## Peoria Journal Star

## Est. 1855

The history of the *Peoria Journal Star* began before the Civil War. In 1855, the *Daily Transcript* was established as an independent paper popular with the German community in Peoria. Ownership of the *Daily Transcript* changed and the paper became a Republican voice for the community. Sales of the *Transcript* exceeded the four other local papers during the Civil War.

A new paper, the *Peoria Journal* was established in 1877. Competition brought innovative changes to the industry. In 1881, the *Transcript* published the first Sunday paper in Peoria's history. Another paper, the *Herald*, which had been established in 1889, combined printing and book binding, and was noteworthy for printing the Democratic point of view. The *Herald* purchased the *Transcript*, and another paper, *the Times*, and became the only morning paper in Peoria. The combined papers -- the *Peoria Herald-Transcript* -- included both Republican and Democratic points of view, which did not bode very well for sales.

The papers split in 1914 and the *Transcript* lured readers by selling its paper for one cent. Newspaper men Eugene Baldwin and J.B. Barnes established the *Evening Journal*. The expanded paper included artwork, pictures, and comics. In 1900, the paper was taken over as a Republican daily. Another new paper, the *Evening Star* had been established in 1897. Editor Charles Lambert believed he had "the snappiest paper in town."

In 1944, the *Journal-Transcript* and the *Star* merged, joining the revenue strength of one company with the technological strength of the other. While they occupied separate newsrooms, they formed one company called Peoria Newspapers Incorporated, with the *Star* as the morning paper and the *Journal-Transcript* as the afternoon paper. By 1949, the paper became the *Peoria Journal Star* and was published on Sundays until 1955, when it became a daily. In that year, the merged papers found a new home on War Memorial Drive overlooking the McClugage Bridge.

In 1996, the paper was sold to Copley Press which also owned the *State Journal-Register* in Springfield and the *Lincoln Courier*. Today, the paper has a daily circulation of 65,000 and Sunday circulation of over 90,000. Expansion into electronic media is just one of the many innovations the paper has made in its long history.

Congratulations to the Peoria Journal Star on becoming a Peoria Historical Society Centenarian organization.