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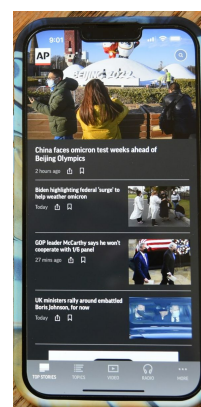
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Connecting

Aug. 25, 2023

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this Aug. 25, 2023,

Congratulations to **Aaron Morrison** – newly named AP race and ethnicity news editor.

We lead with news of his appointment – succeeding **Andale Gross**, who left AP to become managing editor of The Kansas City Star.

Responses to Connecting’s call for anyone with ties to both the AP and The Detroit News, which is celebrating its 150th birthday, yielded an unanticipated but delightful response from our colleague **Amy Finkelstein**. She was a carrier for the News as a youth before later joining the AP.

Here’s to a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy, live each day to your fullest.

Paul

Aaron Morrison named race and ethnicity news editor

In a memo to staff on Wednesday, Deputy U.S. News Director for Reporting Teams Sarah Rafi announced a key appointment:

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that Aaron Morrison has been named AP's new race and ethnicity news editor, taking over a team at the vanguard of the U.S. media's coverage of race.

Aaron has for more than three years excelled as a national race and ethnicity writer based in New York, spearheading stories on the impact COVID-19 shutdowns had on prisoner rehabilitation programs, investigations into Black Lives Matter finances and coverage of how the pandemic amplified racial disparities, among many other topics. Before joining AP, Aaron was a reporter at The Appeal and Mic covering issues from mass incarceration to police use of force.



Look no further than today's rich, multi-format curtain raiser on the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington for the latest example of coverage conceived by Aaron and made possible thanks to the trust and cooperation he garners from sources and colleagues alike.

Aaron's appointment is just the start of AP's commitment to further building our coverage of race, both within the Race and Ethnicity team where job postings will be forthcoming, and throughout the company.

Please join me in congratulating Aaron on his new role, which he will officially assume this coming Monday, Aug. 28.

Click [here](#) for Definitive Source blog.

Remembering Jon Wolman

[Ron Fournier](#) - My heart broke again when I saw the names Wolman and Mears. Thanks for sharing on the Detroit News. FYI, [here's a piece](#) JPW's team asked me to write when he passed:

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[Owen Ullmann](#) - It was very gratifying to see this morning's edition of Connecting with a photo of my dear departed friend, Jon Wolman. Jon and I met at the University of

Wisconsin-Madison in the early 1970s and then hooked up at the AP Detroit Bureau, which I joined in 1973. Jon was already working there, and quickly displayed his awesome journalistic skills as a reporter and editor.

Jon soon got promoted to the Washington Bureau, and I followed him there in 1977. He steadily rose in the ranks, reaching the No. 2 post in New York. I left the AP in 1983, when I joined the Knight-Ridder Washington Bureau.

Jon and I stayed close friends and I visited him on many occasions when he became publisher and editor of the Detroit News, which became a keen and highly respected observer and watchdog of the community under his guidance. Jon was one of the smartest-and wisest--journalists I have ever known, and I miss his company and counsel deeply.

In his memory, Jon's widow, Debbie, with my help, has established an endowed scholarship in Jon's name for deserving students at UW-Madison wishing to pursue a career in newspaper journalism.

If any Connecting readers wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, they can make an online or mail donation using [this website](#).

Please designate donations to the Jon Wolman Scholarship in Journalism Fund (132510019) c/o the University of Wisconsin Foundation, US Bank Lockbox, Box 78807, Milwaukee WI 53278-0807.

Here's an unusual AP-Detroit News tie

[Amy Finkelstein](#) - I'm not sure if this is the kind of AP-Detroit News tie you were thinking of, but I delivered the News after school for three years as my first job! That was about a decade before Detroit COB Charles Hill hired me as a vacation relief staffer as my first job after college.

My route was in the suburb where I grew up. I walked it with my big newspaper satchel on weekdays after school and on Saturday mornings. My dad drove me for the big papers on Sunday — we'd pile them in the center of the front bench seat (remember those?) and I'd grab a few at a time and run back and forth to the car.

A tidbit that perhaps sheds light on my future was that I always (very neatly!) read one issue of the paper before I delivered them because I liked being the first to know the news.



As for the rest of my news career? I did two vacation relief stints in Detroit, joined AP as a permanent hire in New York in Multimedia, then worked as an editor on the International Desk. After a sojourn at the WSJ, I returned to work in Business News,

then went to London as the European business editor. I came back to the U.S. and worked in Business News again as the retail editor, then decamped to Chicago to join the new Central Desk. I took advantage of the sabbatical option to go vagabonding for two years, returned to the Central Desk, and then did a stint as retail editor again. Today, at Rotary International in Evanston, Ill., I'm a senior content editor.

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[Terry DeYonker Kole](#) (a native Detroiter), worked as a news graphics artist and illustrator at The Detroit News in the early 1980s. A decade later, while her husband Bill Kole was an editor on AP's erstwhile foreign desk, Terry joined AP Graphics. She'd go on to be the cooperative's first international graphics staffer (in Paris and Amsterdam), working with the Europe staff in real time to produce explanatory graphics.

Remembering those who started their careers with you

[Arnold Zeitlin](#) - Your suggestion got me to thinking, Paul. I broke in at AP on the general desk in 1956, then moved to NY Sports. Most if not all the folks I worked with then are long gone. George Esper was in the New York bureau then. The same with my time in the Philadelphia bureau in 1958 before I moved to become TV editor at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

My longest AP connection is with Mort Rosenblum, whom I met on a Pan-Am flight in West Africa in the mid-60s when he was on his way to take up the AP post in the Congo. He succeeded me in 1969 as West Africa correspondent based in Lagos, Nigeria. A highlight of that time was sharing a bed with him covering some event in Niamey, Niger. We've stayed in touch ever since, the latest several months ago at a dim sum restaurant near us in northern Virginia when he passed through the Washington DC area.

Henry Bradsher and I, as members of your 90-year club, have known each other for years, although he was reporting for the old Washington Star when we first met. I also stay in touch with Henry's son, Keith, the prolific Beijing bureau chief for the New York Times. I attended Keith's wedding in Paris years ago (don't expect a 91-year-old guy to remember exact dates).

Bob Giles, who sadly died earlier this month, was a Columbia Journalism School classmate in 1956 and later became executive editor of the Detroit News in 1986. You asked for connections with the News. We didn't reconnect until he became curator of the Nieman Foundation in 2000, when I nominated two journalists, one a Malaysian working for the South China Morning Post, the other an editor at People's Daily in Beijing, for Nieman fellowships. We had a good friendship.

I hear often from Frank Hawkins, whom I succeeded as bureau chief in Manila in 1973 when he went off to Beirut. He now lives in Naples, Florida and is preparing to publish a novel, The Zurich Printout, in September. I worked at The Post-Gazette with his dad,

who wrote editorials and then became the paper's editor. Oddly, I didn't meet Frank during that time.

I also hear occasionally from Dave Briscoe, who succeeded me as bureau chief when I was tossed out of Manila in 1976. He lives in Hawaii, where Bob Liu, the legendary Hong Kong bureau chief, settled as well. We were good pals but I have not heard from him in several years. I hope he is well.

Thanks for jogging my memory.

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Hal Bock - When Ted Smits hired me in November 1963, I joined a sports staff of All Stars. Murray Rose and Jack Hand covered boxing. Joe Reichler and Jack Hand did baseball. Will Grimsley was the columnist. Don Weiss and Jim Kensil did college and pro football. Jim Becker was a feature writer. Mike Rathet and Jack Clary and Jim Hackleman were all-around guys. Spike Classen ran the desk. It was suggested that I keep my eyes and ears open and it was very good advice. It was like working in a journalism laboratory, I loved every minute.

Connecting mailbox

America's Sickest Days of the Year Revealed

Bill Sikes - Since news doesn't stop (except on Aug. 23 between 1939 and 2000 as noted yesterday in Connecting), very few journalists genuinely seem disposed to call out "sick." And with the advent of working remotely, it's even less likely.

But according to this study, Aug. 24, (yesterday) is the day that workers call out most frequently. Runner up is Feb 13.

Since your boss may be aware of [this story](#), it's probably best to pick different days to play hooky.

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George Esper – a special human being I'll always miss

Jeff Donn - Just another word about George Esper. I was George's numerical replacement and inherited his office in Boston when he retired from the AP in my days as a Newsfeatures writer in Boston. My replacing function was indeed purely "numerical." I could not compare to George in experience, connections, news sources, reputation, or almost anything else. With one of the AP's most prominent names, he was the first to greet me and invite me out on my initial arrival in Boston after my modest posting as correspondent in Springfield, Massachusetts. His attention and kindness made me feel welcome and important. But I suspect the janitor got the same

treatment from George. That's who he was as a legendary reporter and special human being. I will always miss him.

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Texas Tribune copy desk cut

[Jim Luther](#) - Noting the Poynter story on the Texas Tribune eliminating its copy desk, what other industry would abolish its quality control department to save a buck? Sounds about as brilliant as Ego Musk's decision to abandon his universally known Twitter brand in favor of ... X?

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Three bearded AP veterans



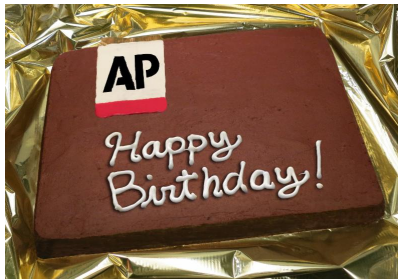
[Adolphe Bernotas](#) – taken on Thursday, in Wells, Maine, home of Norm Abelson (center), bard of Connecting, with Adolphe Bernotas (left) and Bob Greene. We spent considerable time during a long lunch regaling ourselves (and Norm's partner Magdalene and my sidekick Marguerite) with stories serious and hilarious of our experiences in the times of Wes Gallagher through Lou Boccardi and Franklin D. Roosevelt through Joe Biden.

Connecting sky shot



Peter Leabo - Dawn of a new day in the Badlands of South Dakota.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Reid Miller](#)

On Saturday to...

[Dan Day](#)

[Bob Ritter](#)

On Sunday to...

[Charlie Monzella](#)

Stories of interest

Pew Research reports most journalists are satisfied with their work (Editor and Publisher)

Bob Sillick | for Editor & Publisher

Many professions are challenging, and those challenges often attract people to a particular career. Journalism requires a tough skin, a curious intellect and a passion for supporting the principles of American democracy: free speech and independent dissemination of news and information.

Despite widespread attacks on those principles and fundamental changes to the news industry, 77% of U.S. journalists responding to a 2022 Pew Research Center survey said they “would pursue a career in journalism again,” 75% “are extremely or very proud of their work” and 70% “are very or somewhat satisfied with their job.”

Conversely, the surveyed journalists were not blind to the turmoil in their industry. Pew found 72% “use a negative word to describe the news industry,” 57% “are extremely or very concerned about future restrictions on press freedoms” and 71% “say made-up news and information is a very big problem.”

Although more than three-quarters of the journalists Pew surveyed said they see information they think is false or “created,” 71% are extremely or very confident they can recognize it.

Jeffrey Gottfried, senior researcher of Pew’s News & Information team, which has conducted a series of surveys about the state of news, information and journalism for many years, said the newest survey continued to show a disconnect between journalists and the public on several issues.

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

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Journalism has seen a substantial rise in philanthropic spending over the past 5 years, a study says (AP)

BY DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — There has been a “substantial” increase in philanthropic spending for journalism over the past five years, particularly outlets that serve poor and minority communities, a report issued on Thursday said — but journalists need to tighten ethical rules that govern the new spending, it recommended.

The struggling news industry is increasingly relying on donations and subscriptions, although it hasn’t come close to making up for the collapse in advertising that has led to the dramatic drop in outlets that cover local news.

More than half of funders surveyed by NORC at the University of Chicago said they have increased their journalism grants. Most nonprofit and for-profit news organizations report more funding.

“We see many more people — and that includes people who work in philanthropy — being interested in a stronger civic infrastructure by funding local news,” said Sarah Alvarez, founder of Outlier Media, a Detroit-based news source that started in 2016 and now has 16 employees.

Read more [here](#).

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Sheriff's office agrees to destroy evidence obtained from raid on Kansas newspaper (Kansas Reflector)

BY: SHERMAN SMITH

TOPEKA — The Marion County Sheriff's Office agreed Thursday to destroy digital files it copied from computers seized during the raid on the Marion County Record.

Bernie Rhodes, an attorney for the newspaper, raised concerns about whether law enforcement had altered a list of evidence from the raid and illegally held onto a previously undisclosed flash drive containing the copied files. He said he had prepared a formal court order to ensure the sheriff's office followed through with its promise to destroy any evidence that hasn't already been returned, including photos taken during the raids.

Marion Police Chief Gideon Cody led the Aug. 11 raid on the newspaper office and the publisher's home — under the pretense that reporter Phyllis Zorn had committed identity theft by looking up public information through the Kansas Department of Revenue website. The computers, cellphones, hard drives and other items seized during the raid were held at a storage locker at the sheriff's office.

Rhodes said the police department has “zero forensic capabilities.” Because the sheriff's office has limited capabilities, it acts as IT support for the police department, Rhodes said.

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

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CNN is launching a live service on Max with new programming as the network reboots its streaming efforts (CNN)

By Oliver Darcy

CNN is heading to the Max streaming platform.

The network's parent company, Warner Bros. Discovery (WBD), announced Thursday that it will incorporate live news into its super-streamer Max service, allowing subscribers access to 24/7 programming from the global news brand.

The service, which launches a little more than a year after Warner Bros. Discovery executives shuttered the previous standalone CNN+ service, will be called CNN Max and launch with a "beta" label on September 27 in the United States before being rolled out more broadly following feedback received during the nascent stage.

CNN Max will include some of the network's most recognizable shows, such as "The Lead with Jake Tapper," "The Situation Room," "Anderson Cooper 360," and "Amanpour." It will also feature new live programs specifically created for the streamer, including "CNN Newsroom with Jim Acosta, Rahel Solomon, Amara Walker and Fredricka Whitfield" and "CNN Newsroom with Jim Sciutto." Sciutto will lead breaking news reports as warranted in the afternoons.

CNN Max will additionally feature the news network's large slate of previously developed original programming, including Emmy-award winning shows such as "Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy" and "Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown." Current programs, such as "The Whole Story with Anderson Cooper" and "Who's Talking to Chris Wallace?" will also be made available.

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

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Content Farms Are Using AI Chatbots to Plagiarize News Outlets (Gizmodo)

By Mack DeGeurin

Online content farms are using AI chatbots to "scramble and rewrite" thousands of news stories from major publications like The New York Times and republish them to earn advertising revenue, according to a new report from misinformation monitor NewsGuard. The stories, which often repurposed entire lines directly from other articles without credit, were found on 37 different sites. In some cases, NewsGuard notes, those sites appeared to be completely automated, no humans involved.

NewsGuard, which makes a browser extension rating the trustworthiness of news websites, says the content farms it identified used chatbots to rewrite stories first published in CNN, Reuters, and other mainstream outlets. That explicit reliance on the text of already edited and published stories means the quality of the writing in the plagiarized AI articles marked an improvement from past cases where content mills simply instructed AI models to generate stories without any source material. The result, NewsGuard said, were articles that would appear nearly indistinguishable from an authentic story to the average reader.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

One image, one face, one American moment: The Donald Trump mug shot



BY JONATHAN J. COOPER
The Associated Press

A camera clicks. In a fraction of a second, the shutter opens and then closes, freezing forever the image in front of it.

When the camera shutter blinked inside a jail in downtown Atlanta on Thursday, it both created and documented a tiny inflection point in American life. Captured for posterity, there was a former president of the United States, for the first time in history, under arrest and captured in the sort of frame more commonly associated

with drug dealers or drunken drivers. The trappings of power gone, for that split second.

Left behind: an enduring image that will appear in history books long after Donald Trump is gone.

“It will be forever part of the iconography of being alive in this time,” said Marty Kaplan, a professor at the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communications.

In the photo, Trump confronts the camera in front of a bland gray backdrop, his eyes meeting the lens in an intense glare. He’s wearing a blue suit, white shirt and red tie, his shoulders squared, his head tilted slightly toward the camera. The sheriff’s logo has been digitally added above his right shoulder.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Aug. 25, 2023



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 25, the 237th day of 2023. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On August 25, 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation.

On this date:

In 1718, hundreds of French colonists arrived in Louisiana, with some settling in present-day New Orleans.

In 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais (ka-LAY’), France, in 22 hours.

In 1928, an expedition led by Richard E. Byrd set sail from Hoboken, N.J., on its journey to Antarctica.

In 1958, the game show "Concentration" premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1980, the Broadway musical "42nd Street" opened. (Producer David Merrick stunned the cast and audience during the curtain call by announcing that the show's director, Gower Champion, had died earlier that day.)

In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet.

In 1985, Samantha Smith, 13, the schoolgirl whose letter to Yuri V. Andropov resulted in her famous peace tour of the Soviet Union, died with her father in an airliner crash in Auburn, Maine.

In 2001, R&B singer Aaliyah (ah-LEE'-yah) was killed with eight others in a plane crash in the Bahamas; she was 22.

In 2009, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the U.S. Senate, died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, after a battle with a brain tumor.

In 2014, a funeral was held in St. Louis for Michael Brown, the Black 18-year-old who was shot to death by a police officer in suburban Ferguson.

In 2020, two people were shot to death and a third was wounded as 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse opened fire with an AR-15-style rifle during a third night of protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin, over the police shooting of a Black man, Jacob Blake. (Rittenhouse, who was taken into custody in Illinois the next day, said he was defending himself after the three men attacked him as he tried to protect businesses from protesters; he was acquitted on all charges, including homicide.)

Ten years ago: Syria agreed to a U.N. investigation into an alleged chemical weapons attack outside Damascus – a deal a senior White House official dismissed as "too late to be credible," saying the United States had "very little doubt" President Bashar Assad's forces used such weapons. Tokyo beat Chula Vista, California, 6-4 to win the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Sixteen-year-old New Zealander Lydia Ko succeeded in defending her title at the Canadian Women's Open with a five-stroke victory over Karine Icher.

Five years ago: Republican Senator John McCain of Arizona, who had spent years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam before a 35-year political career that took him to the Republican presidential nomination, died at the age of 81 after battling brain cancer for more than a year. After initially threatening Hawaii as a Category 5 hurricane, Tropical Storm Lane began to break apart as it veered west into the open Pacific; rainfall totals from the storm on Hawaii's Big Island approached four feet.

One year ago: A judge ordered the Justice Department to make public a redacted version of the affidavit it relied on when federal agents searched the Florida estate of Donald Trump to look for classified documents. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a major buildup of his country's military forces in an apparent effort to

replenish troops that have suffered heavy losses in six months of bloody warfare and prepare for a long, grinding fight ahead in Ukraine. Regulators approved California's plans to require all new cars, trucks and SUVs to run on electricity or hydrogen by 2035.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tom Skerritt is 90. Author Frederick Forsyth is 85. Movie director John Badham is 84. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 84. R&B singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 80. Actor Anthony Heald is 79. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 74. Actor John Savage is 74. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 74. Rock singer Rob Halford is 72. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 71. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 69. Movie director Tim Burton is 65. Actor Christian LeBlanc is 65. Actor Ashley Crow is 63. Actor Ally Walker is 62. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is 62. Actor Joanne Whalley is 62. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 61. Actor Blair Underwood is 59. Actor Robert Maschio is 57. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 57. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 56. Actor David Alan Basche (BAYSH) is 55. Television chef Rachael Ray is 55. Actor Cameron Mathison is 54. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 53. Model Claudia Schiffer is 53. Country singer Brice Long is 52. Actor Nathan Page is 52. Actor-writer-director Ben Falcone is 50. Actor Eric Millegan is 49. Actor Alexander Skarsgard is 47. Actor Jonathan Togo is 46. Actor Kel Mitchell is 45. Actor Rachel Bilson is 42. Actor Blake Lively is 36. Actor Josh Flitter is 29.

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 Central Region 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!

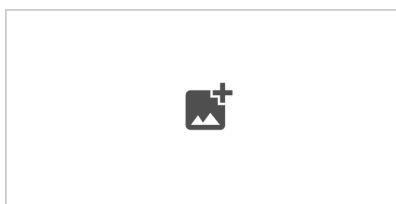
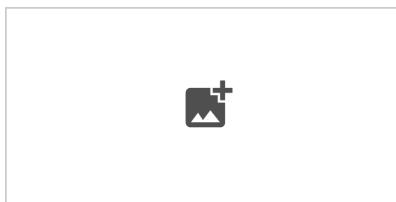
Here are some suggestions:

- **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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