

1794

• **June 17:** The Lancaster Journal, the first local weekly newspaper that's printed in English and lasts more than a few months, is published by William Hamilton and Henry Willcocks. This newspaper was the forerunner of the daily Intelligencer Journal. The Lancaster Journal backed the Federalist Party, and its news office was at Euclid's Head tavern, on the King Street site of the current LNP building.

1799

• **July 31:** The Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser, staunchly Democratic, is published by William and Robert Dickson at their printing office and bookstore on North Queen Street.

1806

• Intelligencer editor William Dickson is imprisoned for three months for allegedly libeling political opponents. He edited the newspaper in jail, calling for judicial reform. Newspapers throughout the nation took up his cause as an early test of press freedom.

1830

• **April 15:** The weekly Lancaster Examiner is founded, editorially Republican.

1839

• **Sept. 24:** The Lancaster Journal merges with the Intelligencer and Weekly Advertiser to become the Lancaster Intelligencer & Journal. Under the editorship of John W. Forney, who later founded the Philadelphia Press and the Washington Daily Chronicle, the new weekly paper continued to support the Democrats.

1864

• **Aug. 19:** The Lancaster Intelligencer, published every evening but Sunday, begins, providing readers with more news of the Civil War. It was Lancaster's third daily, following the evening Inland Daily Times, 1853, and the Daily Evening Express, 1856. Both were Republican.

The Intelligencer's new owners were a quartet of Democrats: Alfred Sanderson, son of Mayor George Sanderson; John M. Cooper, a journalist from Chambersburg; Henry G. Smith, a Fulton County lawyer; and William Morton, later mayor of Lancaster.

“Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

— Thomas Jefferson

1866

• **Nov. 1:** Andrew Jackson, or A.J., Steinman joins Henry Smith as co-publisher and editor of the Intelligencer, after Sanderson, Cooper and Morton drop out. Steinman was an attorney and chairman of the Lancaster County Democratic Committee.

1872

• William Uhler Hensel buys Smith's half-interest in the Intelligencer. He became chairman of the state Democratic committee and Pennsylvania's attorney general.

1877

• **April 28:** The first issue of the Lancaster New Era is printed at 3 S. Queen St. J.M.W. Geist and state Sen. John B. Warfel were the founders. Geist, an ardent Republican who had previously edited Philadelphia newspapers and the Lancaster Express, had risen from printer's devil (meaning print shop apprentice) to become a colorful figure in local journalism.

1880

• Intelligencer publishers and attorneys Steinman and Hensel successfully pursue a landmark press freedom case before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

1892

• **April 7:** Steinman and Charles Steinman Foltz become co-publishers and editors.

1897

• John G. Warfel, son of John B. Warfel, along with B.S. Shindle, Andrew H. Hershey and James D. Landis, take over the New Era. Landis later succeeded Geist as editor.

1899

• The first black-and-white photographs are published in the paper.

1909

• **July 1:** Steinman and Foltz start

the Lancaster Morning Journal, Lancaster's second newspaper to use that name. The morning newspaper accompanied their afternoon Intelligencer. The new newspaper was billed as being independent, or non-political. The Morning Journal began with an 8 p.m. edition before moving its deadline to 11 p.m. as a morning "farmer's edition." The farmer's edition was delivered by the Rural Free Delivery mail service along "country" routes, or those households in far-flung parts of Lancaster County.

1915

• **March 8:** Steinman and Foltz purchase the Morning News, which had started in 1874, and merge it with the Morning Journal to create the Lancaster News-Journal. J. Hale Steinman and John F. Steinman, sons of A.J. Steinman, assume their father's half-interest in the Intelligencer and the News-Journal.

1917

• Austin McCollough becomes editor of the Intelligencer until 1944. From 1922-24, he was also the state Democratic Committee chairman. A.J. Steinman, who had rescued the Intelligencer and used it to antagonize Republicans, died in November at age 81.

1920

• **April 12:** The New Era merges with the Examiner under the ownership of S.R. Slaymaker. The new Examiner-New Era was an afternoon Republican newspaper.

1921

• **May 5:** Foltz sells his interest in the firm of Steinman & Foltz to J. Hale and John F. Steinman. J. Hale Steinman was president of the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association and treasurer of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. John F. Steinman supervised the production and circulation of the paper, taking an interest in the mechanics of typesetting and printing.

1923

• **March:** Slaymaker sells the Examiner-New Era to Paul Block, a newspaper chain owner from Toledo,

Ohio. Block renamed it the Lancaster New Era.

• **Sept. 16:** The Steinman brothers begin the Sunday News as a politically independent Sunday newspaper. Wallace L. Robinson, former editor of the News-Journal, was its first editor.

1927

• Construction begins on the five-story building at 8-10 W. King St., on property purchased 22 years earlier, in 1905.

• **Oct. 24:** The new building is dedicated to the memory of A.J. Steinman (1836-1917) at 8 W. King St. In 1985, the newspaper building expanded to include 12-14 W. King St.

1928

• **March 20:** Steinman & Steinman becomes Lancaster Newspapers Inc.

• **April:** It purchases the Lancaster New Era from Paul Block after a hard-fought battle for survival against a major newspaper publisher. The New Era remained an afternoon Republican paper, with Elmer H. Curry, previously a Block employee, as editor.

• The afternoon Intelligencer and the morning News-Journal merge into the morning Intelligencer Journal, with a Democratic editorial slant. As a result, the Lancaster Newspapers corporation began. While all three newspapers were owned by one company, the editorial stance of the morning Intelligencer Journal remained Democratic, the afternoon New Era remained Republican, and the Sunday News remained politically independent. All three papers maintained separate news staffs.

1929

• John Carter becomes editor of the New Era and serves until 1959. He was an active leader in the Lancaster County Republican Party and, from 1952-56, he served as treasurer of Lancaster County. He and the Intelligencer's McCollough were probably the most significant and longest-serving editors in the 20th century.

1944

• J. Hale Steinman begins as director of the printing and publishing divi-

sion of the War Production Board, a position he held until 1946. The division was created in 1942 when voluntary restrictions on the use of newsprint failed to save enough paper to meet an increasing demand from the military and industry.

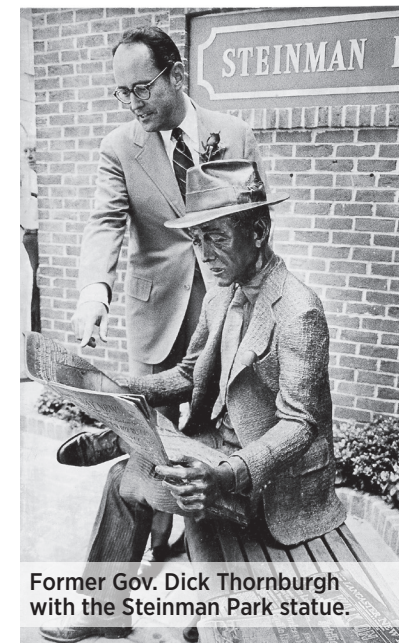
1948

• **April:** 25 years after launching the Lancaster Sunday News, the Steinman brothers launch a York edition of the newspaper. The York Sunday News competes with Sunday newspapers in Harrisburg and Baltimore.

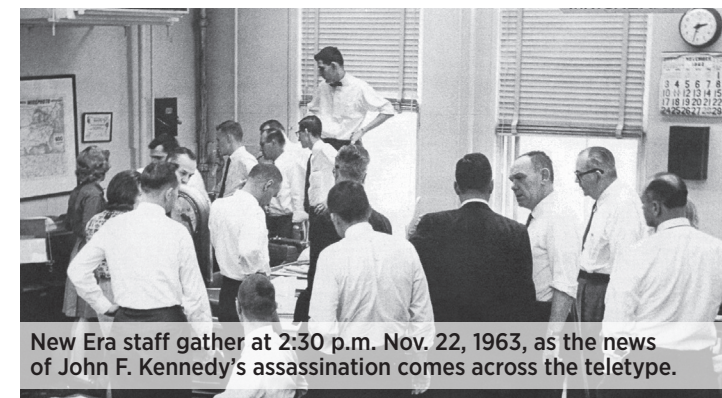
1952

• **April:** J. Hale Steinman, co-publisher of Lancaster Newspapers, confronts President Harry S. Truman at an American Society of Newspaper Editors event in Washington, D.C. Steinman asked the president whether he believed he had the authority to seize the nation's newspapers and radio stations just as he had seized, through executive order, U.S. steel industries earlier that month.

Truman implied that he might have such power if a move best served the nation. Truman's response sparked outrage among editors and publishers. Steinman urged his fellow editors to pen editorials condemning Truman's comments; the editor vowed to



Former Gov. Dick Thornburgh with the Steinman Park statue.



New Era staff gather at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 22, 1963, as the news of John F. Kennedy's assassination comes across the teletype.

“resist and defeat” any such attempt to silence the press. A week later, the president walked back his remarks, saying the thought of seizing the nation's newspapers and radio stations never occurred to him. Truman went on to call the reaction to his earlier comments “a lot of hooley.”

• **June 17:** On the Intelligencer Journal's 158th birthday, Lancaster Newspapers begins printing its newspapers on a new high-speed, eight-unit Hoe press in its new Mifflin Street Annex. The press was three stories tall and weighed 538,000 pounds. It printed 35,000 to 40,000 newspapers an hour and used enough electricity in a year to power the northeastern Lancaster County borough of Akron.

1953

• **Nov. 10:** The Intelligencer Journal and New Era receive their first wire photographs directly from The Associated Press. Until then the AP's Philadelphia bureau developed negatives and made prints, retransmitting them to Lancaster over a telephone circuit. Direct transmission sped up the process and made photos from anywhere in the world almost instantly available.

1954

• The Intelligencer Journal publishes its first color photo, of Franklin & Marshall College's graduation ceremonies. The New Era followed 11 days later, publishing a color photo from the AP.

1973

• The combined circulation of the daily New Era and Intelligencer Journal tops 100,000, a major milestone.

1978

• Lancaster Newspapers Inc. announces its decision to remain in downtown Lancaster and develop most of a city block. Renovation of existing historic buildings and construction of a new parking garage and press building were planned.

1979

• The newsroom is computerized.

1980

• **October:** Construction of the parking garage is completed, and the facility opens. Renovation of buildings fronting West King Street and the Yeates House on South Queen Street also were completed.

1981

• **June 14:** Steinman Park is dedicated to the memory of Lancaster Newspapers' publishers J. Hale Steinman (1886-1962) and John F. Steinman (1884-1980). The park, at 20 W. King St., combined brick, unique architectural features, a fountain, water wall and colorful greenery, creating a natural relaxing spot for downtown shoppers, visitors and workers. Of particular interest is a life-sized bronze statue of a newspaper reader, seated on a bench at the entrance to the park, holding the first edition of the Sunday News. Beside him on the bench are the Lancaster New Era telling of man's first steps on the moon and the Intelligencer Journal announcing the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. Katherine Graham, chairwoman, CEO and former publisher of The Washington Post, spoke at a dedication of the park. (Continued on back.)