Reedsville State Bank

On October 25, 1906, a request was made to the State of Wisconsin to form a banking corporation in the Village of Reedsville. Original stockholders were: G. A. Zuehlke, E. C. O'Rourk, C. A. Gielow, F. J. Bleick, T. S. Cahill, Louis Falge, A. Zuehlke, N. A. O'Rourk, M. Sullivan, Irv. Zuehlke, C. J. Nelahlo, A. H. Rusch and F. Frosch. On November 7, 1906, a meeting was held and three directors were elected, G. A. Zuehlke, E. C. O'Rourk and C. A. Gielow. The Reedsville State Bank opened for business December 1, 1906, with Gustave A. Zuehlke the first president and Edward C. O'Rourk the first cashier. The temporary quarters were in a small frame building just west of the old village hall. The capital stock was $10,000.00.

During the summer of 1907, a new cement block building was erected just west of the old bank building. On October 22, 1909, a team of high spirited horses were stolen from the Gustave Olm barn. Tracks were traced to the bank in the morning and it was discovered that it was burglarized. An ax had been used to break a side window. The safe door was blown open which was located near a front window and $6,600.00 was taken. Several days later the horses were found near Lake Winnebago but the bandits were never apprehended.

In 1919 the capital stock was increased to $25,000.00. In April of 1924 the bank officials purchased land from Bertha L. and John Boortz and a new brick building was erected for less than $20,000.00. The old building was sold to the late John Shimek who operated a tailor shop.

July 1923, A. F. Zuehlke was elected the second president of the bank.

In 1934 E. C. O'Rourk left the bank and his son, J. G. O'Rourk, was elected cashier. J. G. O'Rourk had previously worked at Newton State Bank and also for the State Banking Department.

The bank went through depressions without a loss of a dollar to any depositor and assessments have never been made to its stockholders.
The bank building was remodeled considerably in the early 1950's. G. A. Zuehlke became the third president in July 1953.

In February 1965 the stockholders voted to exchange their stock for stock in Valley Bancorporation of Appleton, the fourth bank to become a member. B. W. Vanden Avond became the fourth president in January 1968.

J. G. O'Rourke (Glen) was employed at the bank from 1933 until he retired in 1966 serving as cashier, vice president, and a director. Upon retirement he moved to Manitowoc with his wife and died in Florida in April 1969.

Ann Kolerus started at the bank in July 1924 as a bookkeeper-teller and retired in December 1970 as assistant cashier. She presently resides in the village.

July 1970 ground was broken for a new modern banking facility to be constructed at 427 Manitowoc Street and opened on February 15, 1971. The old brick bank building was deeded to the Reedsville School District as a gift and was converted to a classroom.


Records show the following people were employed at the bank: E. C. O'Rourke, Viola Cavanaugh, Elvira Pautz Krueger, Leona Link Andrews, Ann Kolerus, Mary Ellen O'Rourke, Olivia Fischer Hintz, J. G. O'Rourke, Joseph S. Shimek, June Dahle Waack, Gus A. Zuehlke, Pearl Prochnow Barnard, Maxine Kabat Hauser, Frances Kugle Glawos, Phillip Mullins (now president of Valley Bank of Black Creek), Richard R. Benzschawel, B. W. Vanden Avond, Bonnie Schultz Pautz, Kay Kupsh Preston and Nancy Dickert.

On September 1, 1975, the name Reedsville State Bank was changed to Valley Bank of Reedsville. There are now fourteen banks who are members of Valley Bancorporation.

A statement of 1933 showed assets of $217,478.00, loans of $125,617.00, deposits of $27,336.00, certificates of deposits of $85,520.00, savings of $65,856.00 and capital stock of $25,000.00. As of January 31, 1976, assets were $7,176,350.00, loans $3,243,108.00, deposits $1,366,552.00, certificates of deposits $2,473,785.00, savings $2,626,618.00 and capital stock $120,000.00.

Officers and staff members at the present time are: Audrey C. Rameker, president Edward C. Reinemann, vice president; Joan C. Popp, cashier; Jerome Storzer, loan officer; Darlene Schmieder, Martha Schmid, Nancy Dickert, and Kay Preston, bookkeepers and tellers.

Reedsville Telephone Exchange

Reedsville phones had their beginning in 1905 when the first switchboard was installed in the Ig Kabat home and operated by J. H. Meany. In 1913, it was moved to the Jonas Hardware store located at the east end of Reedsville. This now is the location of the laundromat. Here the telephone operator was Mrs. Alb Jonas.

In 1914 the switchboard was moved to the L. C. Bruss Store. It was moved again in 1936 to the Carl Goldbeck residence (now the Robert Rutherford home in 1976).

Some of the first telephone operators were Leola Cary, Charles Tikalsky, Ralph Fuerstenberg, Murial Fuerstenberg, Bessie Engels, Alma Ottelein Krueger, Minnie Bruss Kuehne, Leonetta Bruss Goldbeck, Rose Shimek, Caroline Hlavacheck Back, Johanna Tegge Wiegert, Fern Rusch Radue, Viola Prochnow Heberlein, Edna Hei