



## TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Chronology of daily newspapers in Tacoma

#### ***Pacific Tribune***

Founded by Thomas W. Prosch. First issue appeared Aug. 9, 1873 – less than a month after The Northern Pacific announced it had chosen Tacoma as its western terminus. Prosch and his newspaper moved to Seattle in 1875. He went on to found the *Post-Intelligencer*.

#### ***Tacoma Herald***

Founded in 1877 by Francis E. Cook. It closed in 1880, having wilted in competition with the *North Pacific Times*.

#### ***North Pacific Times***

Started in 1878 by Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Money, bankrolled by the Northern Pacific. The *North Pacific Times* folded in 1880, too, leaving the field clear for the *Tacoma Ledger*.

#### ***Tacoma Daily Ledger***

Started as a weekly by Randolph Foster Radebaugh and H.C. Patrick in 1880. In 1883 the *Ledger* became a daily. The *Tacoma Daily Ledger* would continue as a morning paper until 1937. Its name continued as a vestigial remnant on the nameplate of *The News Tribune and Sunday Ledger* another 42 years -- until 1979.

#### ***The Daily News***

H.C. Patrick's 1883 return to the newspaper business. Patrick sold *The Daily News* in 1885. In 1886 Allen C. Mason was listed as trustee and then publisher of *The Tacoma News*.

#### ***Evening Telegraph***

Incensed by attacks on him in *The News*, Radebaugh founded the short-lived *Evening Telegraph* in 1886.

### ***The Morning Globe***

First edition Oct. 9, 1888. It was bankrolled by notorious vice lord Harry Morgan to strike back at Radebaugh's *Ledger*, which had been campaigning for law enforcement to clean up the town. Editor of *The Globe* was William Lightfoot Visscher, for whom a Tacoma street is named. Morgan sold the *Globe* in 1889 and it expired in 1892.

### ***The Evening Call***

This ill-fated venture's first issue was Sept. 21, 1891 - its last on March 7, 1892.

### ***The Tacoma Morning Union***

Begun by the printers union in 1893 in a dispute with the *Ledger*. It drove the *Ledger* into bankruptcy and was published until 1897, when the *Ledger* made peace with the union.

### ***The Tacoma Times***

An E.W. Scripps newspaper, the *Tacoma Times* first appeared on Christmas Day 1903 and continued as an afternoon daily until March 31, 1949.

### ***The Tacoma Daily Tribune***

Started in 1908 by the old war-horse, R.F. Radebaugh, in the midst of a railroad boom. Frank S. Baker bought *The Tribune* in 1912.

### ***The News Tribune***

In 1918 Frank S. Baker also bought the *News* and *Ledger*, which had declined as *The Tribune* prospered. The *News* and *Tribune* were combined as the afternoon daily, with the first issue published June 17, 1918.

- In 1952 *The News Tribune* shut down for four months in a labor dispute. The unions published a daily, ***The Tacoma Reporter***.
- The Baker dynasty in Tacoma newspapering ended in 1986, when ***The News Tribune*** was purchased by the McClatchy Newspapers.
- *The News Tribune* moved to the morning field as ***The Morning News Tribune*** in 1987. "Morning" appeared on the paper's nameplate until 1993.

**Note:** Much of this information was taken from Paul W. Harvey, *Tacoma Headlines*, Tacoma, Tribune Publishing Co., 1962. Other information from Dale Wirsing, 1999.

## Significant Dates

**(1918)** S. A. Perkins sells his interests in The News and The Tacoma Ledger to Frank S. Baker and Elbert Baker. Publication begins under the name of The Tacoma News Tribune and Ledger. Published mornings, evenings and Sundays.

**(1937)** The Daily Tacoma Ledger suspends publication. The News Tribune is combined with The Sunday Ledger to form The News Tribune and Sunday Ledger.

**(1979)** The Tacoma News Tribune becomes official name of both daily and Sunday newspapers.

**(1986)** Tribune Publishing Company sells most of its holdings to Viacom, Inc. and McClatchy Newspapers.

**(1986)** The Tacoma News Tribune and Pierce County Herald begin publication as a subsidiary of McClatchy Newspapers.

**(1987)** The Tacoma News Tribune becomes The Morning News Tribune on April 6, 1987.

**(1993)** The Morning News Tribune begins publishing under the name of The News Tribune on October 4, 1993.