tsunami climbed past 10,000 as authorities raced to combat the threat of multiple nuclear reactor meltdowns while hundreds of thousands of people struggled to find food and water.

In 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, was fatally shot in her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky, during a botched raid by plainclothes narcotics detectives; no drugs were found, and the “no-knock” warrant used to enter by force was later found to be flawed. (A grand jury brought no charges against officers in her death, and prosecutors said two officers who fired at her were justified because her boyfriend shot at them; one officer was found not guilty of endangering Taylor’s neighbors by firing into the side of her apartment during the raid.)

Ten years ago: In 2013, Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis. he was the first pontiff from the Americas and the first from outside Europe in more than a millennium. A man went on a shooting rampage in the small villages of Mohawk and Herkimer in New York state, killing four and wounding two more at a barbershop and a car wash. (Police would shoot and kill the suspect, 64-year-old Kurt Myers, the following day.)

Five years ago: President Donald Trump abruptly dumped Secretary of State Rex Tillerson — via Twitter — and moved CIA Director Mike Pompeo from the role of

America's spy chief to its top diplomat. On his first trip to California as president, Trump accused the state of putting "the entire nation at risk" by refusing to take tough action against illegal immigration. Joy Behar of "The View" apologized for suggesting that mental illness was behind claims by people that Jesus Christ talks to them; her comment had come during a discussion about Vice President Mike Pence.

One year ago: Russian missiles pounded a military base that served as a crucial hub between Ukraine and the NATO countries supporting its defense, killing 35 people. The barrage marked an escalation of Moscow's offensive and moved the fighting perilously close to the Polish border. A year after holding its basketball tournament in isolated bubbles and two years after holding no tournament at all, the NCAA announced teams for a full-fledged March Madness. Former President Barack Obama announced he had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 98. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 90. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 84. R&B/gospel singer Candi Staton is 83. Opera singer Julia Migenes is 74. Actor William H. Macy is 73. Comedian Robin Duke is 69. Actor Dana Delany is 67. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., is 66. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 63. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 61. Actor Christopher Collet is 55. Rock musician Matt McDonough (Mudvayne) is 54. Actor Annabeth Gish is 52. Actor Tracy Wells is 52. Rapper-actor Common is 51. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 51. Singer Glenn Lewis is 48. Actor Danny Masterson is 47. Actor Noel Fisher is 39. Singers Natalie and Nicole Albino (Nina Sky) are 39. Actor Emile Hirsch is 38. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Mikaela Shiffrin is 28. Tennis star Coco Gauff is 19.

Got a story or photos to share?

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

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



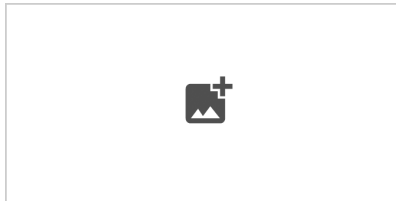
Here are some suggestions:

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

while.

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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