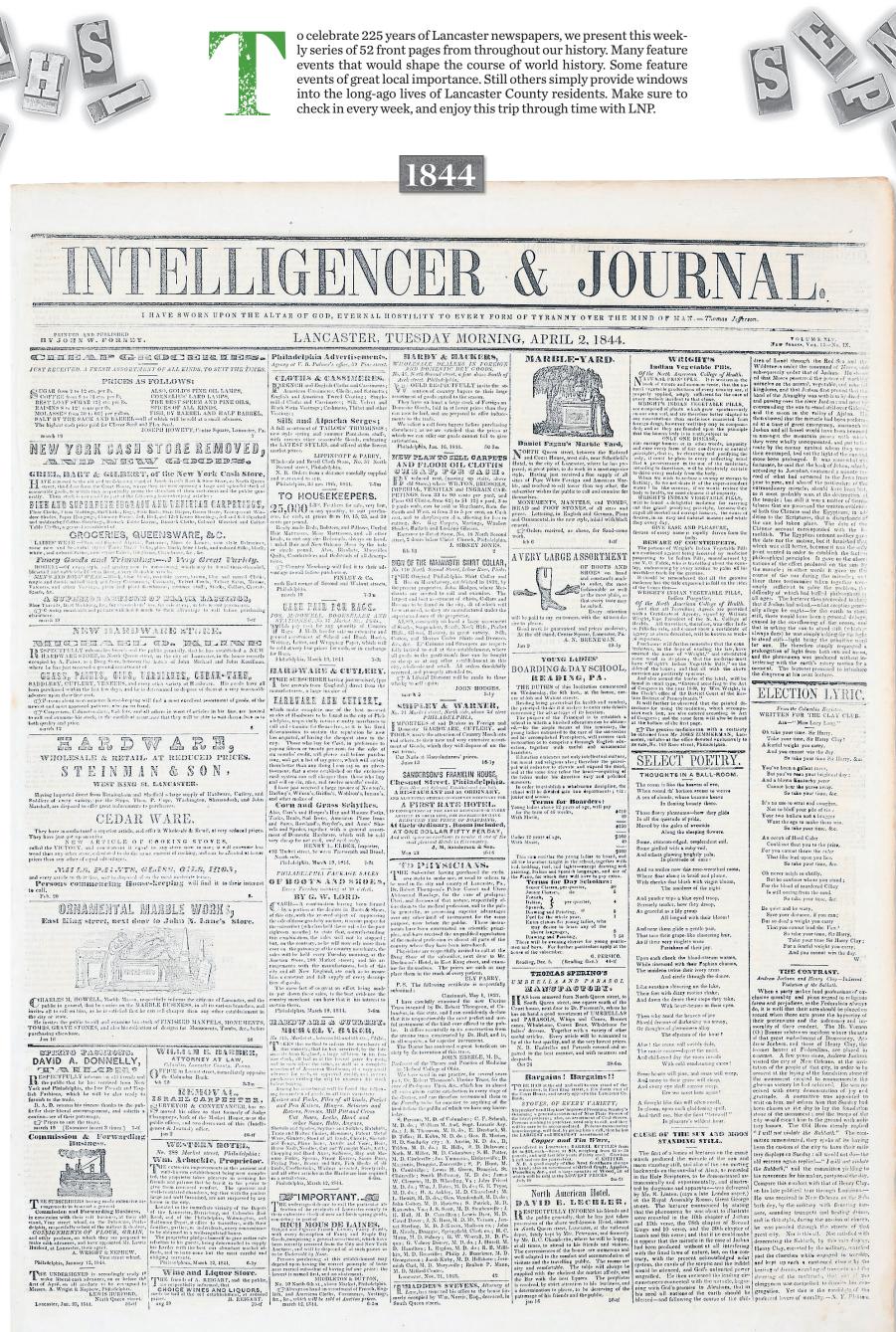
A4 SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

LNP | LANCASTER, PA



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A. WRIGHT & CAUGHTENT Philadelphin, January 12, 1844. Philadelph

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WEEL. Arbuckle, Proprietor.

COVER 12 OF 52

OPINION COLUMNS



In 1844, it seems folks had iust as many opinions as they do in 2019. In a column titled "The Contrast," a writer under the nom de plume

"N.Y. Plebian" writes to the Lancaster Intelligencer & Journal to decry former secretary of state and then-presidential candidate Henry Clav's failure to embrace the Sabbath. Though the writer's consternation is definitely of a 19th-century nature, the spirit of the argument would not be out of place in LNP's Opinion section.

"When a party makes loud professions of exclusive morality and pious regard to religious forms and prejudices, as the Federalists always do, it is well that their acts should be placed on record when those acts prove the hypocrisy of their pretensions and the indecency and immorality of their conduct," begins the

impressively long first sentence. The writer recalls an anecdote where former president Andrew Jackson visited New Orleans and refused to participate in a certain ceremony that was to take place on Sunday, unless it was moved to the next day. Compare this to Secretary Clay. who was received in New Orleans "by the military with flaunting banners, sounding trumpets and beating drums, and in this style, during the session of church, he was paraded through the streets of that great city." Apparently, the fanfare was so joyous that a beleaguered clergyman dismissed his congregation. While the qualities people look for in an ideal candidate seem to change with the weather, a common person's joy in pointing out the moral hypocrisies of politicians has always been in fashion.

THE 1840S

Just one month after this issue hit newsstands, a former painter would follow his own curiosity all the way to inventing a key technology that we now use daily. With just a key, a battery, wire and a few poles, Samuel Morse sent the first electric telegraph message in 1844. Prior to this, Morse lent his name to the discovery of Morse Code, the assigning of dots and dashes to specific letters of the alphabet to send messages. After this discovery, Congress gave Morse \$30,000 (or a little over \$1 million in today's terms) to develop his process further with a telegraph line between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Morse kicked off the telegraph line - and in some ways, a technological breakthrough we are still reckoning with some 175 years later - with the somewhat prophetic message, "WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT?"

SHARE YOUR LNP MEMORIES

The newspaper has been a part of the fabric of life in Lancaster County since 1794, when the Lancaster Journal started publishing in a tavern at the site of the current LNP offices. What were some of your favorite stories and features over the years? Were you a newspaper carrier? Did you appear in a story? Share your memories with us by sending email to LNP225@ Inpnews.com. We hope to use as many stories as possible in future editions of the newspaper and LancasterOnline.

LNP Lancaster Online



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Always Lancaster