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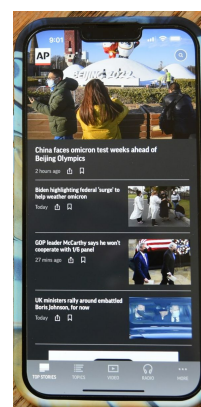
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# Connecting

July 12, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this July 12, 2023,

HEADLINE:

**Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten released from prison a half-century after grisly killings**

**The story** moved on the AP wires Tuesday that Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten, a former homecoming princess who at 19 helped carry out the shocking killings of a wealthy Los Angeles couple at the direction of the violent and manipulative cult leader, walked out of a California prison after serving more than 50 years of a life sentence.

And for one of our colleagues, it struck home.

**Linda Deutsch**, one of the premier courtroom news reporters ever, covered the Manson trials for The Associated Press – and she brings us her thoughts in a story for today's Connecting.

**SAD NEWS ABOUT MARTY ROSE** – Colleague Joyce Rosenberg shares: Marty Rose's wife Peggy told me Tuesday that Marty has been diagnosed with ALS, likely the result of exposure to Agent Orange when he was in Vietnam. Marty is entering hospice care. The family is together; both of Marty's and Peggy's daughters are nearby and of course Evelyn, the light of her grandparents' life, is there too.

Marty worked for the AP in its Markets Department for more than 40 years, overseeing the financial tables including stocks, and it was at the AP where he met Peggy, who worked in the treasurer's office. They lived in Staten Island for decades, moving to the Orlando, Florida, area about 10 years ago.



Marty is one of the most dedicated, hardest working people I've ever known. He is quiet and private, but once you got to know him you discovered a killer sense of humor. And you could get him to open up about his family, the New York Mets and doo-wop.

If you want to pass along your thoughts, caring, whatever, please send them to me - [psyjourn313@gmail.com](mailto:psyjourn313@gmail.com) - and I'll send them to Peggy.

(1998 photo of Marty - AP Photo/Stephen Chernin/AP Corporate Archives.)

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy, live it to your fullest.

Paul

## **AP Was There: Cult leader Charles Manson and followers convicted for brutal California killings**



LOS ANGELES (AP) — EDITOR'S NOTE — On Jan. 26, 1971, Charles Manson and three members of his California cult were convicted for the murders of seven people, including pregnant actress Sharon Tate. On Tuesday, one of those three followers, Leslie Van Houten, was released from a California prison after serving more than 50 years for the 1969 killings of Leno LaBianca, a grocer in Los Angeles; and his wife, Rosemary.

Van Houten is the only one of Manson's followers involved in the murders to be let out of prison.

The Associated Press is republishing a version of its original report about the conviction by Linda Deutsch, who covered the trial that lasted from late 1969 into 1971.

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Charles Manson, shaggy leader of a cult-like clan of hippie types, was convicted Monday of first-degree murder and conspiracy along with three women followers in the savage slayings of actress Sharon Tate and six others.

The state said it will ask the death penalty for all.

The defendants, who staged wild outbursts during their seven-month trial, sat passively as verdicts were returned on the 27 counts against them.

After jurors were polled, Manson muttered audibly, referring to them: "I think they're all guilty." After the verdicts were all in, he shouted at the judge: "We're still not allowed to put on a defense. You won't outlive that, old man."

The jury of seven men and five women, who had deliberated 42 hours and 40 minutes since receiving the case Jan. 15, was ordered to return to court at 9 a.m. Thursday for the penalty phase of the trial. They will continue to be sequestered.

Read more [here](#).

## AP's Linda Deutsch shares memories of Leslie Van Houten - 'I wish her well'



**FILE** - In this April 14, 2016 file photo, former Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten confers with her attorney Rich Pfeiffer, not shown, during a break from her hearing before the California Board of Parole Hearings at the California Institution for Women in Chino, Calif. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

**Linda Deutsch** - My phone began ringing and the emails arriving within minutes after the AP moved the first story. Leslie Van Houten, former Charles Manson follower convicted of murder over 50 years ago, had finally been released on parole. It was a day I thought might never come. In the next few hours I was interviewed on KNX Radio, KABC, KNBC and KCBS TV stations. Assignment editors have my number on speed dial. They know that I am one of the few surviving journalists who covered the infamous trial of Manson and three women followers in 1970 and 71. And I



had the unique opportunity to keep on covering the story for the AP for nearly a half century.

Many times I returned to the California Institution for Women and sat across the room from Leslie Van Houten at her parole hearings. We would catch each others' glance but we never spoke.

I covered multiple parole hearings for other convicted Manson family murderers and subsequent events including the Sacramento trial of Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a Manson devotee who aimed a gun at President Gerald Ford and went to federal prison.

I was there when Sharon Tate's killer, Susan Atkins, was brought to her last parole hearing on a gurney, semi-conscious and near death. The parole board refused to give her compassionate release and she died of cancer in prison a few weeks later. And I covered some of Manson's early parole hearings until he refused to attend any more, accepting that prison was his home. He died in 2017 at a hospital near the prison where he was last incarcerated in central California. He was 83.

Meanwhile, Leslie Van Houten, the youngest of Manson's co-defendants convicted of murder, was growing old in the California Institution for Women. She was 19 when she arrived there and, now in her 70s, had been approved for parole five times. But freedom eluded her as California governors refused to sign off on her release. Those familiar with the case always said Leslie would be the first of the Manson family to be released on parole. One of her prosecutors predicted she would get out "when she is an old lady."

She was the least culpable of the gang, having not been involved in the Sharon Tate killings but convicted in the following day's slayings of grocery owners Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. Her first conviction with Manson was overturned because her lawyer died in a freak accident just before closing arguments. She was released on parole for a time and had two more trials. One ended in a deadlocked jury and the third in her conviction and sentencing to life in prison. Most "lifers," as they are known, become eligible for parole after 25 years and often win parole if they have a clean prison record.

Leslie Van Houten was a perfect prisoner with no violations on her record. She had earned bachelors and master degrees in prison college programs and had become a mentor to other women who sought her guidance on how to live in custody.

I was always fascinated with her story: a homecoming princess from a good family who became a killer. It never made sense. And so I was pleasantly surprised when, shortly after I retired, I received a letter from Leslie. She said she wanted to thank me for the way I covered her case over all of the years.

"I want to thank you for your unbiased reporting," she wrote. "Naturally, much of what I read was hard for me, but that doesn't mean it was ever unfair; it simply means my past still stings...and it should."

I wrote back asking if I could come and visit her. And that was the beginning of our friendship more than 50 years after I first saw her being arraigned in a courtroom. I

sat with her on an outdoor patio at the California Institution for Women where visitors, mostly family members, sat at long picnic tables with prisoners.

I thought it might be difficult connecting with Leslie. It turned out to be very easy, We are close in age and there was no need for any explanations of her past. We had both been there and knew all the details. Our meeting lasted 3 1/2 hours and often returned to the subject of regret and remorse for what she had done.

She said she long ago accepted the need to pay for her crime.

"I couldn't not go to prison," she said. "I couldn't live with myself if I didn't pay for this. But I never thought I would be paying for this long."

She felt that she should probably be the subject of a case study. "How I ended up there with those people deserves to be looked at," she said and spoke of soul searching. "I just wanted to know what made me, this middle-class Presbyterian girl ... what happened to me."

Our visits continued for a few years. At first I took notes and then I stopped because our conversations had changed. We were now just two women whose lives had gone in very different directions talking about the challenges of old age and the world around us. She was disappointed when her parole was repeatedly turned down, but she never gave up hope. I talked to her lawyer often and knew that he was dedicated to getting her out. Then the pandemic hit and our visits stopped. The prison was hit by an epidemic of Covid. Leslie contracted the virus and was hospitalized for a time. But she recovered. We corresponded by mail.

I had written an op-ed piece for the Los Angeles Times advocating for her release. (Of course I could not have done this as a working reporter.) Some friends said they felt the article helped. I don't know if it did. All I know is that her freedom is long overdue, and I am glad that she will have a chance to see the world that she lost in her youth when she followed a demonic cult leader into a horror story.

I wish her well.

## Dan Perry and generational music tastes

[Jim Reindl](#) - Dan Perry's piece on 'his' music hit a chord for me as well. I also subjected my sons to 'my' music during long car rides in their youth. Somehow it stuck with my oldest, who is a musician in Chicago. He cites some of those groups and songwriters as influences on his music. We brought it all full circle in 2020 when we made a record together. So, stay strong, Dan. Stay strong!

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[Hal Spencer](#) - I enjoyed Dan Perry's meander through musical tastes. I have this to say. I wonder if a generation's taste in music has little to do with the music. Instead, your tribe, your age cohort, somehow embraces the sound and viola! So do you. I remember first hearing Dylan and the Beatles in 1963 at 17 and thinking ugh. The former couldn't sing and the latter's songs were lame. But ugh turned to wow. I saw I

was part of a big, impregnable tribe for whom the spreading repertoire was the glue. The sounds came fast and glorious. Soul (Marvin Gaye, Otis Redding), Acid rock, (Grace Slick, The Who), the yuppie songs (Crosby Stills...), the world weary (Pink Floyd.), C&W (Waylon Jennings, Guy Clark.) Yes. Kids these days have tin ears, but then this old goat would say that.

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**Robert Wielaard** - I feel Dan Perry's pain. Today's music is over-produced and over-managed. It is soulless noise. A form of poverty. It comes through RV-sized amps but not from any instrument. We now have 'music' fests at which no instruments are played. Ah, God Bless Spotify Premium!

## Vermont flooding prompts flashback

**Nancy Shulins** - When I woke up to the horrifying drone footage of Vermont under water, I had a flashback to a story I wrote about the aftermath of Irene and its devastating effects on the small, central Vermont town of Rochester. I reported and wrote it under the auspices of Climate Nexus, a strategic communications group working to highlight the impacts of climate change in the U.S., a nonprofit funded by the Rockefellers and run by Bob Tanner, a fellow AP alum.

Three years after Irene, I found the people of Rochester still struggling to cope with its legacy of stranded cows, exhumed graves, fallen bridges, and collapsed homes. Particularly haunting to me was the discussion about rebuilding to higher standards ahead of the next flood, by replacing the culverts that failed with bigger, more environmentally sound ones that would allow swollen streams to pass beneath roads rather than wash them out. FEMA denied the request, ruling that the plans didn't meet federal codes and standards.

Larry Straus, head of the Rochester Select Board, said despite all the work done, the town's infrastructure "Is just as vulnerable as it was in 2011...Could it all happen again? Sure."

I wrote the story to coincide with the release of the National Climate Assessment's chapter on the effects of climate change in rural America. It ran in Grist – click [here](#) to read.

## Times Sports and Maine papers in the news

**Norm Abelson** - I've been reading newspapers – if you count the comics, or the "funny-pages" as we called them – for nearly all of my 92-plus years. So two recent news items have really made a dent in my head.

The New York Times has disbanded its sports department, and my "local" Maine daily and her sister publications have been sold to a national non-profit trust. Both organizations have told me not to worry, that things will remain the same - or maybe



even get better. Now, I'm not by nature a pessimist, nor am I ravaged by paranoia. But recent history in the newspaper business tells me to be just a tad wary of early promises that sometimes fade into the mist.

The AP story on the Times action mentions some of its all-time great sports writers, including Pulitzer winners Grantland Rice and Red Smith. Well, I believe they wrote about a wider venue in which sports were played. As Smith once wrote: "Sports is not really a play world, I think it's the real world...Games are a part of every culture."

I was a loving fan of Smith and his incredible prose; It's fair to say his writing, which flowed seamlessly, helped me improve mine – especially when it seemed so damn hard for me to get it done right. Here's Red on the craft: "Writing is easy, I just open a vein and bleed." I wonder what Rice and Smith would have had to say about the Times action.

In the case here in Maine, it seemed evident that a sale was looming. It's probably in the best that the new owners are non-profit who seem to care about keeping good journalism alive, as opposed to some sharks who would squeeze the papers dry and dump them.

This old guy's personal fear is that all publications are headed in the direction of coming out only online. No puzzle to fill in with my pen. No life-long habit of clipping (and snail mailing!) selected items. No crinkle of turned pages. No scribbling my curses and commentary alongside stories that get my blood boiling. No damn wrapping paper.

## The great Fred Hoffman

[Larry Margasak](#) - For young staffers on the night desk it went like this:

The general desk calls Washington when first Times edition arrives.

"The Times has a story on ...can we match it?"

Washington staffer calls Fred at home. "Sorry to bother you." Reads story.

Fred, raising his voice. "That's old. Had that months ago."

Phone slams down.

A few minutes later, Fred calls back. Dictates a perfect story. Don't need to change a word.

One of a kind. One of the best reporters AP ever had. Loved and admired the man.

## AP staff around the world

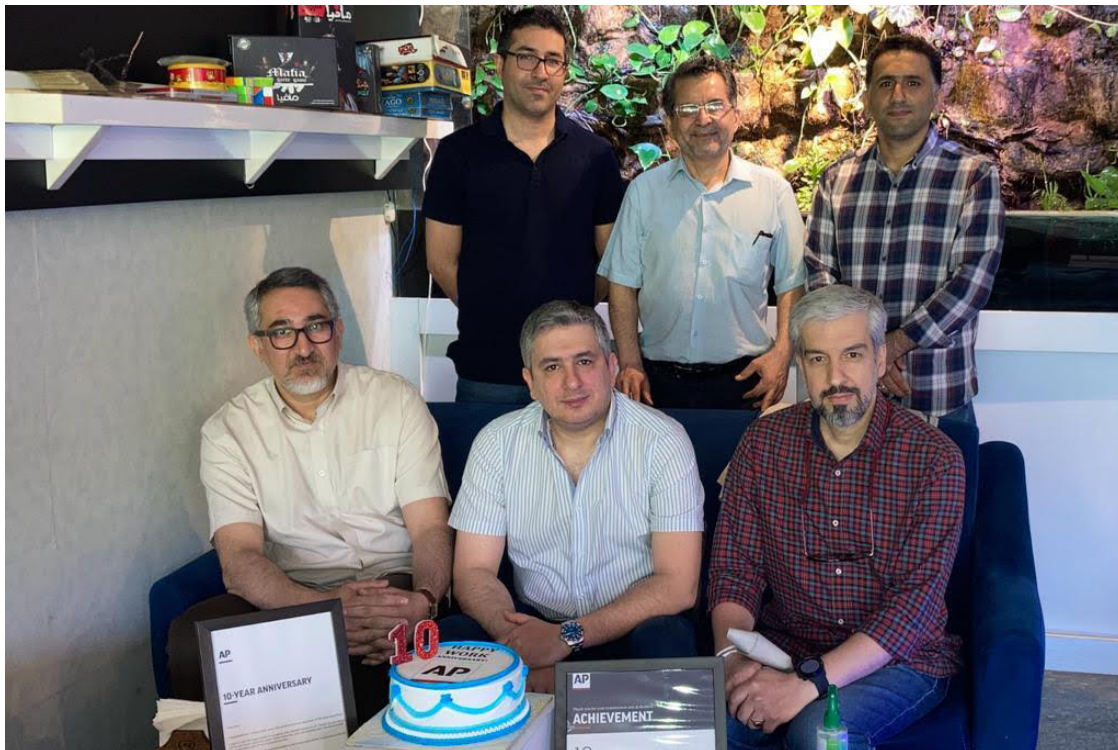




Senior video journalist Rishi Lekhi, right, and news correspondent Krutika Pathi shoot live from the site where two passenger trains derailed in Balasore District, in the Eastern Indian state of Orissa, June 5, 2023. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

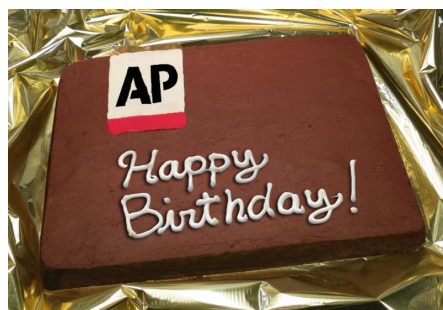


AP photographer Kamran Jebreili poses for a photo with his 25-year anniversary certificate, June 21, 2023. Colleagues in both Dubai and Tehran, Iran, spoke about how they treasured working with Kamran and appreciated his guidance and grace. From left: senior producer Bassam Hatoum, video journalist Malak Harb, video journalist Baraa Anwer, Jebreili, news director Jon Gambrell, Customer Success technician Basel Radwan and office assistant Souad Kordane. (AP Photo/Nick El Hajji)



Staff pose for a photo in Tehran, Iran, May 9, 2023, to celebrate anniversaries. Cameraman Saeed Sarmadi celebrated 20 years with the AP while correspondent Amir Vahdat celebrated 10. Front row from left: photographer Vahid Salemi, Vahdat and Sarmadi. Back row from left: producer Mehdi Fattahi, correspondent Nasser Karimi and cameraman Mohsen Ganji.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Larry Paladino](#)

## Terry Wallace

# Stories of interest

## ***Los Angeles Times owners sell San Diego Union-Tribune to publishing powerhouse*** (AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The owner of the Los Angeles Times has sold sister paper The San Diego Union-Tribune to MediaNews Group, which owns hundreds of papers around the country, the paper announced Monday.

The decision comes after the LA Times announced last month that it was cutting 74 jobs — 13% of its newsroom positions — to deal with financial difficulties.

The Union-Tribune, which covers the second-largest city in California, will now be owned by the same chain that owns a slew of Southern California newspapers. The parent company is Alden Global Capital, a New York hedge fund that has been buying up newspapers across the country and faced criticism for slashing budgets and cutting jobs.

The new owner is offering employee buyouts through next Monday and may lay people off, the Union-Tribune reported. Sharon Ryan, executive vice president of California for MediaNews Group, said in an email to employees that cutbacks will be needed to “offset the slowdown in revenues as economic headwinds continue to impact the media industry,” the paper reported. Efforts will be made to make cuts away from the newsroom, the email said.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

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## **BBC presenter sent abusive and menacing messages to second young person** (BBC)

**By Larissa Kennelly & Lucy Manning & Marie Jackson**

A young person has told BBC News they felt threatened by the BBC presenter at the centre of a row over payment for sexually explicit photos.

The individual in their early 20s was first contacted anonymously by the male presenter on a dating app.

They say they were put under pressure to meet up but never did.

When the young person hinted online they might name the presenter, they were sent abusive, expletive-filled messages.



Speaking to BBC News, the young person - who has no connection to the person at the centre of the Sun's story about payments for photos - said they had been scared by the power the presenter held.

They said the threats made in the messages - which have been seen and verified by BBC News - had frightened them, and they remain scared.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - July 12, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 12, the 193rd day of 2023. There are 172 days left in the year.

### Today's highlight

On July 12, 1909, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in passing the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, allowing for a federal income tax, and submitted it to the states. (It was declared ratified in February 1913.)

### On this date

In 1543, England's King Henry VIII married his sixth and last wife, Catherine Parr.

In 1812, United States forces led by Gen. William Hull entered Canada during the War of 1812 against Britain. (However, Hull retreated shortly thereafter to Detroit.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Army Medal of Honor.

In 1908, comedian Milton Berle was born Mendel Berlinger in New York City.

In 1965, the Beach Boys single "California Girls" was released by Capitol Records.

In 1967, rioting erupted in Newark, New Jersey, over the police beating of a Black taxi driver; 26 people were killed in the five days of violence that followed.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed a measure creating the Congressional Budget Office. Former White House aide John Ehrlichman and three others were convicted of conspiring to violate the civil rights of Daniel Ellsberg's former psychiatrist.

In 1984, Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale announced his choice of U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro of New York to be his running-mate; Ferraro was the first woman to run for vice president on a major-party ticket.

In 1991, Japanese professor Hitoshi Igarashi, who had translated Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," was found stabbed to death, nine days after the novel's Italian translator was attacked in Milan.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, visiting Germany, went to the eastern sector of Berlin, the first U.S. president to do so since Harry Truman.

In 2003, the USS Ronald Reagan, the first carrier named for a living president, was commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 2016, with hugs and handshakes, Bernie Sanders endorsed Hillary Clinton for president during an appearance in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Ten years ago: Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced her resignation. A train carrying hundreds of passengers derailed and crashed outside Paris; at least six people were killed and dozens injured. NSA leaker Edward Snowden emerged from weeks of hiding in a Moscow airport, meeting with Russian officials and rights activists. The Texas Senate passed sweeping new abortion restrictions, sending them to Gov. Rick Perry to sign into law after weeks of protests and rallies that drew thousands of people to the Capitol.

Five years ago: After an emergency gathering of NATO leaders held to address his criticisms, President Donald Trump said the U.S. commitment to the alliance "remains very strong," despite reports that he had threatened to pull out in a dispute over defense spending. Trump then flew to Great Britain for his first visit as president. Syria's government raised its flag over the southern city of Daraa, the cradle of the 2011 uprising against President Bashar Assad, after rebels in the city surrendered. "Game of Thrones" led the way with 22 Emmy nominations; Netflix programs captured 112 nominations, taking away HBO's front-runner title.

One year ago: As a Russian offensive intensified in eastern Ukraine, authorities urged residents to evacuate for other, safer cities and towns in the west of the country, though many refused to leave, including pensioners worried they wouldn't have enough money to survive in a new location. Twitter sued Elon Musk to force him to complete the \$44 billion acquisition of the social media company after Musk said he was backing off his agreement to buy the company. (He would eventually become Twitter's owner in October of 2022.) Ann Shulgin, a pioneer of psychedelics in therapy, died at age 91.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Denise Nicholas is 79. Singer-songwriter Butch Hancock is 78. Fitness guru Richard Simmons is 75. Singer Walter Egan is 75. Writer-producer Brian Grazer is 72. Actor Cheryl Ladd is 72. Gospel singer Ricky McKinnie is 71. Country singer Julie Miller is 67. Gospel singer Sandi Patty is 67. Actor Mel Harris is 67. Actor Buddy Foster is 66. Rock guitarist Dan Murphy (Soul Asylum) is 61. Actor Judi Evans is 59. Rock singer Robin Wilson (Gin Blossoms) is 58. Actor Lisa Nicole Carson is 54. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi is 52. Country singer Shannon Lawson is 50. CBS newsman Jeff Glor is 48. Actor Anna Friel is 47. R&B singer Tracie Spencer is 47. Actor Alison Wright is 47. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., is 47. Actor Steve Howey is 46. Actor Topher Grace is 45. Actor Michelle Rodriguez is 45. Actor Kristen Connolly is 43. Country singer-musician Kimberly Perry (The Band Perry) is 40. Actor Matt Cook (TV: "Man With a Plan") is 39. Actor Natalie Martinez is 39. Actor Bernard David Jones is 38. Actor Ta'Rhonda Jones is 35. Golfer Inbee Park is 35. Actor Melissa O'Neil is 35. Actor Rachel Brosnahan is 33. Actor Erik Per Sullivan is 32. Olympic gold medal gymnast Jordyn Wieber is 28. Nobel Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai is 26.

## 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!

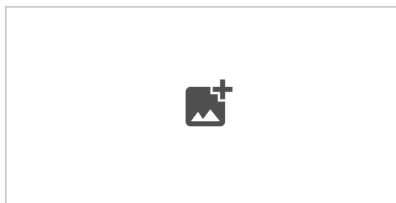
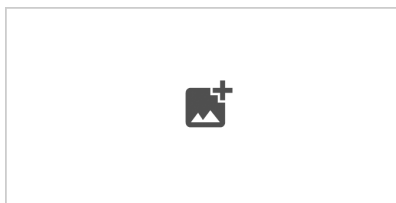
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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