

Branch Banking And Trust Company In Its Modern Home

Banking House On Main Street Here Is Regarded As Valuable Asset To Town And Community

First Business Is Transacted in New Building Monday

Cordial Invitation Extended General Public To Visit Branch Bank

The Branch Banking and Trust Company opened for business yesterday morning at 9 o'clock in its new home on Main Street between the Watts Theatre and the Woolard Hardware Company store. Strictly modern in its every detail, the construction of the building reflects the progressive policy of the institution and its determination to keep abreast of the times both as to its equipment and housing and to the service of its patrons.

Recognized as a marked asset to the town and community, the institution's new banking house offers the very latest in architectural design. Its appearance reflects a strength symbolic of the institution itself, and the arrangements offer complete harmony for convenience and for the rapid dispatch of banking duties. The modern front of brick and stone with its curving lines blends well into the row of buildings dotting the main street. Even though defense priority rights made it impossible for the contractor to get steel window frames, the structure has a pleasing and staid appearance from the outside.

Designed for the convenience of its patrons as well as for the convenience of its employees, the bank provides just inside the front door a roomy office for those customers

Builders Overcome Obstacles In Construction Of New Bank

Accepting the contract before shortages presented a serious problem, D. J. Rose and Son, Rocky Mount contractors, overcame many obstacles in constructing the new building for the Branch Banking and Trust Company within the allotted time and to turn over to the institution one of the most attractive and substantially-built structures in this section. It is true that many changes were necessary, but substitutions were effected and the construction project progressed "according to schedule." Wooden window frames were used when steel ones could not be had. The builders will replace

them just as soon as the steel can be had. Facing labor shortages and delay in the delivery of materials, Superintendent S. W. Swanson would shift from one part of the building to another to keep the work going, and detailed construction was completed almost as soon as the walls and roof were built. A few odds and ends are yet to be handling such as the laying of tile for draining the water away from the building and paving the small alley between the bank and the Woolard Hardware Company, but they are to be completed shortly.

who have payrolls to make up and other banking business to handle. On the other side of the entrance is the cashier's private office with a semi-private stall between him and the regular banking room. Modern fixtures, expertly placed to fit into a perfect banking room picture, provide ample windows for its tellers to transact an increasing business with its customers. There are three tellers' windows, a desk for the bookkeepers and an office for the treasurer of the Martin County Building and Loan Association. Two counters are located for the convenience of patrons. With its white walls and modern lighting fixtures, a rubber composition floor, and with a mezzanine floor overlooking it, the job-by offers a very pleasing appearance.

At the rear of the banking room is the strong vault, a passageway lead-

Building And Loan Association Is in Its New Quarters

Shares Special Desk in New Branch Banking & Trust Company Building

Moving from pillar to post, but doing very well during the meantime, the Martin County Building and Loan Association is now housed in special quarters in the Branch Banking and Trust Company building, the association moving its books and equipment from the old Peoples Bank building to its new home over the week-end.

Organized back in 1914, the association maintained its headquarters in the office of Attorney Wheeler Martin. For two years Mr. Martin handled the books as secretary-treasurer of the organization there. Effecting an arrangement with the old Farmers and Merchants Bank, the Building and Loan established its bookkeeping department in the bank and the employees of the bank handled the books. The office was later moved to the old Martin County Savings and Trust Company building on the corner of Main and Smithwick Streets. When that institution closed, the late Asa Tom Crawford took over the bookkeeping department for the association and maintained headquarters in the old Dennis Simmons Lumber Company office now owned by Attorney Hugh G. Horton. When the Farmers and Merchants Bank rented the Peoples Bank building and moved there, the Building and Loan named Mrs. Vella A. Wynne treasurer and headquarters were located in the big building eleven years ago.

Erecting its modern new building on Main Street, the Branch Banking and Trust Company provided special quarters for the Building and Loan Association which now occupies for the first time a semi-permanent home of its own.

The office of the association, occupying a prominent position in the

Branch Banking And Trust Company Has An Interesting History

Business Founded Sixty-Nine Years Ago By A. Branch

Institution Has Served This Immediate Section Since 1930

Few institutions have a more colorful and interesting history than that of the Branch Banking and Trust Company to which another interesting chapter is being added as the institution carries on its operation in its modern new building on Williamston's main street.

As a member of the mercantile firm of Branch and Hadley, Mr. Branch' back in 1872 started accepting deposits and handling other transactions more or less common to the modern banking world. In that trying period when banking facilities were limited as a result of the War Between the States, the basic business principles that have guided the policy of the institution down through the years were laid. The interests of the customer who entrusted his savings to the founder of the business were given first recognition in all succeeding transactions, and working on that basic principle the founder and his successors have continued to expand the services of the organization.

In 1887 Mr. Branch, his banking business requiring much of his time, withdrew from the mercantile firm of Branch and Hadley and set himself up under the firm name of Branch and Company, Bankers. Two years later, Mr. Branch and several leading citizens applied to the State

Officers Of Branch Bank Well Known In This Community

Local Institution Headed By Cashier Bowen and Able Board of Directors

Headed by H. D. Bateman, president, and S. S. Lawrence, vice president, the Branch Banking and Trust Company has played an important and prominent role in eastern North Carolina finances for a long number of years. The institution, weathering terrific financial storms that swept the entire nation in years past, owes its enviable record in the banking field to its able leaders.

The president of the institution, gaining valuable experience during his forty years as a banker, has adhered strictly to fundamental banking principles, recognizing as a first obligation the trust held for the institution by its depositors. As vice president, S. S. Lawrence has been unusually active in the bank's operation and activities. The two men, aided by an able board of directors which includes some of the most prominent citizens in the State, have blazed an effective trail in the banking and financial fields, rendering an efficient service to an ever-expanding clientel.

The local institution is headed by Cashier Herman A. Bowen, who has been with the bank a long number of years, and a popular and well-known board of directors, including Elbert S. Peel, F. U. Barnes, J. Eason Lilley, G. L. Mardis, Jr., and W. L. Powell. Accommodating employees, including W. C. Griffin, assistant cashier, Russell Roebuck, teller, and Mrs. Ethel Wynne and Kate Manning, bookkeepers, serve the local bank's large number of patrons. Each of these invites the public to visit the bank in its modern new home.

To fortify the health of the British people, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is purchasing large supplies of vitamin concentrates at the present time.

REMODELING

Purchasing the building formerly occupied by the Branch Banking and Trust Company, the Guaranty Bank and Trust Company is making ready to launch an extensive remodeling and renovating program, according to Cashier D. V. Clayton.

Just when the building will be made ready for occupancy cannot be determined at this time, but the new owners plan to move possibly by the middle of next month. Several thousand dollars will be spent in renovating and modernizing the three-story building, Mr. Clayton said.

Legislature for a charter, and the institution was operated under the name of Wilson Banking and Trust Company. Expanded operations and changing conditions caused the institution to enlarge its own services and in 1891 the corporation was known as the State Bank of Wilson. In 1893 the name was changed to the Branch Banking Company. Mr. Branch died that year, but recognizing the value of the good will centering around the founder's name, his successors carried on the business without further change until 1913 when, without dropping the connection with its founder the institution accepted the name of Branch Banking and Trust Company. While the original name suggested multiple banking operations, it was not until 1925 that the institution started its expansion program to include banks in other towns and cities.

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BOXES

The utmost in safety has been provided by the Branch Banking and Trust Company for its safety deposit box holders. Housed in a super re-enforced vault, the more than 200 boxes can be reached only through an 18,000-pound steel door. Individual keys, and only one of a kind, are held by the box renters.

To insure privacy for the box-holders when he wishes to examine the box contents, the bank has arranged a private room known as the coupon room.

ing to the side giving access to a large directors' room, a coupon (Continued on page 4, this section)

Announcing Occupancy of Our NEW BUILDING

The Public Is Cordially Invited To Inspect New Building

200 Safety Deposit Boxes

WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ITS PATRONS WITH A

Coupon Room

Conveniently Located For The Transaction Of Private Business

We take pride in announcing the opening of our new bank building. Located between the Watts Theatre and the Woolard Hardware Company, this institution is adequately equipped and its modern construction enables us to give each customer every convenience possible. Although you may not be a customer of our bank, we extend to you a most cordial welcome to visit our new home. We trust you will accept this invitation for it will give us genuine pleasure to show this modern equipped and constructed building.

New Accounts Solicited, Welcomed Whether They be Large or Small

Night Depository

We Have Installed A NIGHT-DEPOSITORY for The Convenience of Our Customers and the General Public.

For Safety, For Convenience, We Hope You Use It!

Branch Banking & Trust Co.

WILLIAMSTON, NORTH CAROLINA.