

## Asheville Citizen-Times <sup>[1]</sup>

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## 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](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, who conceived the [newspaper](#) <sup>[3]</sup> as a voice for [Conservative](#) <sup>[4]</sup>-[Democratic](#) <sup>[5]</sup> politics. After the [Western North Carolina Railroad](#) <sup>[6]</sup> reached [Asheville](#) <sup>[7]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[8]</sup> and [Winston-Salem](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, was a consistent advocate of economic progress in the [Mountain region](#) <sup>[10]</sup>.

Over the years, the *Citizen* experienced a number of changes, becoming one of the first newspapers to have [dinode type machine](#) <sup>[11]</sup> 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](#) <sup>[12]</sup> and the [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) <sup>[13]</sup>. 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](#) <sup>[14]</sup>.



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. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/u/?p249901coll22,451988> [15]

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