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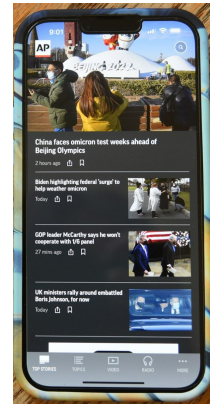
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Connecting

June 6, 2023

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Some of the first assault troops hit the Normandy beachhead on June 6, 1944. AP Photo

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this June 6, 2023,

Today is the 79th anniversary of D-Day – the beginning of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overload during World War II that began the liberation of France and laid foundations for the Allied victory on the Western Front.

Click [here](#) for this AP story: Remembering D-Day: Key facts and figures about epochal World War II invasion

Click [here](#) for this World War II on Deadline story titled, D-Day: Correspondents covering the Day of Days

Our lead story focuses on one of the leading figures in the history of The Associated Press – Kent Cooper, who was general manager from 1925 to 1948, with an article in Nieman Reports by Gene Allen – whose new book is titled, [“Mr. Associated Press: Kent Cooper and the Twentieth-Century World of News.”](#) Its release in paperback is set for June 20.

Cooper, the book related, “transformed the Associated Press, making it the world’s dominant news agency while changing the kind of journalism that millions of readers in the United States and other countries relied on.”

Allen is an adjunct professor in journalism, communication, and culture at Toronto Metropolitan University. According to our colleague Valerie Komor, director of AP Corporate Archives, “Gene’s work is based upon years of research. He spent several summers on fellowship at the AP Corporate Archives working through the papers of Kent Cooper. Thus, this volume is the fruit of previously unavailable and therefore unexamined material, and it could not have fallen into better hands. It will become the standard and definitive account not only of Cooper’s life and career but also of a pivotal time at AP.”

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live this day to your fullest!

Paul

How a titan of 20th-century journalism transformed the AP — and the news



“If one man fails to file a story of a millionairess marrying a poor factory hand because that man understands such a story is not properly A.P. stuff, such an error of news judgment ought to be generally made known to other employees.”

By **GENE ALLEN**
For Nieman Lab

On the day of Kent Cooper’s funeral in February 1965, the flow of news through the international Associated Press network — the institution he spent a 40-year career building — came to a complete stop. In scores of AP bureaus and thousands of newsrooms around the world, the printers that hammered out the news fell silent.

This tribute to a man who changed the kind of news millions of readers and listeners relied on, and opened the way for its global spread, lasted only a minute before the torrent of news resumed. But it was AP’s highest honour, a vivid testimony to the institutional importance of the man widely known to journalists in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Africa as K.C.

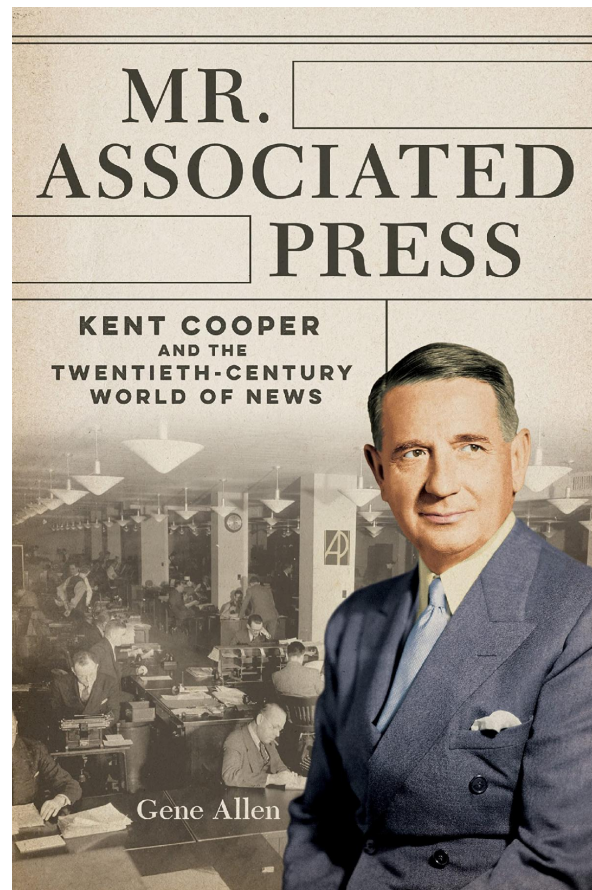
Almost a century after Cooper became AP’s general manager, what can we learn from his career and the development of the institution he led? And what does it tell us about how journalism — including the international news system — evolved during the mid-20th century? And what light might his career shed on today’s troubled news landscape, where organizations like Fox News systematically spread falsehoods that even its own employees don’t believe?

Human-interest news

During Cooper’s long tenure as a senior executive, general manager and executive director — as documented in *Mr. Associated Press*, my newly published biography of him — he changed AP, and the news that its readers and listeners depended on, in three major ways.

First, driven by competition with the United Press, AP's great rival, Cooper loosened the strictures that made AP news colourless and dull (even if widely recognized for its accuracy and impartiality). Editors of AP member newspapers were turning to the livelier and breezier (and, according to some AP supporters, less accurate) stories provided by UP. That could not be allowed to continue.

Cooper responded by embracing human-interest stories, entertainment, sports and other less traditionally newsworthy subjects. "If one man fails to file a story of a millionairess marrying a poor factory hand because that man understands such a story is not properly A.P. stuff," Cooper wrote in 1922, "such an error of news judgment ought to be generally made known to other employees." Journalism had to succeed in the market by offering readers what they wanted to read, rather than what journalists thought they ought to read.

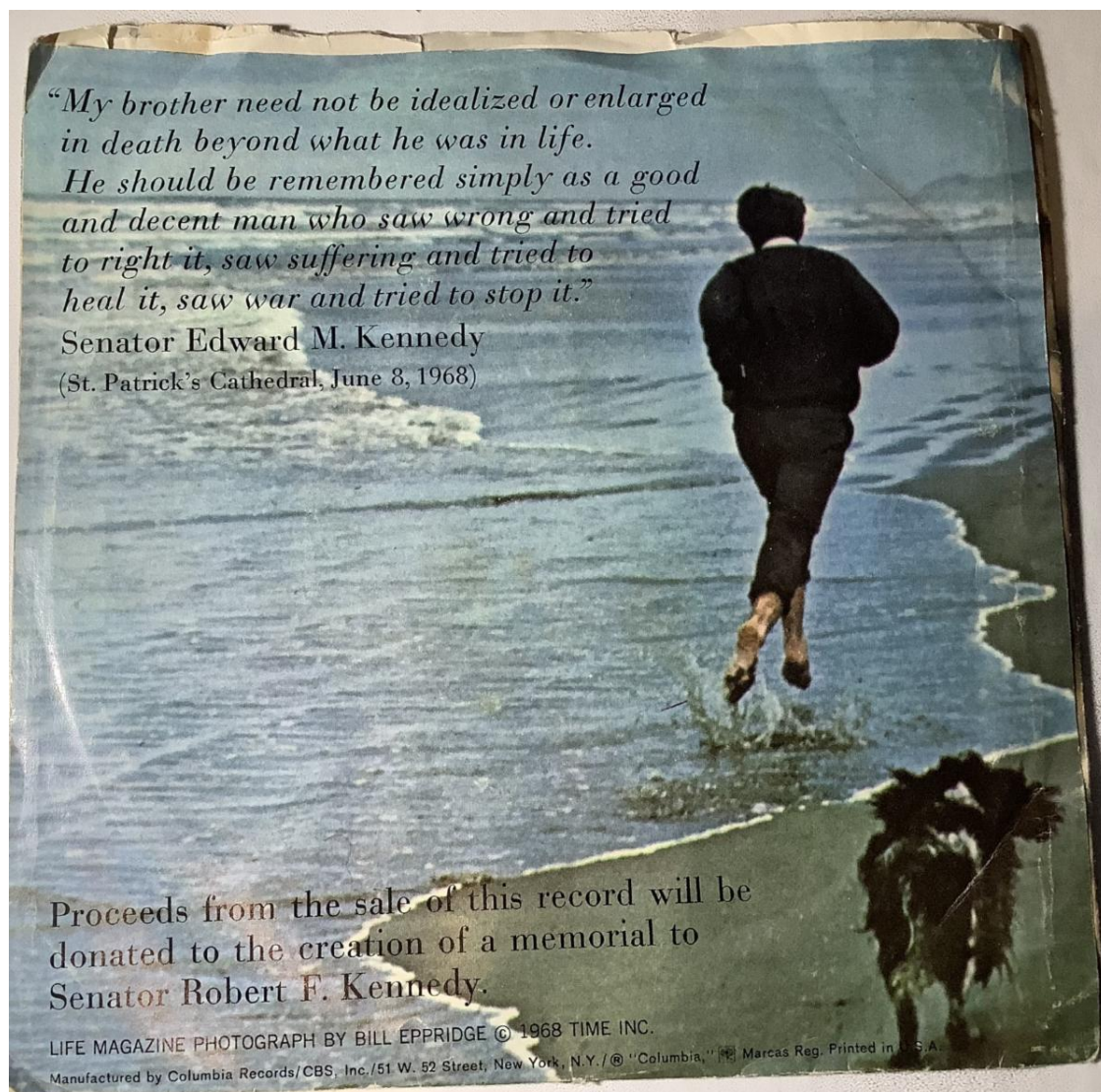


Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor, Terry Wallace, Anita Snow, Rich Oppel.

Your first published story or photo

Malcolm Barr Sr. - Eggs were hard to come by in the UK during World War II and its aftermath. My experience, post-world war, in my first reporting job at age 16 with the Whitley Bay (Northumberland) Seaside Chronicle in northeast England, involved a real egg! After just a few weeks, I was to hit the front page with a story on the discontinuance of candy (sweets) rationing. My erstwhile editor, Mr. Bernard Upton, a character reminiscent of Charles Dickens, raised chickens during and after the war years and gave away an egg each week to the reporter (there were four of us) turning in the "best" story. This was a gift, indeed, to those of us who'd lived for the past several years on tasteless, powdered (dried) eggs. Also, it gave me something to brag about in those early years of reporting.

David Hume Kennerly and RFK



Dennis Conrad - David Hume Kennerly's contribution to Connecting (in Monday's issue) was so moving for me.

It brought back so many memories from 1968 when I had just turned 15 and closely followed that historic presidential campaign year.

At the very time RFK was winning the California primary, I was reading the senator's latest book, "To Seek a Newer World."

I never finished it when he was alive.

Not long after, I would be listening to a new 45 rpm featuring Andy Williams singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Ava Maria" from RFK's service at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

I still keep that book and that record close to me 55 years later.

For me, June 6 will always stand for the celebration of D-Day, the tragic loss of RFK and the promise of my granddaughter born 12 years ago.

Happy birthday Maia!

P.S. Note the back cover of the 45 record features the famous beach photo of RFK by photographer Bill Eppridge — the very person who played such an important role in Kennerly's life.

Remembering Jim Cour

Dan Day - I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jim Cour, whom I got to know when I became Seattle bureau chief in 1989. Most sportswriters, of course, spend most of their time at the ballparks, stadiums and courts, and that's the way it was with Jim on his busy Pacific Northwest beat. That made it all the more special when he'd stop by for a chat before heading to the Kingdome for a Mariners game or the arena for a Sonics game.

His soft, whisper-like voice suited the gentle, kind man he was. He spoke fondly of his sons. I was intrigued by his stories of which athletes were happy to talk in the locker room, and even more about the ones who wouldn't. Jim was an excellent writer, even when challenged with getting a good quote from Chuck Knox, the Seahawks coach whose oratorical skills were just slightly better than those of Calvin Coolidge. Rest in peace, Jim.

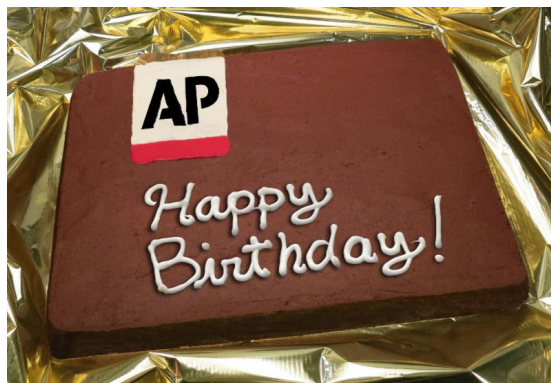
Families flocking back



Marjorie Miller - Morningside Park (in Morningside Heights, Upper Manhattan) reopened after a winter renovation and families are flocking back. And I'm so excited

to have my picture published in the [West Side Rag](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[George Tibbits](#)

Stories of interest

Hundreds of journalists strike to demand leadership change at biggest US newspaper chain (AP)



Editorial members of the Austin American-Statesman's Austin NewsGuild picket along the Congress Avenue bridge in Austin, Texas, Monday, June 5, 2023. The mostly one-day strike aims to protest the company's leadership and cost-cutting measures imposed since its 2019 merger with GateHouse Media. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

By ALEXANDRA OLSON

NEW YORK (AP) — Journalists at two dozen local newspapers across the U.S. walked off the job Monday to demand an end to painful cost-cutting measures and a change of leadership at Gannett, the country's biggest newspaper chain.

The strike involves hundreds of journalists at newspapers in eight states, including the Arizona Republic, the Austin American-Statesman, the Bergen Record, the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, and the Palm Beach Post, according to the NewsGuild, which represents workers at more than 50 Gannett newsrooms. Gannett has said there would be no disruption to its news coverage during the strike, which will last for two days at two of the newspapers and one day for the rest.

The walkouts coincided with Gannett's annual shareholder meeting, during which the company's board was duly elected despite the NewsGuild-CWA union urging shareholders to withhold their votes from CEO and board chairman Mike Reed as an expression of no confidence in his leadership. Reed has overseen the company since its 2019 merger with GateHouse Media, a tumultuous period that has included layoffs and the shuttering of newsrooms. Gannett shares have dropped more than 60% since the deal closed.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt, Richard Chady.
Click [here](#) for Atlantic story: INSIDE THE MELTDOWN AT CNN

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Press freedom's unsung hero (Washington Post)

By Jason Rezaian

Odds are that you've never heard of Bill McCarren. But his fingerprints are all over every campaign in support of persecuted journalists from the past decade.

I caught up with McCarren after he visited the White House recently to advocate on behalf of Evan Gershkovich, the Wall Street Journal journalist recently detained in Russia, and Austin Tice, a Post contributor who has been held hostage in Syria since 2012.

McCarren will retire this week as the executive director of the National Press Club. That body was never intended to be a press freedom organization. It was envisioned as a professional club for working journalists — a counterpart to various other stuffy membership institutions that still dot the Washington landscape.

Before taking the reins, McCarren had a long career in marketing and public relations, and his experience shaped how he approached his new job. He not only successfully made press freedom advocacy a core part of the National Press Club's brand, but also he pioneered innovative campaigns that were designed to be amplified on social media.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady.

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The Carters and the Kings formed an alliance for race relations though Jimmy and Martin never met (AP)

By **BILL BARROW**

ATLANTA (AP) — The voice of Martin Luther King Sr., a melodic tenor like his slain son, carried across Madison Square Garden, calming the raucous Democrats who had nominated his friend and fellow Georgian for the presidency.

“Surely, the Lord sent Jimmy Carter to come on out and bring America back where she belongs,” the venerated Black pastor said as the nominee smiled behind him. “I’m with him. You are, too. Let me tell you, we must close ranks now.”

Carter then shared a moment with Coretta Scott King, clasping hands and locking eyes with the widowed first lady of the Civil Rights Movement, their children looking on.

For the Kings, closing the 1976 convention affirmed their continued reach — and their pragmatism — eight years after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. For Carter, it marked the evolution of a white politician from the Old Confederacy: As a local leader and state senator who aspired for more, he had mostly avoided controversial stands during the civil rights era. During all their years in Atlanta, he never met the movement’s leader.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

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I Bet You've Never Broken Gear as Expensive as These Shattered Camera Lenses (Fstoppers)

by **Alex Cooke**

Almost all of us have broken a piece of camera gear at some point and felt our hearts sink as we looked at thousands of dollars on the ground. However, I doubt any of us have broken gear as expensive as these shattered lenses.

Baseball is a dangerous sport for things made of fragile glass, such as camera lenses. There is a rock-hard projectile flying around at speeds exceeding 100 mph, and when it comes toward a camera, it is often moving so quickly that it is simply impossible to move out of the way in time. And, as you might expect, those impacts are rarely kind to the lens, as you can see in the video above.

Broadcast cameras being struck by errant home runs or foul balls is relatively common, normally happening at least a couple of times every season, but when you

consider how much money one of those lenses costs, it can be an eye-watering thing to watch. For example, two common broadcast lenses that have been hit in the past are the Canon XJ72 and Fujinon Digipower 76. The XJ72 is a 9.3-675mm f/1.7-3.45 lens (designed for the 9.6 x 5.4mm image format for 16:9 television) and retails north of \$60,000 on the used market. On the other hand, the Digipower 76, a 9.3-710mm f/1.7-f/3.6 lens, retails above \$100,000!

So, the next time you drop an expensive piece of gear, just be glad you don't work in television broadcasting.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

The Final Word

Jackie on My Mind (New York Times)



Ullstein Bild, via Getty Images

**By Maureen Dowd
Opinion Columnist**

WASHINGTON — I think about Jackie Kennedy several times a day.

I have no choice.

Tour groups come by my house in Georgetown to see John Kennedy's bachelor pad, where he was living when he met Jacqueline Bouvier at a dinner party.

I eavesdropped at the window once and heard a tour guide spin the romantic yarn about how the handsome senator met the beautiful debutante and they decided to live happily ever after. Somewhere else. “Jackie told Jack he needed to get out of this dump,” the guide said. “By the time he was elected president, they were living in a beautiful house down the block, which we’ll go see now.”

As a tonic to the coarseness of Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis, I have been escaping to the cultured world of Jacqueline Bouvier in the period when Jack was diffidently courting her. (Never a Heathcliff type, Jack sometimes treated her, as Jackie once told Gore Vidal, as though she were a campaign asset, like Rhode Island.)

Carl Sferrazza Anthony’s new biography, “Camera Girl,” offers a lovely snapshot of Jackie’s single years in D.C., working at The Washington Times-Herald.

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

Today in History - June 6, 2023



Today is Tuesday, June 6, the 157th day of 2023. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On June 6, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on “D-Day” as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

On this date:

In 1844, the Young Men’s Christian Association was founded in London.

In 1912, Novarupta, a volcano on the Alaska peninsula, began a three-day eruption, sending ash as high as 100,000 feet; it was the most powerful volcanic eruption of the 20th century and ranks among the largest in recorded history.

In 1934, the Securities and Exchange Commission was established.

In 1939, the first Little League baseball game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, 25 1/2 hours after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1977, a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law imposing an automatic death sentence on defendants convicted of the first-degree murder of a police officer.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1989, burial services were held for Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

In 2001, Democrats assumed control of the U.S. Senate after the decision of Vermont Republican James Jeffords to become an independent.

In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that people who smoked marijuana because their doctors recommended it to ease pain could be prosecuted for violating federal drug laws.

In 2006, soul musician Billy Preston died in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 59.

In 2020, tens of thousands rallied in cities from Australia to Europe to honor George Floyd and voice support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Massive, peaceful protests took place nationwide to demand police reform.

Ten years ago: Director of National Intelligence James Clapper moved to tamp down a public uproar spurred by the disclosure of secret surveillance programs involving phone and Internet records, declassifying key details about one of the programs while insisting the efforts were legal, limited in scope and necessary to detect terrorist threats. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his wife, Lyudmila Putina, announced they were divorcing after nearly 30 years of marriage. Esther Williams, 91, the swimming champion turned actress, died in Los Angeles. Longtime soap opera actress Maxine Stuart, 94, died in Beverly Hills, California.

Five years ago: Breaking with President Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan said there was no evidence that the FBI had planted a "spy" in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign in an effort to hurt his chances at the polls. Trump commuted the life sentence of Alice Marie Johnson, who had spent more than two decades behind bars for drug offenses; her cause had been championed by reality TV star Kim Kardashian West. Carrie Underwood continued to make history as the most decorated act at the CMT Music Awards as a new award for female video of the year gave her 18 wins overall; Blake Shelton walked away with the night's top prize, video of the year. Hall of Fame second baseman Red Schoendienst, who also managed the St. Louis Cardinals to two pennants and a World Series championship in the 1960s, died at the age of 95.

One year ago: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson survived a no-confidence vote, securing enough support from his Conservative Party to remain in office despite a substantial rebellion that left him a weakened leader with an uncertain future. (Johnson would resign on July 7.) Russia began turning over the bodies of Ukrainian fighters killed at the Azovstal steelworks, the fortress-like plant in the destroyed city of Mariupol where their last stand became a symbol of resistance against Moscow's invasion. The former top leader of the far-right Proud Boys extremist group and other members were charged with seditious conspiracy for what federal prosecutors said was a coordinated attack on the U.S. Capitol to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's 2020 electoral victory.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 84. Country singer Joe Stampley is 80. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 79. Actor Robert Englund is 76. Folk singer Holly Near is 74. Singer Dwight Twilley is 72. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., is 71. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 71. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 68. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 67. Actor Amanda Pays is 64. Comedian Colin Quinn is 64. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 64. Rock musician Steve Vai is 63. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 62. Actor Jason Isaacs is 60. Actor Anthony Starke is 60. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 57. Actor Max Casella is 56. Actor Paul Giamatti is 56. R&B singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 55. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 53. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 51. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 50. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 49. Actor Sonya Walger is 49. Former actor Staci Keanan is 48. Jazz singer Somi is 47. Actor Amber Borycki is 40. Actor Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 16.

Got a story or photos to share?

Connecting is a daily newsletter published Monday through Friday that reaches more than 1,800 retired and former Associated Press employees, present-day employees, and news industry and journalism school colleagues. It began in 2013. 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.

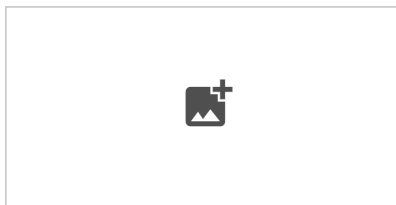
Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

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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