

POPULATION
 Incorporated Kings Mountain 6,547
 Immediate Trading Area 14,000
 (Figures based on registrations of local War Price and Rationing board.)

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First National Bank Has Steady Growth Since Organization

Women Replace Men As Bankers Enter Service

BY EDYTHE WYCHE
 (In The Harheel Banker)

THE WAR EFFORT has brought out the true value of women in banking, filling every place in the bank vacated by men now in the Armed Forces, thereby rendering a great service to their country. Three of these services that outrank all others, are the handling of rationing accounts, the making up of war plant payrolls, and the sale and issuing of War Bonds.

No one knows how much work has been involved in the handling of the ration coupons except those engaged in it. Even in the smaller banks it has consumed almost the entire time of one person in receiving, checking, and forwarding ration reports. They flow in a never-ending stream that are like the water of a perennial spring. And their handling has required care and involved responsibility and has been performed in their entirety by the banks as a public service.

War plant payrolls have also placed on the banks a heavy additional load. Almost every bank has some kind of war activity in operation in its community. The number of employees varies but the speed-up in the tempo of business has reflected itself most vividly in every war plant activity and industry. These plants had to keep going at full capacity, they work from one to three shifts and their combined payrolls are large in many cases and in many others quite enormous. The banks have felt the full impact of all this speed-up and high pressure demand for help in supplying payroll facilities.

Then there have been war bond sales. These have fallen right in the lap of the banks. It would be a safe guess to say that at least from 80 to 90 percent of all war bond sales



SCENE IN FRONT OF OLD BANK SHORTLY AFTER TURN OF CENTURY—Shown above is a picture of the First National Bank, as it appeared shortly after it was chartered. In the picture, left to right, are Dave H. Rudisill, now of Cherryville, the late W. F. Fulton, Kings Mountain merchant, and R. L. Mauney, at that time cashier and now a director of the bank.

of issuance has been handled through the banks. Even where the bond sales have been solicited by individuals or other institutions, it has fallen on the lot of the banks to do the actual work of issuing, delivering the bonds and handling the money.

All these additional services have meant a tremendous increase in the volume of work done by the bank personnel. It has been increase in volume of work without much, if any, increase in number of employees. In short, it has meant more work for

everybody in the banking business; longer hours, greater responsibility, faster turn-over.

In rendering this extra service is where bank women have come into the picture in a big way. As the men have gone into the armed forces and war plants, women have more and more taken over their duties, so that in practically all banks a large majority of the employees now are women.

Upon the shoulders of these women, I think I can say, with truth

and proper modesty, a large percentage of the extra war work assigned to the banks has fallen. True it is that much of this work has been routine. True, also, it is that routine work is exacting and exhausting. Nevertheless, it is a service that we bank women have been glad to render. We have responded willingly and steadily on all occasions, even if sometimes somewhat wearily. We have thus given of our time, talents, and energy in the discharge of a

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Bank Was First Called Bank Of Kings Mountain

Since its organization 45 years ago, The First National Bank has continuously served the town of Kings Mountain and the surrounding communities. Except for usual legal holidays and the bank holiday during the depression in 1933 its doors have always been open to its customers.

Today, August 9th, when it officially opens its new and modern banking rooms, will mark another forward step in its progress and its policy of preparedness for the greater opportunities and responsibilities which lie ahead.

Beginning in 1900 as The Bank of Kings Mountain, with an authorized capital of \$25,000, but with only \$5,500 paid in the first year, it has grown into one of the strong, dependable financial institutions of this county and state. The first officers of the bank were: W. A. Mauney, President, J. S. Mauney, Vice-president, and R. L. Mauney, Cashier.

Other citizens of Kings Mountain who were early stockholders were the late Dr. J. G. Hord, R. S. Plonk, D. M. Baker and C. E. Neisler, Sr., and S. A. Mauney.

In January 1901 The Bank of Kings Mountain was given a charter by the United States Government and became The First National Bank of Kings Mountain. Thus is the oldest national bank in Cleveland county.

During its existence, the institution has experienced a sound and steady growth. In April 1917, the original capital stock was increased to \$50,000 and in June 1920, it was further increased to \$100,000. At the present time, capital, surplus, undivided profits and reserves amount to \$203,806.

The deposits at the close of business on June 30, 1900, are given as \$20,030; at the close of business on

June 30, 1945, at \$2,232,485. The total assets on June 30, 1900 were \$25,853. On June 30, 1945, they were \$2,931,671.

The bank has had three presidents—W. A. Mauney, who served from 1900 to 1928, D. M. Baker, who served from 1928 to 1942, and F. R. Summers who was elected president in June, 1942.

The first cashier, R. L. Mauney, was succeeded by W. H. McGinnis when the former became executive vice-president and B. S. Neill came to The First National Bank from the Independence Trust Company of Charlotte in 1931 and succeeded W. H. McGinnis. In 1944, M. B. Winstead, formerly with The First National Bank of Lincolnton, succeeded Mr. Neill when he was elected executive vice-president.

The officers at present are: F. R. Summers, President, R. L. Mauney, Vice-President, B. S. Neill, Executive Vice-President, and M. B. Winstead, Cashier.

The directors are, Dr. L. P. Baker, G. A. Bridges, W. K. Mauney, R. L. Mauney, B. S. Neill, P. M. Neisler, F. R. Summers and M. A. Ware.

The bank was first located on Battleground avenue in the north portion of the building which is now Rose's 5 and 10 cent store. The present location was occupied by the Kendrick Drug Co. and was destroyed by fire about 1907. In 1909 the bank purchased this property from D. M. Baker and built the white pressed brick building in which it has done business ever since. In October 1944, the directors voted to enlarge the banking room and make many needed improvements which have become necessary because of the great increase in business. The plans for the remodeling were drawn by Walter W.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Our Next-Door Neighbor

The FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The merchant looks to his banker for not only a depository, but for business aid and advice.

In remodeling their home, the First National Bank is providing one of the finest banking houses in the State and the entire South.

In remodeling their home, they have also taken a progressive step which should serve as an impetus to other business firms to provide better facilities for their customers and to thus improve local markets.

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate the First National Bank on the completion of their new banking house.

BELK'S Department Store

REMEMBER—You Always Save At Belk's