

Asheville Citizen-Times ^[1]

Asheville Citizen-Times

by John L. Bell, 2006



Shotwell, Randolph A., North Carolina State Archives, N 53 15 1489

The *Asheville Citizen-Times* was founded as the *Asheville Citizen* in 1870 by [Randolph Abbott Shotwell](#) ^[2], who conceived the [newspaper](#) ^[3] as a voice for [Conservative](#) ^[4]-[Democratic](#) ^[5] politics. After the [Western North Carolina Railroad](#) ^[6] reached [Asheville](#) ^[7] in 1880, the circulation and influence of the *Citizen* grew with the town. It became a daily in 1885. Over the next several decades the newspaper, as the only morning daily west of [Charlotte](#) ^[8] and [Winston-Salem](#) ^[9], was a consistent advocate of economic progress in the [Mountain region](#) ^[10].

Over the years, the *Citizen* experienced a number of changes, becoming one of the first newspapers to have [a linotype machine](#) ^[11] in the state. It changed ownership many times until 1930, when then-owner Charles A. Webb formed the Asheville Citizen-Times Company with Don S. Elias, publisher of the afternoon *Asheville Times*. One Sunday edition of both papers was consolidated under the name *Citizen-Times*, although the editorial staffs remained separate and followed independent policies. The *Citizen* continued to support regional development, especially concerning the [Great Smoky Mountains National Park](#) ^[12] and the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) ^[13]. In 1954 the Peace family of South Carolina acquired the company and in 1969 consolidated it with the Greenville News-Piedmont Company and Southeast Broadcasting Corporation to form Multimedia, Inc. In 1991 the *Citizen* and the *Times* merged into one newspaper, the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, and four years later Multimedia, Inc., was purchased by the giant communications corporation, the [Gannett Company](#) ^[14].



Asheville Citizen-Times building, circa 1951. Image from the North Carolina Digital Collections.

^[15] **Reference:**

Foster A. Sendley, *History of Buncombe County, North Carolina* (2 vols., 1930).

The Asheville Citizen-Times official webpage: <http://www.citizen-times.com/> [16] (accessed September 6, 2012).

Sandford, Jason. "Asheville Citizen-Times stops the presses." Mountain Xpress. January 4, 2009. <http://www.mountainx.com/article/20943/Asheville-Citizen-Times-stops-the-presses> [17] (accessed September 6, 2012).

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"Attractive glass-brick and concrete home of The Asheville Citizen, The Asheville Times, the Sunday Citizen-Times, The Engraving Plant and Radio Station WWNC. One of the most modern newspaper plants in the Southeast." *The E.S.C. Quarterly* 9. No. 1-2. Winter-Spring 1951. p 23. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/e.s.c.-quarterly-1951-winter-spring-v.9-no.1-2/4239121> [15]

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