

August 25, 1949

BUILDING WORK NOW STARTED ON NEW HOME FOR BANK HERE

With the awarding of the contract for the construction of the new home for the First National Bank of Provincetown to Perry & Morrill, general contractors of Bangor, Maine, work of constructing the fine, modern, bank building on the former site of the Centenary Methodist Church at the corner of Winthrop and Commercial Streets, was started this week.

A modified style of Cape Cod architecture with a touch of Georgian colonial has been followed in designing the building, according to Horace F. Hallett, president of the bank and, himself, a trained architect. It will be of substantial red-brick construction with a slate roof and will be placed 30 feet back from Commercial Street so as to provide an area for lawn and landscaping. The building itself will have a width of 40 feet and will be 70 feet in length. In the rear there will be a large area, 90 feet in depth for parking customers' cars. The structure will be one-story with a full basement.

One of the members of the Maine contracting firm is Raymond E. Perry, a brother of Dr. Thomas F. Perry of Provincetown. It is understood that local workmen will be used as far as possible in the construction.

The generous size of the new building will provide a great deal more room for the work of the bank staff as well as for the needs of customers who will find nine tellers' windows placed around the spacious lobby. Flanking the entrance lobby will be the office of the president on the right and a director's room on the left. Around the marble-floored lobby will be the tellers' windows, working spaces for clerical equipment, the safe deposit department with two small rooms and one larger conference room. The interior throughout will be paneled in country pine. Accustical plaster will be used for the ceiling of the public space and accustic tile in the machine room. The building will have its own electric power generating plant so that any work stoppage because of a power break may be avoided. Practically all of the bank equipment is now electrically operated. The building will be lighted by the latest type of fluorescent fixtures. There will be two vaults, one at the end of the main floor, the other in the basement.

The charming exterior front will be graced by a stately colonial doorway and the peaked slate roof will be flanked by Georgian colonial

chimneys at each side, giving a feeling of solidity with their broad lines. The night depository will be located on the east side of the building on Winthrop Street.

May 14, 1950 New Bank Amazes Visitors Sunday

Provincetown people are becoming accustomed this week to the new home and new location of their First National Bank which, after days and nights of frenzied activity, was ready for the more than 2,000 visitors who crowded its Open House Sunday afternoon, which had a different kind of housewarming with a fire early next morning causing about \$1,000 damage, but which has now settled in its comfort and charm into the daily work of a bank.

It is pretty well agreed now that the fire was caused by a cigarette which had been carelessly thrown by a visitor into a box of paper rolls in the janitor's room in the basement. It was discovered by the building custodian, David Brown, when he came to work at 6 Monday morning and found the basement filled with smoke. Chief Joseph E. Matta and the firemen were able to confine the fire to the small room but the woodwork of this, the door, several screen doors, sink and equipment were ruined. However, as Horace F. Hallett, president of the bank pointed out, the structure is

essentially fireproof and the flames could not have penetrated the 12-inch reinforced concrete floor.

Despite this aftermath, the opening Sunday afternoon was a huge success and visitors were warm in their praise of the general character, design, structural excellence, decorative scheme and interior finish of the new building which is the finest to be found on this part of Cape Cod. Gracing the lobby are eight fine marine paintings, the work of the late master, Frederick Waugh. Each painting also bears the signature of his son, Colton Waugh, in recognition of the help by him in the matter of the rigging of the ships, a subject in which the younger Waugh was more proficient.

Although early last week the average layman would have concluded that a month would be necessary to complete the work, Contractor Raymond E. "Bill" Perry of the Bangor, Maine, firm of Perry and Morrill, made good his promise that even the broken slate entrance walk and the landscaping would be completed for the opening. They were, and visitors walked into a finished lobby which was banked with huge baskets and bouquets from well wishers.

The floor of the lobby is of polished marble from Rome while the knotty pine of the woodwork has been finished in a soft brown stain and well waxed. The directors' room is papered with a pattern called Provincetown geometric, a design similar to a sample from the old DeWager home.

Souvenir of the opening, presented to each visitor, was a bronze key chain tag bearing on one side the bas relief of the new building and on the other an identification number which the bank keeps on file. Two bunches of keys have already been returned to owners by this means.

Miss Clara Jane Hallett of Hyannis, 93, a cousin of Horace Hallett, was believed the oldest visitor. Other visitors included George A. Merrill of Provincetown, who has passed his 90th birthday, and Mrs. Florence Waldin, 92, one of Provincetown's oldest inhabitants.

Also present was Rear Admiral Ralph Dempwolf, another cousin of Mr. Hallett, and Mrs. Dempwolf.

First customer to do business in the new bank Monday morning was Contractor Perry, although Norman Cook, who has been first customer for years every day at the old bank, was the first one in. Bill Gordon, of Cabral's Market, was the last customer at the old stand.

Mr. Hallett said that the move from the old to the new was made without incident and that he and Special Patrolman Clarence "Coek-aloo" Pierce had everything under perfect control.

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The new First National Bank, located on the site of the Centenary Methodist Church (see preceding page) May 30, 1950 (William Mayo, Treasurer - Althea's second cousin)