

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).

Image Credits:

"Shotwell, Randolph A." N 53 15 1489 From [North Carolina State Archives](#) ^[18], Raleigh, NC, USA.

"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]

Subjects:

[Newspapers and magazines](#) ^[19]

Authors:

[Bell, John L., Jr.](#) ^[20]

Origin - location:

[Asheville](#) ^[21]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[22]

1 January 2006 | Bell, John L., Jr.

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/asheville-citizen-times>

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/asheville-citizen-times> [2] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/shotwell-randolph> [3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/newspapers> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/conservative-party> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/democratic-party> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/western-north-carolina-railroad> [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/asheville> [8] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/charlotte> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/winston-salem> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/our-state-geography-snap-mountain> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/printing> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/great-smoky-mountains-national-park> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/blue-ridge-parkway> [14] <http://www.gannett.com/> [15] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/e.s.c.-quarterly-1951-winter-spring-v.9-no.1-2/4239121> [16] <http://www.citizen-times.com/> [17] <http://www.mountainx.com/article/20943/Asheville-Citizen-Times-stops-the-presses> [18] <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/> [19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/newspapers> [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/bell-john-l-jr> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/mountain-9> [22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->