

Yakima Newspapers Publication History

During the last half of the 19th century frontier newspapers in the American west were unabashedly political and volatile. Papers were continuously being established, sold, folded and merged, with successive editors supporting the paper’s favored political views. Here is a brief publication history of some of the newspapers in this collection.

The Weekly Epigram was established by J. T. and Agnes C. Harsell in September of 1897. When John D. Medill bought the paper in May of 1898 he changed the name to *The Yakima Epigram*, and then again to *The Yakima Democrat*. These papers were all published weekly.

In 1901 a printer named F.G. Drew arrived from New York and established another weekly, the *Yakima Washingtonian*. That paper only lasted until 1903, when it was absorbed by the *Yakima Democrat*. *The Democrat* was absorbed, in turn, by the *Yakima Independent*, a weekly newspaper that became a daily and began publishing in 1920 as *Yakima Independent*, in which is included *Yakima Democrat*.

Yakima Record is reputed to be one of the earliest newspapers published in Eastern Washington. It was established by Richard Chadd in 1879 in Yakima City, W.T. *The Yakima Signal*, established in 1883 by J. W. Adams, also began publication in Yakima City. When the Northern Pacific Railroad arrived in 1884 and decided not to locate its train station and rail yard in Yakima City, but 4 miles further north, most of the town’s buildings were moved to the new location, which was named North Yakima.

Initially, both papers were outspoken opponents to the relocation of Yakima City to North Yakima. In the face of the conflict, Editor Richard Chadd sold the *Record* to C.W. Hobart, who renamed the paper *The Yakima Republican*, and later on, *The Yakima Republic*. It was purchased by W.W. Robertson in 1899 and continued as a weekly until 1919, when it ceased publication.

The publisher of *The Signal* did eventually decide to relocate, but the press building was destroyed before it reached North Yakima. *The Signal* regrouped and continued publication until it was sold to E.M. Reed in 1889 and was renamed *The Yakima Herald*. In 1904 *The Herald* was also purchased by W.W. Robertson. Both weeklies continued to be published as separate papers. In 1903 Robertson also began publishing daily editions.

In 1968 the *Yakima Daily Republic* and the *Yakima Morning Herald* were merged into the *Yakima Herald-Republic*, now owned by the Seattle Times. In 2005 *YakimaHerald.com*, an online edition, was added.

Just as technology has ongoing effects on news media today, it had a profound effect on frontier papers. Weekly newspapers like the *Epigram*, *Signal* and *Record* struggled to find a steady supply of paper and reliable news articles about national events. By the end of the 19th century transcontinental railroads delivered needed supplies, telegraphy delivered national news, and the recently invented Linotype machine made daily editions possible. Although many weekly papers continued to publish in tandem with the daily papers that succeeded them, in time, the weeklies ceased publication.

For more information about newspaper publication history:

1. Interstate Publishing Co. An illustrated history of Klickitat, Yakima and Kittitas counties; with an outline of the early history of the state of Washington. Chicago: Interstate Publishing, 1904. [Available at Yakima Valley Libraries](#)
2. Palmer & Rey, Pacific States Advertising Bureau. Pacific states newspaper directory : containing a carefully prepared list of all the newspapers and periodicals published in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, ... 6th. San Francisco: Palmer & Rey Type Foundry, 1894. Digital. <<https://archive.org/details/pacificstatesnew00palm>>.
3. Republic Publishing Co. The Story of Your Yakima Dailies. Republic Publishing Co., nd. [Available at Yakima Valley Libraries](#)
4. Washington State Library. “[Historic Newspapers.](#)”
5. Meany, Edmund S. “Newspapers of Washington Territory.” Pacific Northwest Quarterly. Vol 13 , University of Washington, 1922, pp. 245-299. [Available at Yakima Valley Libraries](#)
6. Heuterman, Thomas H. A History of Newspapering in Yakima, Washington. , 1961. [Available at Yakima Valley Libraries](#).

