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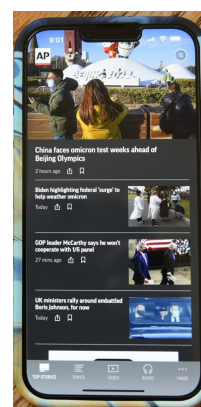
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Connecting

July 31, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this July 31, 2023,

We lead today's Connecting with a 100-year lookback on how The Associated Press covered the death of Warren G. Harding, the 29th president.

Leonard Milliman, an AP reporter in San Francisco for over 40 years, wrote about the events of that day in the early 1930s as part of a series of recollections collected by Oliver Gramling for his 1940 book AP: The Story of News.

In June 1923, President Harding embarked on a historic trip to Alaska accompanied by AP reporters Stephen T. Early and Albert Bartley. Before completing his return to Washington, the president fell ill and died on Aug. 2, 1923. The AP played a crucial role in breaking the news to the nation, including informing Vice President Coolidge about his new role as president.

Here's to a great week ahead – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

The Death of a President 1923: **How the AP Covered the Death of Warren G. Harding**



President Warren G. Harding stands at the rail of the U.S.S. Henderson en route to Alaska for his July 1923 tour of the state. (AP Photo)

Warren G. Harding, the 29th president, left Washington, D.C. in June 1923 on a historic trip to Alaska. AP's Stephen T. Early and Albert Bartley of the Washington bureau were assigned to accompany the party on the month's long journey across the country and north to Fairbanks and Vancouver, where Harding made history as the first president to visit Alaska and the first sitting American president to visit Canada.

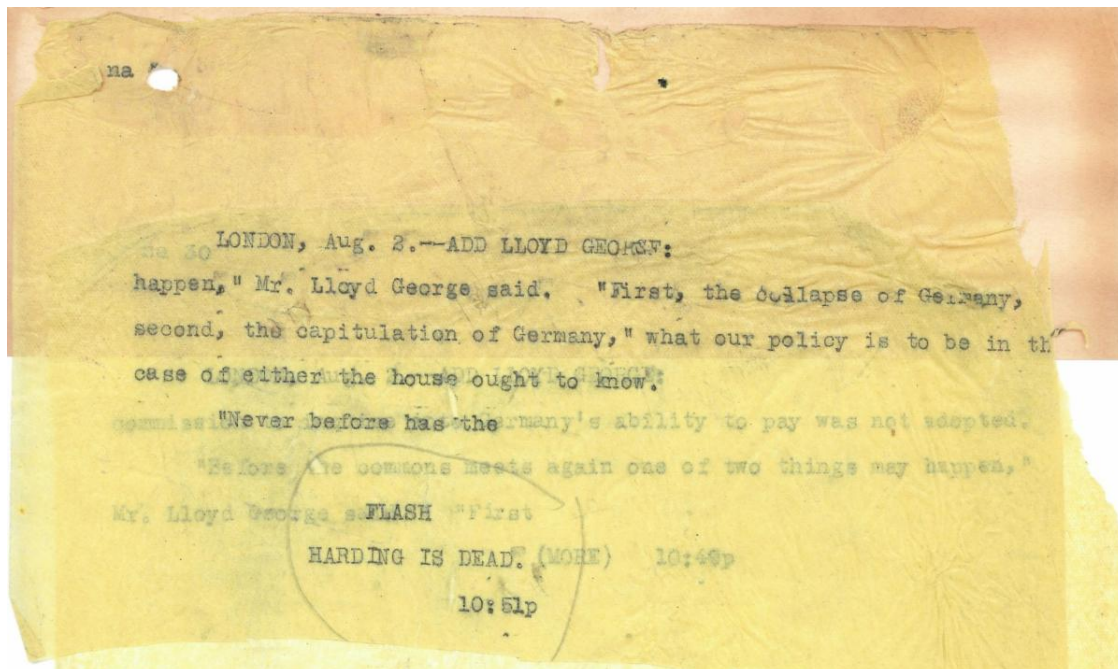
As the party continued south along the west coast, Harding began to show signs of ill health. By the time Harding reached San Francisco on July 29th, he was gravely ill. As he lay in his room at the Palace Hotel, his doctors issued periodic updates on his condition, keeping the press up to date.

Leonard Milliman, an AP reporter in San Francisco for over 40 years, wrote about the events of that day in the early 1930s as part of a series of recollections collected by Oliver Gramling for his 1940 book *AP: The Story of News*.

Milliman wrote: "As bulletin followed bulletin, the tension lightened. He appeared to be getting better. The corps of reporters gathered in San Francisco relaxed its vigilance."

Paul Cowles, western division superintendent of the AP, took a more cautious approach, ordering Early and Bartley to keep a 24-hour watch on the President's suite, reportedly saying: "If you've been leaving the door uncovered, don't do it anymore."

When Mrs. Harding opened the door to the president's suite to call for a doctor on August 2nd, Early was the only reporter at the scene. In a matter of minutes, he cleared several warning bulletins that the end was near, transmitting them from the telegraph room that the AP had set up one floor below the president's suite. The AP was first with the news when the official announcement was made that the president had died.



Flash announcing the death of President Harding. (AP Corporate Archives, Kent Cooper Papers)

The flash also brought news of Harding's death to Washington. In the chaotic rush of events at the Palace Hotel, Harding's staff neglected to send word to the White House. The AP also played a role in informing Vice-President Coolidge that he was to be president. Coolidge was vacationing at his father's house in Plymouth, Vermont, when W.E. Playfair of the Boston bureau arrived to bring news of the President's death. At 2:43 A.M. on August 3, 1923, Coolidge took the oath of office in his father's farmhouse.

Susanne Shaw – a deserving Hall of Famer

[Bill Hancock](#) - I was happy to see that Susanne Shaw will be inducted into the Kansas Journalism Hall of Fame. The hall certainly will benefit from her presence, because she was a newspaper person's newspaper person.

My son, Will, was a beneficiary of her skill and patience when she was his adviser at the William Allen White School of Journalism at the University of Kansas. He enjoyed

sitting with her to plot his schedule for the upcoming semester. Her advice was always right on target. Will loved her. As so many others have, through the years.

As Publishers Seek AI Payments, AP Gets a First-Mover Safeguard

Associated Press pact with OpenAI gives it the right to reset terms if another publisher gets a better deal

By Alexandra Bruell
The Wall Street Journal

When the Associated Press was negotiating an agreement to license its content to generative-AI company OpenAI, the newswire giant had a hesitation: What if another publisher comes along and strikes a more lucrative deal?

The AP built in a first-mover safeguard, often referred to as a “most favored nation” clause, that gives it the right to reset the terms if another company gets a better deal from OpenAI, according to people familiar with the agreement.

News organizations are still in the early stages of evaluating generative AI tools from companies including OpenAI, Microsoft and Google, which are trained on vast amounts of internet data, including news articles.

Several publishers are seeking payments for the use of their content. With no precedent in the industry, determining the fair value of what they produce isn’t straightforward.

The AP was the first major publisher to strike a pact with a major AI platform, and its favored nation clause reflects the uncertainty in the industry about how much news content is worth to AI bots.

The AP didn’t disclose the terms of its deal. “AP refrains from discussing the details of its business arrangements,” a company spokeswoman said. OpenAI declined to comment.

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

AP retiree Mort Rosenblum quoted
Opinion: ‘I wouldn’t swim in that water at gunpoint.’ Paris locals aren’t the only ones dubious about Olympic plans

Opinion by David A. Andelman

Back in the 1980s, when I first began living in Paris, I once had to clamber onto the tiny exterior staircase that surrounds the Eiffel Tower and is used to paint or repair it.

There, hanging out over the city some thousand feet up, I filmed my on-camera segment for CBS about engineering work on the tower. A nightmare assignment for a journalist with acrophobia.

Still, at that time, nothing could have impelled me to risk a swim in that other iconic Parisian sight — the Seine River — not without a full biohazard suit.

And nothing now could get me into the river that has all the romance of One Thousand and One Nights as it winds its magical eight miles through Paris and off into the countryside.

The leaders of the city of Paris want to persuade me otherwise. It seems the 2024 Paris Olympics organizers want to make this fabled river the centerpiece of the lavish opening ceremony a year from now and for the entire 17 days of the games.

In short, they want to clean up the Seine for swimming events. Good luck.

“I wouldn’t swim in that water at gunpoint,” said Mort Rosenblum, the former editor of the International Herald Tribune, who’s owned a houseboat barge, tied up to the north bank of the Seine just east of the Pont de la Concorde, for at least four decades.

But, he admitted to me, his pet cat’s fallen in the river a dozen times and survived. Of course, he’s never dived in to fish her out.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Allan Erbsen/Claude Erbsen.

BEST OF THE WEEK — FIRST WINNER

AP’s Nairobi bureau delivers searing, all-formats look at police violence and cover-up



In Kenya's capital Nairobi, police brutality has long been criticized. But the violence this month against demonstrators still caused shock. And AP delivered an all-formats documentation of it, along with exposing extraordinary attempts to hide it.

As Kenyans protested new taxes and the cost of living, freelance photographer Brian Inganga delivered widely shared images of several people shot by police in one of Nairobi's most volatile neighborhoods. He also showed a man who had hidden himself among journalists, who then tackled and detained a protester shouting about tear gas making his child faint. That pushed the Media Council of Kenya to say it was dangerous for undercover police to pose as journalists.

As rumors circulated about the number of people shot dead, AP's Nairobi team confirmed that police got orders not to report the deaths, not even to their oversight authority, which is illegal.

East Africa correspondent Cara Anna combined that with data from a medical-legal watchdog group to show that police had shot dead more than 30 people in protests this month, all in Kenya's poorest neighborhoods.

East Africa writer Evelyne Musambi wrote about one of the victims, a young man who carted water and whose family said they couldn't afford an autopsy.

Read more [here](#).

BEST OF THE WEEK — SECOND WINNER

Coordination across time zones yields top coverage of Korean border escape



After a U.S. soldier dashed across the Korean border into North Korea, AP journalists across 13 time zones jumped into action. New Zealand correspondent Nick Perry snagged an interview with a tourist who at first thought she was seeing a social-media stunt. Perry obtained photos from the tourist and Seoul video journalist Yong Jun Chang persuaded her to go on camera.

Foster Klug, the news director for Korea and Japan, mined the opportunity by writing about the surreal Korean border village where the incident occurred — a place that exudes both a carnival atmosphere and danger. Seoul reporter Kim Tong-hyung described what the soldier may face during detention in North Korea, and Seoul correspondent Hyung-jin Kim wrote about the odd ways the United States and North Korea communicate with each other.

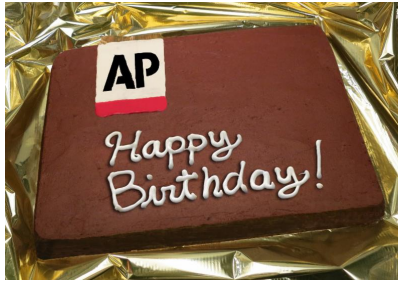
Chief Seoul photographer Ahn Young-joon traveled to the border daily, capturing images of North Korea. Video journalists Kim Yong-ho and Yong Jun Chang's early morning live shots at the Demilitarized Zone provided a real-time look into one of the least visited places on Earth.

In the United States, Madison, Wisconsin, correspondent Scott Bauer and video journalist Melissa Winder in Chicago scored an all-formats interview with the soldier's baffled family. Milwaukee-based photojournalist Morry Gash played a significant role in the coverage from Wisconsin, capturing images of the defector soldier's family members, including an APTPIX photo of the grandfather. And in Washington, Lolita Baldor and Tara Copp revealed that the soldier had served time in South Korea for assault and described the hours leading up to his dash into North Korea.

The coverage was among the AP's most viewed.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Randi Berris](#)

[Jocelyn Noveck](#)

[Tony Winton](#)

Stories of interest

Variety revises article on former CNN chief Jeff Zucker that was sharply criticized (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The entertainment publication Variety, under fire this week for an article it published about former CNN chief Jeff Zucker's interest in his old employer, revised the piece on Friday to reflect some of the complaints about it.

None of its changes affected what was written about Zucker, however. He has called for the story to be retracted.

The article by Tatiana Siegel, which initially ran online Tuesday, depicted Zucker as badmouthing his successor at CNN, Chris Licht, while simultaneously trying to buy the news organization that fired him in early 2021. Licht's unsuccessful run atop the struggling news network ended with his firing in May.

The dispute also points to the dangers inherent in the use of confidential sources by journalists. There are at least a dozen claims made in the story that Variety did not attribute to a named source that were denied on the record, either in the story or after publication, leaving it up to readers to decide who to believe.

"There used to be a time when Variety held its content and its reporters to a high standard of truth and facts in journalism, but those days are clearly over," said Risa Heller, a spokeswoman for Zucker. "It is stunning to read a piece that is so patently

and aggressively false. On numerous occasions, we made it clear to the reporter and her editors that they were planning to publish countless anecdotes and alleged incidents that never happened. They did so anyway. The piece is a total joke.”

Read more [here](#).

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OPINION The Research Scandal at Stanford Is More Common Than You Think (New York Times)

By Theo Baker

Mr. Baker is a rising sophomore at Stanford University. At its daily student newspaper, he won a George Polk Award for investigating allegations of manipulated experimental data in scientific papers published by the university's president.

There are many rabbit holes on the internet not worth going down. But a comment on an online science forum called PubPeer convinced me something might be at the bottom of this one. “This highly cited Science paper is riddled with problematic blot images,” it said. That anonymous 2015 observation helped spark a chain of events that led Stanford’s president, Marc Tessier-Lavigne, to announce his resignation this month.

Dr. Tessier-Lavigne made the announcement after a university investigation found that as a neuroscientist and biotechnology executive, he had fostered an environment that led to “unusual frequency of manipulation of research data and/or substandard scientific practices” across labs at multiple institutions. Stanford opened the investigation in response to reporting I published last autumn in The Stanford Daily, taking a closer look at scientific papers he published from 1999 to 2012.

The review focused on five major papers for which he was listed as a principal author, finding evidence of manipulation of research data in four of them and a lack of scientific rigor in the fifth, a famous study that he said would “turn our current understanding of Alzheimer’s on its head.” The investigation’s conclusions did not line up with my reporting on some key points, which may, in part, reflect the fact that several people with knowledge of the case would not participate in the university’s investigation because it declined to guarantee them anonymity. It did confirm issues in every one of the papers I reported on. (My team of editors, advisers and lawyers at The Stanford Daily stand by our work.)

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

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One-year anniversary of José Rubén Zamora’s imprisonment reignites calls for journalist’s release amid deteriorating press freedom in Guatemala (CPJ)

Washington, D.C., July 27, 2023—The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) reiterated its urgent call for the release of Guatemalan journalist José Rubén Zamora at a press conference on Wednesday marking a year since Zamora’s imprisonment in Guatemala.

“José Rubén Zamora’s imprisonment is a gross miscarriage of justice and a flagrant attack on journalism in Guatemala,” said CPJ President Jodie Ginsberg in a written statement. “This case is a bellwether for democracy in Guatemala; the courts should right this wrong and release Zamora without delay.”

Speaking at the National Press Club, José Carlos Zamora, son of the jailed journalist; Guatemalan journalist in exile Bertha Michelle Mendoza; and CPJ Program Director Carlos Martínez de la Serna—in a discussion moderated by Sara Fischer, senior media reporter at Axios—called on the international community to act with greater urgency over Zamora’s case and the growing challenges faced by journalists in the region.

“The administration of Alejandro Giammattei has held my father hostage for 365 days based on a fabricated case and an absolute violation of due process,” said José Carlos Zamora at the press conference. “Governments realized that assassinating journalists comes at a very high cost, so it was easier to use the legal system to persecute them.”

Read more [here](#). Shared by Linda Deutsch.

The Final Word

Capturing a 21st-century war with 19th-century technology (Art Daily)



The Field Shower. Slavyansk. Donbas, 12 June 2022.

by Carlotta Gall

SARAJEVO.- The news coverage from Ukraine has been so intense and widespread over the past 16 months that it may seem that the war has been covered to the point of saturation. Yet for all the wealth of film and photographs to come out of the war, there have been significant gaps — most notably, a shortage of combat photography.

That is not so much for lack of trying, but because of the difficulty of access to the front lines. Photographers are often restricted to press tours and kept well back from the zero line, as the first line is known. As a result, the most memorable photography emerging from the war has been the civilian aspect, urban destruction and the human cost.

A new photo exhibition by Israeli freelance photographer Edward Kaprov goes a significant way to remedy that and stands out for its timeless images of war at the front.

Kaprov, 48, has turned to one of the earliest of photographic techniques, wet plate collodion photography, invented in 1851, to produce images — mostly portraits of soldiers, medics, morgue workers and a smattering of civilians — that his peers are describing as one of the most powerful collections of images of the war in Ukraine to date.

He happily points out that wet plate photography, which produces unique images on A4-size glass plates, is an absurdly complicated and cumbersome method in the digital age and in a war zone, but it is one he embraces for all kinds of personal and historical connections.

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

Today in History - July 31, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 31, the 212th day of 2023. There are 153 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 31, 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

On this date:

In 1715, a fleet of Spanish ships carrying gold, silver and jewelry sank during a hurricane off the east Florida coast; of some 2,500 crew members, more than 1,000 died.

In 1919, Germany's Weimar Constitution was adopted by the republic's National Assembly.

In 1945, Pierre Laval, premier of the pro-Nazi Vichy government in France, surrendered to U.S. authorities in Austria; he was turned over to France, which later tried and executed him.

In 1953, Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, known as "Mr. Republican," died in New York at age 63.

In 1957, the Distant Early Warning Line, a system of radar stations designed to detect Soviet bombers approaching North America, went into operation.

In 1970, "The Huntley-Brinkley Report" came to an end after nearly 14 years as co-anchor Chet Huntley signed off for the last time; the broadcast was renamed "NBC Nightly News."

In 1971, Apollo 15 crew members David Scott and James Irwin became the first astronauts to use a lunar rover on the surface of the moon.

In 1972, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton withdrew from the ticket with George McGovern following disclosures that Eagleton had once undergone psychiatric treatment.

In 1981, a seven-week-old Major League Baseball strike ended.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in Moscow.

In 2003, the Vatican launched a global campaign against gay marriages, warning Catholic politicians that support of same-sex unions was "gravely immoral" and urging non-Catholics to join the offensive.

In 2020, a federal appeals court overturned the death sentence of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, saying the judge who oversaw the case didn't adequately screen jurors for potential biases. (The Supreme Court later reimposed the sentence.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama's national security team acknowledged for the first time that, when investigating one suspected terrorist, it could read and store the phone records of millions of Americans. Voters in Zimbabwe went to the polls in national elections that were won by President Robert Mugabe amid opponents' allegations of fraud.

Five years ago: Jury selection began in the trial of Paul Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman; he was accused of failing to report tens of millions of dollars in Ukrainian political consulting fees. (Manafort was sentenced to a total of seven and a-half years in prison after being convicted at trial in Virginia and pleading guilty in Washington to two conspiracy counts.) Actor Alan Alda revealed that he has Parkinson's disease, telling "CBS This Morning" that he'd been diagnosed three and a half years ago.

One year ago: Bill Russell, the NBA great who anchored a Boston Celtics dynasty that won 11 championships in 13 years — the last two as the first Black head coach in any major U.S. sport — and marched for civil rights with Martin Luther King Jr., died at age 88. Nichelle Nichols, who broke barriers for Black women in Hollywood when she played communications officer Lt. Uhura on the original "Star Trek" television series, died at 89.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Don Murray is 94. Jazz composer-musician Kenny Burrell is 92. Actor France Nuyen is 84. Actor Susan Flannery is 84. Singer Lobo is 79. Actor Geraldine Chaplin is 79. Former movie studio executive Sherry Lansing is 79. Singer Gary Lewis is 78. Actor Lane Davies is 73. Actor Susan Wooldridge is 73. International Tennis Hall of Famer Evonne Goolagong Cawley is 72. Actor Barry Van Dyke is 72. Actor Alan Autry is 71. Jazz composer-musician Michael Wolff is 71. Actor James Read is 70. Actor Michael Biehn is 67. Rock singer-musician Daniel Ash (Love and Rockets) is 66. Actor Dirk Blocker is 66. Entrepreneur Mark Cuban is 65. Rock musician Bill Berry (R.E.M.) is 65. Actor Wally Kurth is 65. Actor Wesley Snipes is 61. Country singer Chad Brock is 60. Musician Fatboy Slim is 60. Rock musician Jim Corr is 59. Author J.K. Rowling is 58. Actor Dean Cain is 57. Actor Jim True-Frost is 57. Actor Ben Chaplin is 54. Actor Loren Dean is 54. Actor Eve Best is 52. Actor s(pah-REES') is 48. Country singer-musician Zac Brown is 45. Actor-producer-writer B.J. Novak is 44. Actor Eric Lively is 42. Singer Shannon Curfman is 38. NHL center Evgeni Malkin is 37. Hip-hop artist Lil Uzi Vert is 29. Actor Reese Hartwig is 25. Actor Rico Rodriguez is 25.

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?

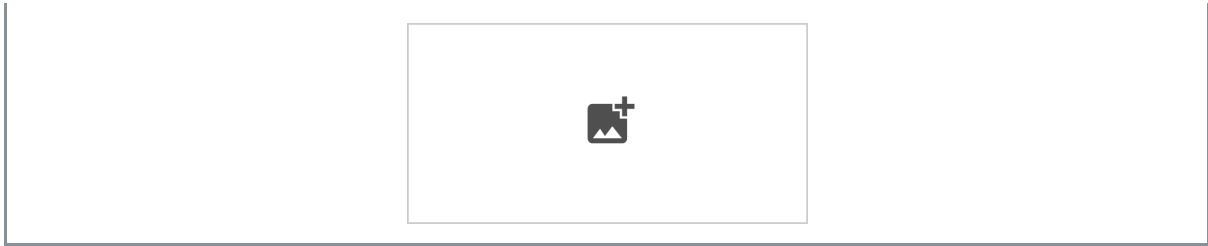
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

Paul Stevens

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