

A Page from the History of the Oldest Bank in Southern Oregon

Banking first came to Douglas County and the Umpqua Valley in 1883 when, in April of that year, the Douglas County Bank was founded. It was the pioneer bank in all the vast territory from Albany on the North to Yreka on the South.

Since that day, over forty two years ago, when this bank began business, its history and growth has been the history and development of the Umpqua Valley. The bank has played no minor part in the events of the times. In commenting on this we recently ran some advertisements in the News-Review, calling attention to the fortieth birthday of the bank. Among these there appeared the following:

The amount of confidence shown by our Customers in 1907

During the short and acute panic of that year is a matter of pride to the bank. During the two weeks prior to the limiting of withdrawals but twelve persons drew their balances amounting to a total of but \$4,000. These names and amounts were listed by the officers and are still preserved as a reminder of those strenuous times.

That year there was a large export market in Umpqua Valley prunes and this bank had made advances to the shippers of some \$40,000.00, on most of which credit advances had been made on account on bills of lading and sight draft by both Chicago and New York correspondents. These banks in turn had taken credit against the shipments from their foreign correspondents in London or Berlin. But the buyers abroad decided to take advantage of the situation existing and refused payment until the arrival of the products.

This bank was notified by wire of the dishonored drafts and that the amounts had been charged back to its account. Reimbursement as soon as funds could be spared was asked, and it may now be said that this was done by telegraphic transfer, without waiting for the usual course through the mails, or by waiting until normal conditions again prevailed as might have been done.

Further dismay was added by two large Portland banks which suspended. One of these was the correspondent there of this bank, thus tying up for the time being the funds on deposit with it. It had also now become apparent that the country banks could not secure funds from correspondent banks to provide against the time when the holidays should be ended.

It also became known to us that it would be necessary for this bank to provide sufficient funds to carry both banks, whereupon Mr. Booth sold personal securities in the Eastern market amounting to \$150,000.00 and had this amount placed to the credit of his bank with The Merchants Loan & Trust Company, the Chicago correspondent. From there it was transferred by wire to our San Francisco bank which secured the gold coin from the United States Mint and shipped us by express.

On that November morning when the wagon of the Wells Fargo Express Company drove up to the side door of the bank on Oak street with the first shipment of \$60,000.00 in gold 20s the panic was past history in Roseburg and Douglas County. To secure that first \$60,000.00 in gold an exchange charge of \$1800.00 was paid by the bank. Later additional shipments to a total of \$125,000.00 were made. The First National paid no part of the expense of the money shipments incurred.

Earlier in 1907 Mr. Marsters had disposed of his interests in the bank and was now organizing the Roseburg National Bank. The fifty per cent payment of capital stock amounting to \$25,000.00 was on deposit in the Douglas County Bank, and some of the share holders grew uneasy and asked him to withdraw it, but this he declined to do, familiar as he was with the strength of the institution.

When the holidays were suspended the deposits in the bank on the first day exceeded withdrawals by \$4500.00 and continued to increase from day to day. All the money shipped in for a possible emergency was unused and was soon shipped out.

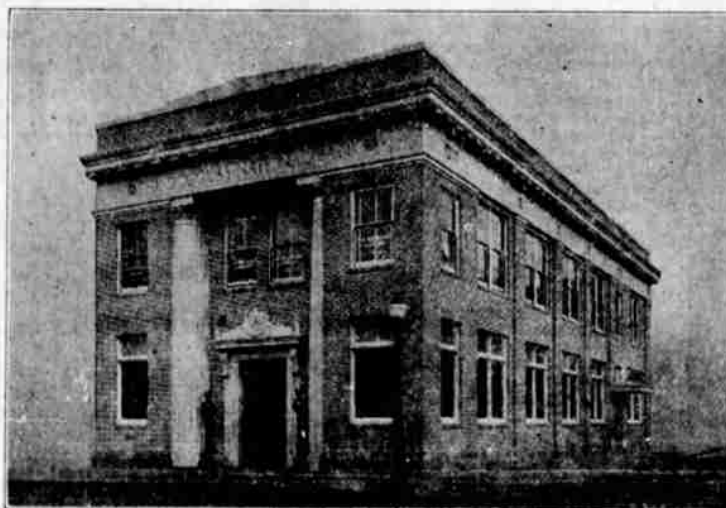
The confidence of our customers and the community in the bank is no less merited now than it was at the time of the events mentioned. To further justify this confidence we have during the past year remodeled our banking house and built therein the strongest vaults obtainable and what we believe to be second to none in the Northwest. The doors of these vaults weigh over eleven tons each, and are composed of a patented material known as "Donsteel" which is impervious alike to both the torch and drill of the burglar.

The present ownership of the Douglas County Bank was acquired in November, 1901. On March 27, 1909, a charter was granted under the National Bank Act, and the title of the bank became "The Douglas National Bank." Soon after purchasing the bank in 1901 its actual growth began, and we used to run an advertisement stating that:

*"The Oldest Bank in Southern Oregon Solicits Your Business Along
Conservative Lines and Promises Its Best Service at All Times."*

That policy has never been departed from. It goes for now as well as for then. Along such lines the bank hopes to continue to prosper and merit the confidence of its patrons in the future as in the past.

Over
Forty Years
of
Service



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The Douglas National Bank

ROSEBURG OREGON