

## The *Columbus Republic*

Founded: 1872

Location: Rooms 5–6, Keith’s Arcade, Tipton Street, Columbus (1872–76); Fourth Street (1876–82); Fifth and Washington Streets (1882–1925); Fifth and Franklin Streets (1925–70); 333 Second Street (1971–)

Isaac T. Brown and Frank W. Lantz started the *Columbus Republican* in 1872. Lantz sold his share to brothers Chalmers and Isaac T. Brown, who hired their father, Isaac M., to edit the journal. Isaac M. proved to be a controversial editor and retired in 1878. In 1877 the paper became a daily and was renamed the *Daily Evening Republican*. Besides printing a paper, the company also bound books, took on commercial printing assignments, and made paper boxes for Cerealine, a Columbus cereal company.

Isaac T. Brown built the structure at Fifth and Washington Streets and used the second floor as his residence. In 1894 S. E. Haigh and Moses H. Cochrane acquired the paper for \$6,000. Brown moved to San Antonio, Texas, and endeavored to create a monthly magazine. When the building that housed it burnt in 1897 he moved back to Columbus. During Brown’s absence the journal was published biweekly. Haigh and Cochrane sold the tabloid to William Scott and W. J. Martin in 1897, and within a year the *Republican* was bankrupt. Brown again became the owner when he purchased the paper for \$3,325 in a receiver’s sale in 1898.

Before the turn of the century the newspaper hired a woman, Beulah Brown, to report on society happenings. She later worked for the *Indianapolis Star* before moving to California. The paper also hired a cartoonist, F. W. Dragoo, in 1904. A year later the paper began using Linotype presses, and a colored comic section appeared.

After Isaac T. Brown died in 1917 his son Raymond became the owner. Raymond created Home News Enterprises to act as a parent company for the paper in 1962. In 1964 Robert N.

Brown, Raymond's son, became the owner of the journal. Within two years the paper became known as the *Republic*, casting away a partisan image.

By 1984 the paper had a circulation of 23,000. Recent changes include the introduction of a Sunday edition in 1985 and a change in May 1996 to a morning daily. Effective 1 January 1998, Jeffrey N. Brown was named chief executive officer and president of Home News Enterprises. He was the fifth generation of the Brown family to head the journal. In 1998 the company also owned the *Franklin Daily Journal*, the *Greenfield Daily Reporter*, and the *Monticello Herald-Journal*.