

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

### ***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 a linotype 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.

<sup>[15]</sup> **Reference:**

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

The Asheville Citizen-Times official webpage: <http://www.citizen-times.com/> <sup>[16]</sup> (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> <sup>[17]</sup> (accessed September 6, 2012).

#### Image Credits:

"Shotwell, Randolph A." N 53 15 1489 From [North Carolina State Archives](#) <sup>[18]</sup>, 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> <sup>[15]</sup>

#### Subjects:

[Newspapers and magazines](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

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#### Origin - location:

[Asheville](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

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