

FORMAL OPENING NEW HOME BANK OF FRENCH BROAD NEXT SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1923.

MUSIC, FLOWERS, AND CORDIALITY TO FEATURE OPENING OF HANDSOME NEW HOME OF BANK ALL DAY SATURDAY.

Public is Invited to Visit New Building and Join in Spirit of Neighborliness and Jollification; Accept Souvenirs and Receive Welcome.

The Bank of French Broad will feature the opening of its new home next Saturday, July 21st, by an all day reception and housewarming to which every man, woman and child in Madison County is cordially invited by the officers and directors of the institution.

The occasion will be marked by speaking, the distribution of souvenirs, music, refreshments and inspection of the new banking offices. The hours are from 10 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Many prominent visitors, including bankers, public officials and well known citizens, from neighboring cities are expected to attend the celebration.

The page announcement elsewhere in this issue reveals something of the pardonable pride of the bank officials in the new building, and bears this striking invitation to the public: "Join us in joy and jollification. Join us in neighborly spirit. Join us in the dedication of our lives to those clean ideals and earnest purposes from which come the advancement of our common welfare. Join us to see the sun of the new Bank of French Broad rise to the very zenith of personal and public service."

It is anticipated that a crowd of several thousand persons will visit Marshall on Saturday to attend the opening.

Bank President Issues Statement in Regard to New Home

Mr. J. J. Redmon, President of the Bank of French Broad, has issued the following statement in regard to the new home of the institution which will be dedicated next Saturday, July 21st.

"Our new bank building was erected for the purpose of taking care of the marvelous growth of Madison and the rich section of country of which this county is a part. We believe this growth is as yet merely in its infancy and we have determined to do everything in our power to hasten its progress."

"It is our bank's ambition to stand in the very forefront of every interest that makes for the progress, education and material development of our county. Ours being largely a farming and stock-growing section, we are vitally concerned in everything that tends to enhance the interests of the farmers; enriching his soil, improving his livestock, securing better marketing and larger returns for his

labor in every way." "We are anxious to serve our splendid business men, too, making business safer and more profitable and helping to enlarge the business and industries of our county."

"No account is too small for the Bank of French Broad, and none is too large. We wish to serve rich and poor with equal zeal and sincerity."

With Mr. W. B. Ramsey, Cashier, Mr. Redmon will complete his twentieth year of service with the Bank of French Broad on December 1st, next, the twentieth anniversary of the bank—both having served in their present official capacities continuously since the institution opened its doors.

Mr. Redmon expressed the hope that hundreds of children from all over the county will patronize the savings department that the Bank of French Broad will open in its new home, believing that the greatest blessing that may be sought for the coming generation.

Historical Sketch

At the request of The News-Record, Mr. W. B. Ramsey, Cashier of the Bank of French Broad has furnished an interesting outline of the institution's history, covering a period of slightly less than 20 years.

The Bank of French Broad was the first bank organized in Madison County, having opened its doors for business on December 1, 1903. It was originally housed in its old building erected by J. R. Swann and J. J. Redmon as building committee.

The first meeting of stockholders was held June 22, 1903. Thos. S. Rollins served as chairman of this meeting, at which the other stockholders present in person were W. J. Byerly, Mrs. Cora R. Allison, J. J. Redmon, W. J. Weaver, F. Shelton, J. R. Swann, G. W. Cole and Tomie Ball.

The first board of directors was composed of J. J. Redmon, Chairman, Dr. Frank Roberts, J. R. Swann, W. J. Byerly, Thos. S. Rollins, J. M. Gudger, Jr., A. J. Roberts, F. Shelton, W. J. Weaver and Mrs. Cora R. Allison. It is said that Mrs. Cora R. Allison was the first woman to be chosen to the position of director by any bank in North Carolina. Of the original board of directors only two members have served continuously since the organization, these being J. J. Redmon and Thos. S. Rollins.

A feature of the history of the Bank of French Broad which is remembered with much pride is its record during the panic of 1907. At this time no scrip or substitute for money was issued and the local institution was the first bank in Western North Carolina to resume full cash payments. The first issue of bonds by Madison County was handled by this bank, as were all or liberal portions of every succeeding issue.

The Bank of French Broad has acted as county Treasurer of Madison County for the past several years.

The Madison County Bank, which was organized in 1905 was consolidated with the Bank of French Broad in 1906. The original paid-in capital of the Bank of French Broad was \$11,000; the present capital is \$25,000, with an unusually large surplus account of \$40,000, which latter is represented entirely by accumulated earnings.

The institution has paid a dividend to stockholders of ten per cent, or more each year since its organization. A unique distinction is that not a dollar of loss has occurred on loans to any citizen of Madison County.

When the destructive flood of 1914 swept like a monster tidal wave through the business streets of Marshall, the Bank of French Broad was flooded to a depth of several feet. All day of that well remembered Sunday, this establishment, in common with the other business houses of Marshall was under the attack of angry waters standing under a constant battering of debris and mud. But Monday morning the bank was open for business as usual. It was found that the locks of vault and safe were not impaired and their contents of cash and securities were entirely undamaged. The safe stood under water for several hours and proved claims of manufacturers that it was water tight.

Those who have served as Assistant Cashier of this bank are as follows: R. R. Rogers, who is now District Manager of the Credit Department of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., Jacksonville, Fla., G. L. McKinney, now merchant O. C. Rector, now of O. C. Rector Hardware Company, Roy F. Ebbs, now Assistant Cashier of the Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, L. Z. Eller, Cashier of the Bank of Mars Hill; Hillard C. Rector who served from 1907 to 1912 here then went to American National Bank of Richmond, Virginia. Seven years later he returned to Marshall and this bank, and is now the present assistant cashier.

Madison County, with its important agricultural interests, has a larger proportion of white farmers than any county in the state; the official figure being 99.9 per cent. It is for this substantial group of native Anglo-Saxon blood that the facilities of the Bank of French Broad have been employed since its organization. Every effort has been exerted to aid the development of the live stock industry and improved farming generally. Hundreds of successful farmers of Madison owe a large measure of their prosperity to the financial help and counsel of this institution.

A recent amendment to the charter of the Bank of French Broad authorizes the establishment of trust and savings departments.

NEW BANK BUILDING IS MONUMENT TO FAITH OF BANK'S OFFICIALS IN FUTURE OF MADISON.

Attractive Structure Sets New Pace in Building Activities of Marshall; Erected to Supply Needs of Growing Bank and Rapidly Developing Community for Many Years to Come.

The new home of the Bank of French Broad stands as an impressive monument of the faith of its officers and stockholders in the future of Marshall, Madison County and Western North Carolina. The costly structure represents a large vision of the growth and development of the territory served by the bank. It is modern to the last degree, and was constructed for convenience, durability and safety, as well as impressively dignified beauty. It is said to be the finest bank building in a town the size of Marshall anywhere in the South.

This new three-story building occupies the choicest business site in Marshall, on Main Street adjoining the courthouse property, with a concrete-paved court between and comfortable benches alongside the foundation wall for the accommodation of the public. It is constructed of the finest grade of tapestry brick and limestone. The interior lobby floor is of marble tile. The fixtures are the latest design of marble and bronze. The trim is of solid mahogany, finished and polished by workmen of highest skill. The entire building is steam heated.

The walls of the main money and safe deposit vault are constructed of ponderously heavy reinforced concrete and will resist attempted burglary by explosion, heat or any other means of forcible assault. The vault door is a massive portal weighing nine tons, built of hard and soft steel welded together in layers to resist drilling, and controlled by a triple time lock. Its beautifully chased and polished surface and heavy bolts make this powerful vault door an object of unusual interest—but burglars, the banking officials say, would not be interested in any attempt to force it open, for that could not be done within even a liberal allowance of time.

The front of the main vault will be equipped with private safe deposit boxes which will be offered to the public for rent; the rear compartment, which is cut off by a grille, will contain the money safe of the bank and filing cases for the securities held by the bank. Near the entrance of the main vault is a mahogany coupon and telephone booth, where patrons may examine their papers and securities without interruption. Adjoining the main vault is a substantial and fire-proof vault in which the books

and records of the bank will be stored.

Other features of the lobby of the bank are the mezzanine floor, which has been provided to take care of the future expansion of clerical work, marble-enclosed officers' quarters and private consulting room at the front, and a ladies' rest room on the left, all very handsomely fitted and furnished.

The directors room of the bank is a rare and charming work of art. Located at the rear of the mezzanine, it is beautifully paneled in mahogany and makes a cozy and impressive room for the deliberations of the body which directs the affairs of the institution. This room is equipped with its own fire place and marble mantelshelf.

One portion of the new banking house in which its officers feel great pride is a rest room and nursery for women and children. This large room, adjoined by a lavatory, is dedicated to the women of Madison County. Here the children may be left while a busy mother attends to her shopping. Here the county school teachers may make themselves comfortable when business brings them to Marshall. Here a family luncheon may be spread on the hospitable table. Here personal letters or notes may be written. Here the women of Marshall may hold committee or club meetings. Here, in short, according to W. B. Ramsey, Cashier, is a place that was built exclusively for women, and may be used exactly as they see fit to employ it. This rest room may either be entered through the bank lobby or by a door which opens upon the courtyard in the rear.

The two upper floors of the building have been fitted up for modern offices. The latest conveniences have been provided for the well lighted offices that run the length of the building, as well as elegant trim and finish to harmonize with the banking quarters. The offices will be occupied by leading firms and professional men of Marshall.

It is safe to say that no detail has been neglected to provide Madison County a palatial and satisfactory center for the transaction of its banking business. Not even the largest city can boast better facilities. And the officers of the Bank of French Broad are happy in the belief that the outlay invested in the handsome structure is well justified by the wealth and progress of Madison.

Local and Personal

FARM WANTED—Wanted to hear from owner of farm or improved land for sale, for fall delivery. L. Jones, Box 261 Olney, Ill.

FOR SALE—Nine Thorobred Duroc-Jersey Pigs At Six Dollars If Taken By July 12th. KARL HUNTER, Route 2, Box 99.

A series of meetings is being conducted at the Methodist church at Marshall by Rev. H. C. Sprinkle, presiding elder. Rev. Mr. Sprinkle partly started his ministry in Marshall thirty years ago and preached here and in surrounding country for three years. Come out and hear him.

Read Marshall Milling Company ad in this issue.

Mr. N. E. Smith, of Raleigh, N. C., and Mr. F. G. Baker of Asheville, N. C. were in town Thursday.

Strictly fancy selected Rosebloom Brand Peaches.—Crate, six baskets, \$3.50 F. O. B. Ship ment day order received to any address. Send remittance with order. Add express if desire prepaid.

Rosebloom Orchard Co., Aberdeen, N. C.

Mr. Jack Morris from Sylva, once a resident of Marshall, was in town this week.

Mr. C. O. Crowder, and family, have been on a weeks visit to Gastonia.

Miss Anna Stokley and Mr. Hobert Jones spent a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Ward last week.

Mr. John E. Rector is improving. He is able to sit up now.

Miss Elizabeth Godfrey from New Port, Tenn., is visiting her father, Mr. M. A. Godfrey, of Marshall.

Mr. Jeff Nelson, Assistant Grand Lecturer, A. F. and A. M. is spending this week in Marshall.

Little John Redmon son of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Redmon was taken back to the hospital. He has had an afflicted foot for some time and was in the hospital once before with his foot. We hope for his immediate recovery.

Little Elizabeth Flemmons from Hendersonville is visiting her little friends and older ones too in Marshall this week.

Mr. Clingman, from Raleigh, spent the week end visiting in Marshall.

Mr. Rufus Caton and Miss Alene Caton are Marshall visitors.

Miss Theora Roberts daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larkin Roberts who lives at Laurel Branch who has been in Washington City for quite awhile is on a visit to her parents and friends. She made the News-Record, a very pleasant and profitable visit.

Mr. Horace Banks of Erlanger, N. C., is visiting parents and friends in Marshall.

I will be in Marshall N. C. on 6, 7, day, of August, 1923.

AT DR. J. N. MOORE'S office for the purpose of examining eyes and fitting glasses, I guarantee results. North Carolina State License.

Dr. L. V. Lisenbee

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ramsey and little son from Arizona, are visiting their friends and relatives in this part of the United States.

SOLE AGENTS

TO THE FARMERS

We will give 43 pounds of good flour for every bushel of wheat brought to us on exchange that will test 58 lbs to the bushel or more. We ask you to do your milling with us in the next few weeks for after that time we will be closed down for some time repairing. Give us a trial.

Marshall Milling Company.