$90 Began Eccentric In '78...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the second article to appear in the Baltimore Times weekly magazine entitled "The Wide-Awake Home Paper."" By JERVIS B. MCMICHAEL

In 1875 two young clerks in the village of Baltimore began the publication of a weekly newspaper. They were John E. Mitchell and Albert Whitehead, and the newspaper was called The Baltimore Times. The paper was successful, and within a few years it had a circulation of over 10,000 copies per week. Today, The Baltimore Times is one of the oldest surviving newspapers in the United States.

ALMERO WHITEHEAD

well as the oldest, continuing branch of the Baltimore Times family. The men were George E. Mitchell and Albert Whitehead. At that time Mitchell worked for a local druggist and grocer named Freeman & Co. by association (now Maple), and Whitehead was a member of the Crescent College. Whitehead grocery store across the street was his. At the time, Allen Biggs also lived as a village postmaster.

WHEN THE PRINTING PRESS ARRIVED FROM HOLT, it was first installed in Whitehead's bedroom where the men learned to set type and later attempted small printing jobs such as calling cards which they sold at the rate of 25 cents per 10 cards.

Through a three-year period, their idea of publishing a newspaper slowly grew and by 1876 they were ready to try it, even though there was already another paper in town called the Baltimore Times. In creating a place for a name in the new paper, Whitehead and Mitchell decided to use the name of their "press," the word "press" consisted of nine young bachelors.

IT WAS CALLED The Eccentric. The Times was named from the novel "Around the World in Eighty Days" by Jules Verne.

The Times was the only newspaper in the world with the same name, as Whitehead and Mitchell proudly claimed, appeared Thursday, May 2, 1876. It was a four-page issue, each page measuring by 10 inches, and the paper was printed on two sides or one year for 80 cents. In the addition to classified ads, the first page consisted of a series of blank space under the heading "Eccentrics." These items were submitted by the "Eccentric" activities of local residents.

THE EDITORIAL in the first issue succinctly stated both the ambition of the two young editors.

"We read: 'Our salvation: It is not without many misgivings and without a certain degree of fold difficulties to be encountered. That we have not yet our first number, and this is a week's work! We must design to publish every week for an indefinite period of time. "One of our first objects in undertaking this task is to give the "Home" reader, complete with news of the day, but more particularly the local news of the day, a weekly newspaper.""

George R. Avrell, as he was to become known, purchased The Eccentric in February, 1891. GBA maintained the "crew" and "home" paper to economists on financial texts, but the close-packed "times" newspapers were seen as "old-timers" who were against everything.

In his third issue in 1892 a new slogan was coming, "The Times of the Home!" The editorial began with a quote from the newspaper: "We are all of one mind in our purpose and want to feed the public with a 'boom'." George R. Avrell, as he was to become known, purchased The Eccentric in February, 1893. GBA maintained the "crew" and "home" paper to economists on financial texts, but the close-packed "times" newspapers were seen as "old-timers" who were against everything.

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