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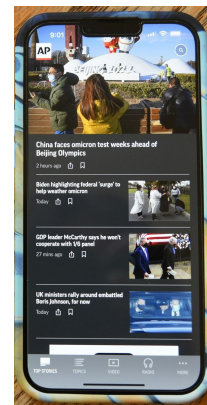
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Connecting

Jan. 24, 2024

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this Jan. 24, 2024,

The Associated Press has received its first Oscar nomination in the 178-year history of the news organization.

Nominations for the 2024 Academy Awards were announced Tuesday – and “20 Days in Mariupol,” Mstyslav Chernov’s harrowing chronicle of the besieged Ukrainian city and the international journalists who remained there after Russia’s invasion, was nominated for best documentary.

The film, a co-production between the AP and PBS’ “Frontline,” was shot during the first three weeks of the war in Ukraine, in early 2022.

In a statement, AP executive editor **Julie Pace** said, “Despite extremely challenging and deeply personal circumstances, AP’s Mariupol team offered the world an essential window into the Russia-Ukraine war as it was beginning to unfold. That the Academy has chosen to recognize ‘20 Days in Mariupol’ is a testament to the power of

eyewitness journalism and the bravery of the journalists on the ground. We are incredibly proud of Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko and the entire '20 Days in Mariupol' team."

The death of CBS News' poet-in-residence, **Charles Osgood**, at age 91 was mourned Tuesday. Osgood anchored the popular CBS "Sunday Morning" for more than two decades and was host of the long-running radio program "The Osgood File."

Several Connecting colleagues shared their thoughts about Osgood for today's issue.

And, on a sad entry in today's Today in History: "In 1945, Associated Press war correspondent Joseph Morton was among a group of captives executed by the Germans at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria." Morton and 34 of his Associated Press colleagues who died on assignment are remembered forever on the AP's Wall of Honor.

Finally, Connecting announced the birth dates of **Lisa Greathouse** and **Lisa Pane** a day early in Tuesday's issue. Today is actually their birthdays. Which reminds me - if you haven't sent me your birth day and month, and want to be honored in Connecting on your special day (or, um, a day early or a day late), please send it along to be sure I have you on my list.

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

Paul

Oscar nomination for '20 Days in Mariupol,' AP's first, comes as bombs fall on filmmaker's hometown



Photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, from left, “Frontline” producer/editor Michelle Mizner, director Mstyslav Chernov, and field producer Vasilisa Stepanenko pose for a portrait to promote the film “20 Days in Mariupol” at the Latinx House during the Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, in Park City, Utah. The film is a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS “Frontline.” (Photo by Taylor Jewell/Invision/AP, File)

By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — “[20 Days in Mariupol](#),” Mstyslav Chernov’s harrowing chronicle of the besieged Ukrainian city and the international journalists who remained there after Russia’s invasion, has been nominated for best documentary [at the Academy Awards](#), handing The Associated Press its first Oscar nomination in the 178-year-old news organization’s history.

The film, [a co-production](#) between the AP and PBS’ “Frontline,” was shot during the first three weeks of the war in Ukraine, in early 2022. [Chernov, a Ukrainian journalist and filmmaker](#), arrived in Mariupol one hour before Russia began bombarding [the port city](#). With him were photographer Evgeniy Maloletka and field producer Vasilisa Stepanenko.

The [images and stories they captured](#) — the death of a 4-year-old girl, freshly dug mass graves, the bombing of a maternity hospital — unflinchingly documented the [grim, relentless realities](#) of the unfolding siege.

“It is a bittersweet feeling because we know this film represents a huge tragedy for humanity, for Ukrainians it’s a huge loss of lives,” Chernov said in an interview. “All we can do is try to make sure this tragedy is not going to be forgotten. Every single

nomination, every single prize, every single recognition for this film means that we are able to tell this story to more people, to make sure it's not going to be forgotten."

Chernov spoke Tuesday after arriving in Paris for a screening of "20 Days in Mariupol." On the same day where he could celebrate the film's Oscar nomination, he learned that his hometown of Kharkiv in northeastern Ukraine had been bombed earlier in the day by Russian forces. The missile attacks killed six people and injured 57, including eight children, the United Nations said. The bombings also damaged about 30 residential buildings. That news weighed heavily on Chernov.

"My hometown got bombarded," he said. "I keep seeing the images of what's in the film and what is happening right now in Ukraine — not only in Kharkiv but also Kyiv and other cities — and they are the same images. The same things are happening over and over."

"Every day, a city somewhere in Ukraine suffers a fate that is very similar to what happened to Mariupol," added Chernov. "Throughout the two years this film has journeyed, it became a symbol of more than just Mariupol. It became a symbol of every Ukrainian city that got destroyed and wiped out by Russian bombs."

More than 10,000 civilians have been killed and nearly 20,000 injured since Russia's full-scale invasion began, the U.N. said.

The work of Chernov, Maloletka, Stepanenko and Lori Hinnant last year won the Pulitzer Prize for public service and featured prominently in a Pulitzer for breaking news photography. Since the Sundance Film Festival premiere of "20 Days in Mariupol" a year ago, Chernov's film — now available to watch for free in North America on YouTube, PBS and other streaming services — has been hailed as one of the most important nonfiction films of the year. It's also been nominated by the BAFTAs, the Producers Guild and the Directors Guild for best documentary, and the Academy also shortlisted it for best international film.

Click [here](#) for link to this story.

Charles Osgood, CBS host on TV and radio and network's poet-in-residence, dies at age 91



Charles Osgood, anchor of CBS’s “Sunday Morning,” poses for a portrait on the set in New York on March 28, 1999. Osgood, who anchored the popular news magazine’s for more than two decades, was host of the long-running radio program “The Osgood File” and was referred to as CBS News’ poet-in-residence, has died. He was 91. (AP Photo/Suzanne Plunkett, File)

BY MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Osgood, a five-time Emmy Award-winning journalist who anchored “CBS Sunday Morning” for more than two decades, hosted the long-running radio program “The Osgood File” and was referred to as CBS News’ poet-in-residence, has died. He was 91.

CBS reported that Osgood died Tuesday at his home in Saddle River, New Jersey, and that the cause was dementia, according to his family.

Osgood was an erudite, warm broadcaster with a flair for music who could write essays and light verse as well as report hard news. He worked radio and television with equal facility, and signed off by telling listeners: “I’ll see you on the radio.”

“To say there’s no one like Charles Osgood is an understatement,” Rand Morrison, executive producer of “Sunday Morning,” said in a statement. “He embodied the heart and soul of ‘Sunday Morning.’ ... At the piano, Charlie put our lives to music. Truly, he was one of a kind — in every sense.”

Osgood took over “Sunday Morning” after the beloved Charles Kuralt retired in 1994. Osgood seemingly had an impossible act to follow, but with his folksy erudition and

his slightly bookish, bow-tied style, he immediately clicked with viewers who continued to embrace the program as an unhurried TV magazine.

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

Click [here](#) for CBS story on his death. (Shared by Doug Pizac)

Remembering Charles Osgood

[Jerry Cipriano](#) - Journalism lost one of its best writers. Radio and television lost one of their best broadcasters. And I lost a friend and mentor. His name was Charles Osgood, a.k.a. the poet laureate of CBS News.

I first met Charlie in 1973, when I was a sophomore at Fordham University. I had heard him many times on CBS Radio and admired his work. So I wrote him a letter and asked if he had any advice for an aspiring broadcast journalist.

To my delight, Charlie wrote back. "I'm afraid I'm not much on advice," he said. "But as you may know, I'm an old Ram myself. If you'd like to visit the Broadcast Center sometime, give a call and I'll lay on the fifty cents tour for free."

I called right away, before he could forget who I was, and one winter morning, I hopped on the D Train in the Bronx and headed down to CBS News headquarters on West 57th Street in Manhattan.

Charlie had one of the most distinctive voices in radio. And over the years, I had formed a mental picture of him to match it. I thought. When Charlie greeted me, the voice was familiar but the image was not. I could not believe that amazing voice was coming out of this stranger. As he showed me around, it took a while before the voice and the speaker synced up in my mind.

Charlie bought me breakfast at the CBS cafeteria. He told me he had spent a lot of time in his Fordham days at the student-run radio station, WFUV. I took that as a suggestion, and when I returned to campus, I headed to the station and went to work in the news department.

A decade later, after working as an AP broadcast writer and editor, I was offered a job at CBS News, at the radio network, where Charlie was the star. By then, he had long since forgotten me, but we soon reconnected when I was assigned to write radio newscasts for him.

Charlie always ended with a kicker. One he wrote that I'll never forget was about a truck flipping over and spilling its cargo of cookies all over the roadway. Charlie ended by saying:

"That's the way the (pause) ball bounces. Fooled you!"

Brilliant.

My job when I wrote for Charlie was to find a kicker worthy of him and write it well. It was a challenge I enjoyed.

One Sunday night, I wrote a kicker for his 8 p.m. radio newscast about a study that found watching too much TV could make you fat. The punchline: "Former FCC Chairman Newton Minow once called television a vast wasteland. Looks like it could also lead to a vast waistline."

Charlie looked at the copy and said, "This is good enough to steal." And steal it he did. He used the line again on his 11 p.m. television broadcast.

That broadcast was called the CBS Sunday Night News. It was 15 minutes long and, in 1986, I became Charlie's writing partner on it. We split up the stories and challenged each other each week to come up with the best line. I never had so much fun in my life.

I will always be grateful to Charlie for the kindness he showed me as a young college student and for the privilege of working with him as a colleague. May he rest in peace.

-0-

Michael Weinfeld - I figure everyone's gonna be writing about Charlie Osgood, but I bet no one has this angle:

Every time "Easy Rider" airs on TV, Charles Osgood pockets a royalty.

Osgood told me in a 1991 AP Radio interview that he developed his knack for writing when he was in the Army. He said he had a "terrible detail" writing patriotic songs for the Army band.

One of them actually became a top-20 hit: a march called "Gallant Men" that was recorded by Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen, of all people, and landed in the movie "Easy Rider."

If you're familiar with the film, it's the scene where Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper and Jack Nicholson ride through a small town and get caught up in a parade. The marching band is performing Osgood's song.

So, when the movie airs on TV, Osgood said "I get two cents."

P.S. Even Osgood's longtime writer at CBS (and former AP'er) Jerry Cipriano told me he'd never heard that story.

-0-

Dave Tomlin - Charles Osgood spoke at a board dinner to celebrate AP's 150th anniversary. AP President/CEO Lou Boccardi decided it would be cute to introduce him with rhyming couplets in the style of Osgood's signature radio column. I don't know if Lou knew that hasty doggerel was a specialty of mine, but he came into my office and asked me to throw something together. Here's what I gave him:

To entertain you here tonight we've planned a big production,
A famous network journalist who needs no introduction,

Reports in rhyme from datelines near and far he has created.
And now he's done a fresh one on the Press, Associated.
Our speaker is a man of parts - artistic, wise, courageous.
He's won awards, he sits on boards, his bio fills three pages.
He's been a weekend anchorman. He writes for syndication.
He even plays the banjo, and he ran a TV station.
A special kinship marks the deep respect that I accord him.
Like me, he's a New Yorker, and like me, he went to Fordham
Considering his stature, don't you think it's kind of nifty
That he'd rhyme a special greeting as we turn one hundred fifty?
So stay tuned in. It's almost time. He's here. Don't touch that dial.
And join me please in welcoming the latest Osgood File.

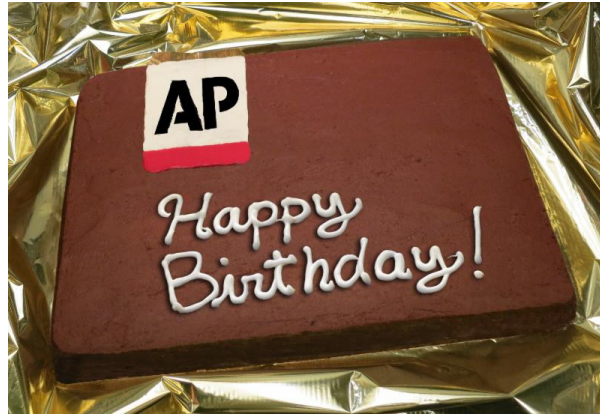
I was told it went over pretty well, and Osgood had the perfect rejoinder when he got to the microphone: "Everybody wants to get into the act."

Connecting sky shot



[Santiago Lyon](#) - Sunrise in New York Tuesday morning as seen from my apartment in lower Manhattan.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



[Lisa Greathouse](#)

[Lisa Pane](#)

Stories of interest

Los Angeles Times to lay off 20% of newsroom, one of the largest staff reductions in paper's history ^(AP)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Times said it planned to lay off at least 115 employees — more than 20% of the newsroom — starting Tuesday, one of the largest staff cuts in the newspaper's 143-year history.

The announcement came after the LA Times Guild walked off the job last Friday to protest the imminent layoffs, the institution's first ever newsroom union work stoppage.

Matt Pearce, president of the Media Guild of the West, which encompasses the Times' union, called Tuesday a "dark day." He said at least 94 union members would be let go.

"Many departments and clusters across the newsroom will be heavily hit," Pearce said in a statement. "This total, while devastating, is nonetheless far lower than the number of layoffs the Bargaining Committee was expecting last week."

He said some of those selected for layoffs by management may be eligible for buyouts under the union contract.

Senior editors, photographers and members of the video unit were also part of the purge, the Times said.

The cuts were necessary because the Times could no longer lose up to \$40 million a year without boosting advertising and subscription revenue, the paper's owner, Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, said Tuesday.

“Today’s decision is painful for all, but it is imperative that we act urgently and take steps to build a sustainable and thriving paper for the next generation. We are committed to doing so,” Soon-Shiong said.

Read more [here](#).

AND...

L.A. Times Guts its D.C. Bureau on Day of New Hampshire Primary (Daily Beast)

Josh Fiallo

Included in Tuesday’s sweeping layoffs at the Los Angeles Times that saw the paper axe 20 percent of its newsroom was its D.C. bureau chief and her deputy—just hours before polls close in New Hampshire for a pivotal GOP primary.

Kimbriell Kelly shared the news to X just after noon, writing, “I was laid off today. Winning a Pulitzer was one honor of my life. Another, leading the Washington Bureau as its first person of color and only second woman.”

Also laid off was Kelly’s deputy bureau chief, Nick Baumann, who said he was hired last year to lead the paper’s coverage of the 2024 election. It’s unclear how the duo’s firing will impact the Times’ coverage of the New Hampshire primary and the ones that follow, but it underscores the widespread nature of the Times layoffs, which impacted 115 journalists in total.

The layoffs came after weeks of strikes and departures from top editors, and less than a week after the paper’s newsroom guild eerily warned in a message to members about likely cuts, saying “This is the big one.”

Drama has plagued the paper since last summer, when it shed its staff by 13 percent across multiple desks.

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

-0-

With Wit and Understatement, a Press Veteran Reflects on His Trade (New York Times)

By Dwight Garner

THE LEDE: Dispatches From a Life in the Press, by Calvin Trillin

“People feel so special, so wise, when somebody they know drops dead,” Ottessa Moshfegh wrote in “Homesick for Another World,” her 2017 story collection. The

newly dead might have felt special and wise in advance of their demises if they were friends with Calvin Trillin and could be reasonably sure he would speak at their wakes.

Trillin has long been more in demand as a eulogist, in Manhattan's interlocking journalism and literary worlds, than probably anyone alive. The reasons are apparent to anyone who has heard or read him. He has a) a fundamental decency, b) a phlegmatic manner and c) a deadpan wit that delivers, like an inoculation, hurt and healing at the same time. I've known people to attend the funerals of people they've never met because word had spread that Trillin would be speaking, in the manner that an N.B.A. nonfan might attend a Knicks game solely because he'd heard that Chaka Khan would be singing the national anthem.

Trillin's new book is called "The Lede: Dispatches From a Life in the Press." It's an assortment of profiles, essays, columns and a few examples of light verse, all of them about journalism, written originally for The New Yorker, The Nation, Time and other outlets. A few go back as far as the early 1970s. New money for old rope, in other words. But it makes sense to have this material in one place, and this book is buoyant and crunchy from end to end.

"The Lede" contains profiles — of the Miami crime reporter Edna Buchanan, of the New York Times writer and expense-account legend Johnny Apple, and of the pseudonymous Texas drive-in movie critic Joe Bob Briggs — that are acknowledged classics of the form and will be studied until A.I. makes hash out of all of us. Trillin can be counted on to hand the world back clearer than it was before he picked it up.

I began this review with eulogies because the best section in "The Lede" is a short one called, simply, "R.I.P." It contains remembrances of some of Trillin's favorite people, including Russell Baker, Molly Ivins, John Gregory Dunne, Morley Safer, Andrew Kopkind and Murray Kempton.

Read more [here](#).

-0-

Kansas lawmakers want a report on last year's police raid of a newspaper (AP)

BY JOHN HANNA

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Dozens of Kansas lawmakers launched an effort Tuesday to direct the state's attorney general to release information from an investigation into a police raid last year on a weekly newspaper, but it wasn't clear that their measure would get a hearing in the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Thirty-five Democrats and 10 Republicans in the Kansas House introduced a resolution condemning the Aug. 11 raid of the Marion County Record's offices, the home of its publisher and the home of a city council member in Marion in central Kansas. The resolution would direct Attorney General Kris Kobach to provide a report on whether the investigation found that people's civil rights were violated.

The raid put Marion, a town of about 1,900 residents about 150 miles (241 kilometers) southwest of Kansas City, at the center of a national debate over press freedom. It also focused an intense spotlight on the police chief who led the raid because the paper had been looking into his past.

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

-0-

Facebook made a major change after years of PR disasters, and news sites are paying the price (CNBC)

Jonathan Vanian

Mother Jones CEO Monika Bauerlein has had a front-row seat in recent years to watch Facebook upend the media industry.

Bauerlein, who took over as CEO of the publication nine years ago, remembers when about 5 million users a month visited the Mother Jones website after coming across articles distributed on Facebook. That was in 2017.

But Facebook, now known as Meta, is out of the news business, a move that's disrupted the traffic flow for many publications — Mother Jones has seen a 99% drop in Facebook referrals since its peak — and had disastrous consequences for some. In September, Meta said it would “deprecate” its Facebook news tab in European countries including the U.K., France and Germany as “part of an ongoing effort to better align our investments to our products and services people value the most.”

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

The Final Word

A newspaper in 1924 predicted what life would be like in 2024 – we're impressed (Metro)

Hiyah Zaidi

Way back in 1924, a popular trend in newspapers was to predict what life would be like in 100 years' time – i.e. today.

And surprisingly, some are not too far from the truth.

The sometimes accurate, sometimes outlandish clippings were shared on X by Paul Fairie, a researcher at the University of Calgary.

One that's very recognisable is the city of the future.

'Automobiles travelling on speedways through the centre of town', 'ever-moving sidewalks' and 'motorcars increasing and multiplying indefinitely' all definitely came true.

Less so is the idea that those multiplying cars would bring about the extinction of the horse.

Last year, a YouGov poll found that more than a quarter of people in the UK have tattoos. We reckon this one has come true, as it was anticipated that 'debutantes will dye their skin all the colours of the rainbow', with an expectation that hair would follow suit, much like a 'Victorian debutante concealed her personality under voluminous hoops and draperies'.

And pity those listening to the radio in 1924, when it was pretty dull apparently, because in another prediction, it was said 'Americans will laugh at radios'. For 2024, it's not just radio that bringing the LOLs, but also podcasts, which continue to soar in popularity.

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

Today in History - Jan. 24, 2024



Today is Wednesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2024. There are 342 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1984, Apple Computer began selling its first Macintosh model, which boasted a built-in 9-inch monochrome display, a clock rate of 8 megahertz and 128k of RAM.

On this date:

In 1848, James W. Marshall discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concluded a wartime conference in Casablanca, Morocco.

In 1945, Associated Press war correspondent Joseph Morton was among a group of captives executed by the Germans at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria.

In 1965, Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1978, a nuclear-powered Soviet satellite, Cosmos 954, plunged through Earth's atmosphere and disintegrated, scattering radioactive debris over parts of northern Canada.

In 1985, the space shuttle Discovery was launched from Cape Canaveral on the first secret, all-military shuttle mission.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

In 2003, former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn as the first secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security.

In 2011, a suicide bomber attacked Moscow's busiest airport, killing 37 people; Chechen separatists claimed responsibility.

In 2013, President Barack Obama's Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced the lifting of a ban on women serving in combat.

In 2018, former sports doctor Larry Nassar, who had admitted molesting some of the nation's top gymnasts for years under the guise of medical treatment, was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison.

In 2023, the sci-fi indie hit "Everything Everywhere All at Once" led Oscar nominations with 11. (It would go on to win seven, including best picture.)

Today's birthdays: Cajun musician Doug Kershaw is 88. Singer-songwriter Ray Stevens is 85. Singer-songwriter Neil Diamond is 83. Singer Aaron Neville is 83. Actor Michael Ontkean is 78. Actor Daniel Auteuil is 74. Country singer-songwriter Becky Hobbs is 74. Comedian Yakov Smirnoff is 73. Former South Korean President Moon Jae-in is 70. Actor William Allen Young is 70. Bandleader-musician Jools Holland is 66. Actor Nastassja Kinski is 63. R&B singer Theo Peoples is 63. Country musician Keech Rainwater (Lonestar) is 61. Comedian Phil LaMarr is 57. Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton is 56. R&B singer Sleepy Brown (Society of Soul) is 54. Actor Matthew Lillard is 54. Actor Merrilee McCommas is 53. Blues/rock singer Beth Hart is 52. Actor Ed Helms is 50. Actor Mark Hildreth is 46. Actor Christina Moses is 46. Actor Tatyana Ali is 45. Actor Carrie Coon is 43. Actor Daveed Diggs is 42. Actor Justin Baldoni is 40. Actor Mischa Barton is 38.

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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