

San Francisco Chronicle (1869-1984)

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Quick Facts

Comprehensive coverage of more than a century of West Coast history
A fully searchable archive of Northern California's "newspaper of record"
Ideal for a broad range of users, including researchers, students and genealogists

Overview

Though it was Northern California's "newspaper of record," the *San Francisco Chronicle's* influence was so far-reaching that it was known as the Voice of the West. With colorful reporting and commentary on news ranging from the aftermath of the Gold Rush to the effects of World War II to the counterculture boom of the 1960s, the *Chronicle* offers an unparalleled glimpse into the issues and events that shaped the West Coast for over a century.

A mirror to the West

Founded by two teenage brothers with a \$20 gold piece borrowed from their landlord, the *San Francisco Chronicle* soon boasted the largest circulation of any West Coast newspaper. In its early years, the paper relied on a mixture of advertisements, anecdotes and satire by the likes of Mark Twain to capture life in the wild boomtown of San Francisco. As the first transcontinental railroad came to town and capitalism and corruption boomed in equal parts, the *Chronicle* made it a mission to expose crooked politicians and support honest ones. This practice resulted in a shootout in the paper's office that killed one of the founding brothers. The *Chronicle* dutifully reported the news.

Vibrant coverage of major 20th century events

By the turn of the century, the *San Francisco Chronicle* was so successful it was able to provide firsthand reports from the Klondike Gold Rush, sponsor free concerts in the streets and send reporters to cover sporting events as far away as Reno. When the 1906 earthquake devastated the city, the *Chronicle* kept publishing. Its coverage of the stock market crash, the Great Depression and labor strikes won the paper its first Pulitzer. Later in the 20th century, the paper became known for colorful columnists like Herb Caen and the original "Dear Abby," as well as its astute observations of the counterculture movement, gay rights and the onset of the AIDS crisis.

An American Newspaper Archive

One of the major titles in *American Newspaper Archives*, this digital edition enables users to easily search and browse *San Francisco Chronicle*. Digital editions of dozens of other vital American newspapers, from every region of the United States, are also available individually. Each is cross-searchable via an integrated interface that allows users to easily view, magnify, print and save digital page images.



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