

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

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The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (popularly known as the *Seattle P-I*, the *Post-Intelligencer*, or simply the *P-I*) is an online newspaper and former print newspaper covering Seattle, Washington, United States, and the surrounding metropolitan area.

The newspaper was founded in 1863 as the weekly *Seattle Gazette*, and was later published daily in broadsheet format. It was long one of the city's two daily newspapers, along with *The Seattle Times*, until it became an online-only publication on March 18, 2009.

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Joint operating agreement
- 3 Awards
 - 3.1 Report on Judge Gary Little
 - 3.2 Conduct Unbecoming series
- 4 The P-I Globe
- 5 Notable employees
- 6 See also
- 7 References
- 8 External links

History

J.R. Watson founded the *P-I*, Seattle's first newspaper, on December 10, 1863, as the *Seattle Gazette*.^{[1][2]} The paper failed after a few years and was renamed the *Weekly Intelligencer* in 1867 by the new owner, Sam Maxwell.

In 1878, after publishing the *Intelligencer* as a morning daily, Thaddeus Hanford bought the *Daily Intelligencer* for \$8,000. Hanford also acquired the daily *Puget Sound Dispatch* and the weekly *Pacific Tribune* and folded both papers into the *Intelligencer*. In 1881, the *Intelligencer* merged with the *Seattle*

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P-I headquarters from Myrtle Edwards Park

Type	online newspaper
Format	former broadsheet
Owner(s)	Hearst Corporation
Founded	December 10, 1863
Ceased publication	March 17, 2009 (now online only)
Headquarters	101 Elliott Avenue West Seattle, Washington 98119 US
ISSN	0745-970X (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0745-970X)
OCLC number	3734418 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/3734418)
Website	seattlepi.com (http://seattlepi.com/)

Post. The names were combined to form the present-day name.^[2]

In 1886, Indiana businessman Leigh S. J. Hunt came to Seattle and purchased the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, which he owned and published until he was forced to sell in the Panic of 1893.^[3]

Circulation stood at 31,000 in 1911.^[1] In 1912, editor Eric W. Allen left the paper to found the University of Oregon School of Journalism, which he ran until his death in 1944.^[4]

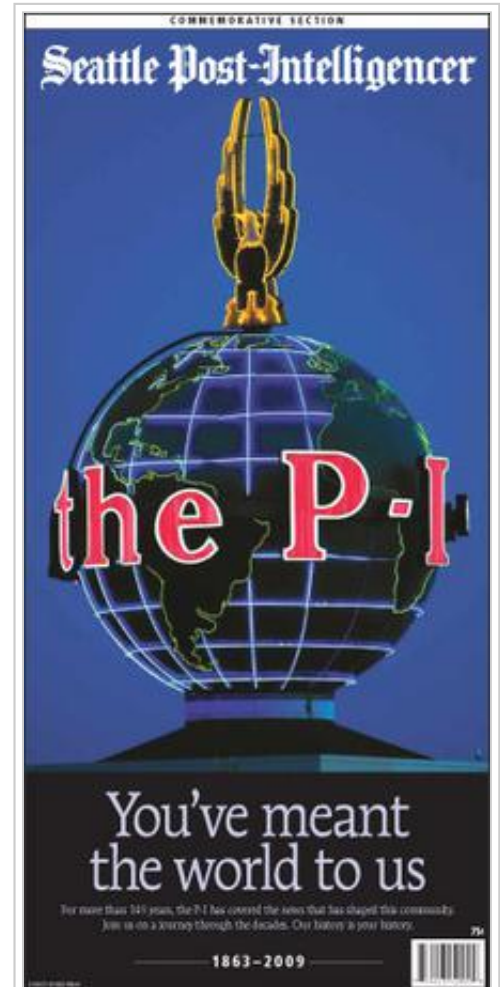
William Randolph Hearst took over the paper in 1921, and the Hearst Corporation owns the *P-I* to this day.^[2]

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt had a special relationship with the *P-I*. In 1936, their son-in-law Clarence John Boettiger took over as publisher. He brought his wife Anna, the Roosevelts' daughter, to also work at the paper. Anna became editor of the women's page. Boettiger left Seattle to enter the U.S. Army in April 1943, while Anna stayed at the paper to help keep a liberal voice in the running of the paper. After Boettiger's absence, the paper increasingly turned conservative with Hearst's new acting publisher. Anna left Seattle in December 1943 to live in the White House with her youngest child, Johnny. This effectively ended the Roosevelt-Boettiger ties with the *P-I*.^[5]

On December 15, 2006, no copies were printed as a result of a power outage caused by the December 2006 Pacific Northwest storms. It was the first time in 70 years that publication had been suspended.^[6]

On January 9, 2009, the Hearst Corporation announced that after losing money on it every year since 2000, Hearst was putting the *P-I* up for sale. The paper would be put on the market for 60 days, and if a buyer could not be found within that time, the paper would either be turned into an Internet-only publication with a drastically reduced staff, or closed outright. The news of the paper's impending sale was initially broken by local station KING-TV the night prior to the official announcement, and came as a surprise to the *P-I*'s staff and the owners of rival newspaper the *Seattle Times*. Analysts did not expect a buyer to be found, in view of declining circulation in the U.S. newspaper industry and other newspapers on the market going unsold.^[7] Five days before the 60-day deadline, the *P-I* reported that the Hearst Corporation had given several *P-I* reporters provisional job offers for an online edition of the *P-I*.^[8]

On March 16, 2009, the newspaper posted a headline on its front page, followed shortly after by a short news story, that explained that the following day's edition would be its final one in print.^[9] The newspaper's publisher, Roger Oglesby, was quoted saying that the *P-I* would continue as an online-only operation. Print subscribers had their subscriptions automatically transferred to the *Seattle Times* on March 18.



The front page of the last printed edition of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, published on March 17, 2009.

As of 2012, the *P-I* continues as an online-only newspaper. In September 2010, the site had an estimated 2.8 million unique visitors and 208,000 visitors per day.^[10]

Joint operating agreement

From 1983 to 2009, the *P-I* and *The Seattle Times* had a joint operating agreement (JOA) whereby advertising, production, marketing, and circulation were run for both papers by the Seattle Times Company. They maintained separate news and editorial departments. The papers published a combined Sunday edition, although the *Times* handled the majority of the editorial content while the *P-I* only provided a small editorial/opinions section.

In 2003 *Times* tried to cancel the JOA, citing a clause in it that three consecutive years of losses were cause for cancelling the agreement.^[11] Hearst disagreed and immediately filed suit to prevent the *Times* from cancelling the agreement. Hearst argued that a *force majeure* clause prevented the *Times* from claiming losses in 2000 and 2001 as reason to end the JOA, because they resulted from extraordinary events (in this case, a seven-week newspaper strike).

Each side publicly accused the other of attempting to put its rival out of business. The trial judge granted a summary judgment in Hearst's favor on the *force majeure* issue. But after two appeals, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the *Times* on June 30, 2005, on the *force majeure* clause, reversing the trial-court judge. The two papers settled the issue on April 16, 2007.

The JOA ended in 2009 with the cessation of the *P-I* print edition.^[9]

Awards

The *P-I* was notable for its two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist, David Horsey.^[12]

Report on Judge Gary Little

Investigative reporting on King County Superior Court Judge Gary Little's out-of-court contact with juvenile defendants revealed accusations that Little molested young boys while he was a teacher at Seattle's exclusive Lakeside School between 1968 and 1971. It also revealed inappropriate contact between Little and juveniles appearing before him after he became a judge. On August 19, 1988, after reporter Duff Wilson called the judge to advise him the newspaper was publishing the story, Little shot himself in the King County Courthouse. The ethical debates surrounding the publication of the story – and the network of connections that protected Little – are taught in journalism classes across the country, and led to reforms in the way judges are disciplined in Washington state.

Conduct Unbecoming series

In 2006 the *P-I* became the subject of a complaint to the Washington News Council for its reporting on the King County Sheriff's Office. The media watch-dog group ruled against the *P-I*, agreeing with Sheriff Sue Rahr's complaint that the newspaper had unfairly disparaged the Sheriff's Office.^[13] The *P-I* declined to participate in the proceedings, and opted instead to give a detailed reply on its website.^[14]

The P-I Globe

The *P-I* is known for the 13.5-ton, 30-foot (9.1 m) neon globe atop its headquarters on the Elliott Bay waterfront, which features the words "It's in the P-I" rotating around the globe and an 18-foot (5.5 m) eagle perched atop with wings stretched upwards.^[15] The globe originated from a 1947 readers' contest to determine a new symbol for the paper. Out of 350 entrants, the winner was by Jack (known as Jakk) C. Corsaw, a University of Washington art student.^[16] The globe was manufactured in 1948^[16] and was placed atop the paper's then-new headquarters building at 6th Avenue and Wall Street. When the newspaper moved its headquarters again in 1986, to its current location on the waterfront, the globe was relocated to the new building.^[15] Over the decades since its first installation, the globe has become a city landmark that, to locals, is as iconic as the Space Needle. In April 2012, it was designated a Seattle Landmark by the city's Landmarks Preservation Board.^{[16][17]} A stylized rendering of the globe appeared on the masthead of the newspaper in its latter years and continues to feature on its website.^[18] In March 2012, the globe was donated to the Museum of History and Industry, which planned to refurbish and relocate it,^[19] but as of mid-2014 this had not occurred.



The P-I Globe is an official Seattle Landmark.

Notable employees

Notable employees of the *P-I* have included the novelists E.B. White, Frank Herbert and Tom Robbins.

See also

- Hutch Award (baseball award bestowed at *P-I*'s annual "Sports Star of the Year" banquet)

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External links

- Official website (<http://www.seattlepi.com>)

Wikimedia Commons has

- Hearst subsidiary profile of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*



media related to *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

(http://www.hearst.com/newspapers/property/news_daily_seattle.html)

- Digitized copies of the Guild Daily

(<http://depts.washington.edu/labhist/laborpress/GuildDaily.shtml>), published by striking P-I employees in 1936, from the Labor Press Project.

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Categories: Newspapers published in Seattle, Washington | Hearst Corporation publications

| Publications established in 1863 | Publications disestablished in 2009

| Defunct newspapers of Washington (state) | Online periodicals with defunct print editions

| Digital newspapers published in the United States

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