

Cultural Life

NEWSPAPERS & PUBLISHING

Newspapers were the primary vehicle people used for learning about current events. Just as today there are many radio and television stations, there were many newspapers in the nineteenth century. St. Louis was part of the United States for just five years when Joseph Charless published the city's first newspaper, the Missouri Gazette. These papers changed names, owners, and editors frequently. The Argus, started in 1831, for example, then became the Union in 1848. It merged with the Missouri Democrat in 1852, which joined the Globe in 1875 to eventually become the Globe-Democrat. Three years later, Joseph Pulitzer published the first Post-Dispatch.

Pulitzer came from a tradition of German language newspapers to serve the large immigrant population. **Christian Bimpage** founded the Anzeiger des Westens in 1835. After a difference of opinion with editor Henry Boerstein, Carl Daenzer started the Westliche Post in 1857; Emil Preetorius became editor in 1864, and Carl Schurz joined them three years later. The Post and Anzeiger merged in 1898 as the leading German paper in the region. Most of the other publications from St. Louis were special-interest ones. The Age of Steel became a leading journal for the iron and steel industry, for example. Originally a German weekly, it changed its name and language in 1861 to Journal of Commerce. New owners reissued it in 1880 as The Age of Steel. St. Louis publishers issued The Lumberman, the Western Trade Journal, and the St. Louis Dry Goods and Grocery Reporter during the Gilded Age. The Sporting News, the leading weekly about sports founded in 1886, is published in St. Louis. The Spinks had transformed it into the leading baseball journal by the turn of the century. Today, it covers a wide range of sporting activities and remains the paper of record for sport.