

McLean County Museum of History

Corn Belt Bank Collection

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1890s-1980
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History of The Corn Belt Bank and the Corn Belt Bank Building

The Corn Belt Bank was organized December 2, 1891 by General John McNulta,¹ J.T. Snell, and A. S. Eddy.² The bank was incorporated in 1892 with capital stock worth one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.³

General McNulta was a Civil War veteran who later served as an Illinois state senator and a member of the 43rd Congress of the United States. McNulta was also a senior member of the law firm McNulta and Weldon. A native of New York City, McNulta lived in McLean County from 1857 until he moved his family to Chicago in 1894. He was the receiver for the National Bank of Illinois at his death on February 2, 1900.⁴

The Corn Belt Bank was located at 213 North Main Street, Bloomington in 1892. McNulta served as bank president only during its first year. His successor in 1893⁵ was V.E. Howell. The

1 McNulta appears as McNulty in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County, Il.*, 1887, p. 1140.

2 Roger S. Getty, "Corn Belt Bank," *Home Town in the Corn Belt*, p. 222.

3 *Bloomington-Normal and McLean County Directory for 1893*, p. 44.

4 *Portrait and Biographical Album*, p. 1140.

5 City directory for 1892 not available.

bank remained at the North Main Street location until the June, 1900 fire in downtown Bloomington destroyed four city blocks, including the bank. The bank moved to a temporary location at 425 N. Main Street while its new building was under construction at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets in 1901. The new building -- named the Corn Belt Bank Building -- was designed by George H. Miller and was noted for its pilasters "topped with endearing capitals of stalks and ears of corn."⁶ The owners of the building were Howard E. Hayes, Superintendent of the Bloomington Stove Co., Fredonis Hayes Griffith, and Elizabeth S. Hayes. The bank did not actually purchase the building until 1960.

The bank occupied the first floor of the building from 1901 until 1962. The six stories above the bank were rented to a number of businesses over the years. On September 13, 1960 the Corn Belt Bank purchased the building from Ralph J. and Amy Heffernan. Shortly thereafter, the bank began construction of a new building located at 207 N. East Street.

The Corn Belt Bank operated at 207 N. East Street until it merged with the Midwest Financial Group. The name was changed to Banc Midwest: An MFG Bank.⁷

After the bank moved in 1962, the first floor of the Corn Belt Bank Building remained vacant for several years. In 1964 the Corn Belt Bank Building was sold to George Meara, a local lawyer and businessman, who changed the name to the Meara Building. Between 1966 and 1974 the first floor of the building was occupied by several different retail clothing stores. In 1976, First Midstate Investment Broker, Inc. occupied the first floor of the Meara Building. On May 4, 1978, the Meara Building was sold to Leo Forbes, Jr.

6 Steven H. Logan, *Corn Belt Bank Building*, p. 2.

7 *Bloomington-Normal City Directory*, 1985, p. 8.

The Corn Belt Bank and the Corn Belt Bank Buildings:
A Chronology

- 1891** Dec. 2, 1891 Corn Belt Bank is organized¹
- 1892** Date of incorporation; capital stock \$150,000; V.E. Howell, President; J.T. Snell, Vice-President. Address: 213 North Main.²
- 1900** Fire in downtown Bloomington destroys four city blocks; Corn Belt Bank moves to temporary quarters at 425 N. Main Street.
- 1901** Corn Belt Bank building constructed at Main and Jefferson Streets. George H. Miller, architect; Howard E. Hayes, Fredonis Hayes Griffith, and Elizabeth S. Hayes, leasee and Corn Belt Bank, lessor.³
- 1901-**
- 1962** Corn Belt Bank occupies first floor of building at Main and Jefferson Streets. Six floors above occupied by various business tenants.
- 1960** September 13, 1960 Corn Belt Bank purchases building from Ralph J. and Amy Heffernan.
- 1962** Corn Belt Bank moves to new building located at 207 N. East Street.
- 1962-**
- 1965** 1st floor of Corn Belt Bank Building is vacant.
- 1964** Corn Belt Bank Building sold in January to George Meara. Building name is changed to the Meara Building.
- 1966-**
- 1974** 1st floor of Meara Building occupied by several different retail clothing stores.
- 1976** First Midstate Investment Broker, Inc. occupies 1st floor of Meara Building.
- 1978** May 4, 1978 Meara Building sold to Leo Forbes, Jr.
- 1985** Corn Belt Bank becomes a member of the Midwest Financial Group.⁴
- 1986** Corn Belt Bank becomes Banc Midwest: An MFG Bank.

1 *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of McLean County*, Vol. II, p. 761.

2 *Bloomington-Normal and McLean County Directory for 1893*, p. 44.

3 Steven H. Logan, *Corn Belt Bank Building*, p. 4.

4 *Bloomington-Normal City Directory*, 1985, p. 8.

Scope

The Corn Belt Bank collection consists of financial reports from 1948-1976, abstracts of title from 1915-1954, newspaper articles and advertisements, check books, code books, correspondence, and photographs.

A significant amount of the collection, including many of its photographs, concerns the construction of the new Corn Belt Bank building at the corner of East and Jefferson streets in 1960-1961 and the 75th Anniversary celebration of the bank in 1966.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1 - Documents Box

Folder 1: Newspaper articles, advertisements, and correspondence

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--|
| 1.1 | November 26, 1964 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement congratulating Lundeen & Hilfinger, architects. |
| 1.2 | February 7, 1980 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement recognizing their employees. |
| 1.3 | October 26, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement on 75 th anniversary. |
| 1.4 | October 16, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement on 75 th anniversary. |
| 1.5 | September 18, 1975 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement for new car financing. |
| 1.6 | September 18, 1975 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement for new car financing. |
| 1.7 | July 4, 1976 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement/pictorial history. |
| 1.8 | July 4, 1976 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement/pictorial history. |
| 1.9 | October 17, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , 75 th anniversary celebration. |
| 1.10 | October 17, 1966 | Correspondence from Walter G. Wright to J.W. Myers, President, Corn Belt Bank. |
| 1.11 | October 18, 1966 | Western Union Telegram from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Macnab to J.W. Myers, President, Corn Belt Bank. |
| 1.12 | October 17, 1966 | Correspondence from Lewis H. Gregg to Officers and Directors, Corn Belt Bank. |
| 1.13 | October 16, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement on 75 th anniversary. |
| 1.14 | October 16, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement on 75 th anniversary. |
| 1.15 | undated | Two invitations for 75 th anniversary. |

1.16	June 17, 1973	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement announcing grand opening of the drive-in bank.
1.17	February 7, 1980	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement recognizing their employees.
1.18	April 10, 1980	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement.
1.19	April 10, 1980	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement.
1.20	July 4, 1975	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement/pictures.
1.21	undated	Retirement announcement for Bill Rediger.
1.22	undated	<i>The Pantagraph 100th Anniversary Edition</i> , Corn Belt Bank advertisement.

Folder 2: Financial Records - "A Report on the condition of the Corn Belt Bank, Bloomington, Illinois as of the close of business..."

2.1	December 31, 1958
2.2	September 24, 1958
2.3	June 23, 1958
2.4	December 31, 1957
2.5	June 30, 1957
2.6	March 14, 1957
2.7	December 31, 1956
2.8	September 26, 1956
2.9	June 30, 1956
2.10	March 19, 1956
2.11	December 31, 1955
2.12	September 30, 1955
2.13	June 30, 1955
2.14	March 17, 1955
2.15	December 31, 1954
2.16	September 30, 1954
2.17	June 30, 1954
2.18	March 12, 1954
2.19	December 31, 1953
2.20	September 30, 1953
2.21	June 30, 1953
2.22	June 30, 1950
2.23	March 10, 1950
2.24	December 31, 1949
2.25	September 15, 1949
2.26	March 22, 1949
2.27	December 31, 1948
2.28	December 31, 1966
2.29	September 15, 1966
2.30	June 30, 1966
2.31	March 31, 1966
2.32	December 31, 1965

2.33 September 30, 1965
2.34 March 10, 1965
2.35 December 31, 1964
2.36 September 30, 1964
2.37 June 30, 1964
2.38 March 10, 1964
2.39 December 20, 1963
2.40 September 10, 1963
2.41 June 30, 1963
2.42 March 18, 1963
2.43 December 28, 1962
2.44 September 28, 1962
2.45 June 30, 1962
2.46 March 26, 1962
2.47 December 31, 1961
2.48 June 30, 1961
2.49 March 20, 1961
2.50 June 15, 1960
2.51 March 15, 1960
2.52 December 31, 1959
2.53 September 30, 1959
2.54 June 10, 1959
2.55 March 12, 1959
2.56 June 30, 1976
2.57 March 31, 1976
2.58 December 31, 1975
2.59 September 30, 1975
2.60 March 31, 1975
2.61 June 29, 1973
2.62 December 31, 1973
2.63 September 29, 1973
2.64 June 29, 1973
2.65 September 30, 1972
2.66 June 30, 1972
2.67 March 31, 1972
2.68 December 31, 1971
2.69 September 30, 1971
2.70 June 30, 1971
2.71 March 17, 1970
2.72 December 31, 1969
2.73 September 30, 1969
2.74 June 30, 1969
2.75 March 31, 1969
2.76 December 31, 1968
2.77 June 28, 1968
2.78 March 31, 1968

- 2.79 December 31, 1967
- 2.80 September 15, 1967
- 2.81 June 30, 1967
- 2.82 March 31, 1967

Folder 3a: Abstracts of Title

- 3a.1 November 8, 1921
- 3a.2 September 10, 1954
- 3a.3 October 18, 1929

Folder 3b: Abstracts of Title⁵

- 3b.1 September 1, 1915
- 3b.2 September 1, 1915
- 3b.3 September 27, 1920
- 3b.4 October 5, 1925
- 3b.5 August 30, 1930 & November 8, 1934⁶

Folder 3c: Abstracts of Title

- 3c.6 April 10, 1939
- 3c.7 June 30, 1939
- 3c.8 January 14, 1944
- 3c.9 November 4, 1946
- 3c.10 February 11, 1948
- 3c.11 August 10, 1950

Folder 4: Miscellany

- | | | |
|------|-------------------|---|
| 4.1 | July 24, 1937 | <i>Chicago-American Newspaper</i> |
| 4.2 | undated | Corn Belt Bank writing pad. |
| 4.3 | August, 1980 | “From Ashes to Assets: Corn Belt Bank, Since 1891,”
<i>Business to Business.</i> |
| 4.4 | undated | Blank check. |
| 4.5 | undated | Blank check. |
| 4.6 | undated | Blank check. |
| 4.7 | undated | Blank check. |
| 4.8 | November 11, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , article regarding A.S. Eddy. |
| 4.9 | October 17, 1966 | <i>The Pantagraph</i> , “Bank Marking 75 th Anniversary.” |
| 4.10 | undated | Business card, Dale M. Sutter, Vice-President, Operations. |
| 4.11 | undated | Business card, Dale M. Sutter, Vice-President, Operations. |

5 Originally numbered 1-11 in upper right hand corner in pencil. Numbers 1-5 are located in folder 3b and 6-11 are located in folder 3c.

6 Two abstracts are bound together.

4.12	undated	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , “Congratulations to J.W. Myers, President for 50 years in Banking.”
4.13	undated	Corn Belt logo and announcement torn in half.
4.14	undated	Corn Belt logo and announcement torn in half.
4.15	undated	Corn Belt logo, “Where People Make the Difference.”
4.16	undated	Drawing of building.
4.17	1916	Corn Belt Bank calendar.
4.18	August 31, 1960	Tabulation of bids.

Folder 5: Newspaper articles and advertisements

5.1	undated	“City’s Corn Belt Bank to Mark 75 th Year,” includes sticker used on envelopes.
5.2	September, 1966	News Release
5.3	February 25, 1976	“75 Years Ago.”
5.4	September 16, 1961	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , “Corn Belt Bank Occupying New Building This Week End.”
5.5	undated	“Corn Belt Lets Contracts for New East Street Building.”
5.6	undated	Corn Belt Bank advertisement for “Jake Myers Day.”
5.7	undated	<i>The Pantagraph 100th Anniversary Edition</i>
5.8	November 11, 1918	<i>The Pantagraph</i> , photocopy of financial report.

Folder 6: Correspondence

6.1	November 10, 1964	from C. Eugene Asbury, Lundeen and Hilfinger Architects and Engineers to Jacob Myers, President, Corn Belt Bank.
6.2	November 27, 1964	from Lundeen and Hilfinger Architects to Jacob W. Myers, President, Corn Belt Bank.

Folder 7: Code Books

7.1	1949	<i>Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago Code Book</i>
7.2	1927	<i>American Bond & Mortgage Company Private Telegraph Code</i>

Folder 8: Check Books

8.1	undated	Checkbook
8.2	undated	Pad of blank checks
8.3	1920s	Pad of blank checks with checkbook holder.

Box 2 - Photographs

- Folder 1:** Bank Staff 1967
- Folder 2:** Board of Directors 1976
- Folder 3:** Building Interior East & Jefferson Building
- Folder 4:** Building Interior 101 W. Jefferson St. 1955
- Folder 5:** Building Interior 101 W. Jefferson St. (early)
- Folder 6:** Construction East & Jefferson St. Building 1960-1961
- Folder 7:** Construction Jefferson St. Drive Through 1972
- Folder 8:** East & Jefferson St. Building (after 1962)
- Folder 9:** East & Jefferson locale before construction late 1950's
- Folder 10:** Jefferson St. Drive Through 1980
- Folder 11:** Main St. Walk-up 1952
- Folder 12:** 75th Anniversary 1966
- Folder 13:** Sugar Ray Leonard Autograph Photo (Promotion)