



Oklahoma Bank and Commerce History Project

a program of the Oklahoma Historical Society

Interview with Don and Kitty Clark
First State Bank of Anadarko
Anadarko, OK, 1/23/2012
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Audio taped and transcribed by MJH

MJH: It is Monday, January 23, 2012, and I am at the First State Bank of Anadarko visiting with Don and Kitty Clark. I want to begin by thanking you for taking some time, and apologize again for being a few minutes late. However you want to start—maybe tell me about the early history of the bank, and take it from there.

DC: The First State Bank was chartered in 1909. It was chartered by Mr. Thomas Kearse. He was not the first president of the bank. I think there was a guy by the name of Bradford, who is in those clippings that you have there. He was president for a while, and then there was a Mr. Campbell that was president for a while. I have those dates also in those handouts. Mr. Kearse became president. Of course, he was the major stockholder in all of it anyway. When he passed on, which I think was about 1911...

KC: He died on January 19.

DC: Then his widow became president of the bank, and she was president until Neil Dikeman became president. He was president for a number of years. And then, Truman Milton became president, and he was only president for about a year, and then he decided that he wanted to retire. And so, after his retirement, Mr. Dikeman became president again, and he was president until about 1981, and then I became president, in 1981.

MJH: Was Mr. Dikeman from Anadarko?

DC: I think Mr. Dikeman was originally from around the Cement area, and he worked at the bank in Chickasha for a while. I don't know which bank he worked at in Chickasha, before coming to Anadarko. But it tells in one of those articles...

KC: It tells about his previous banking experience, before he came here. He came here—he was here during the moratorium. There was a moratorium after the stock market crash. He was running the bank at that time, and was not able to make any loans. He addresses that in one of the articles that we have there, about not being able to make loans, people having their money in the bank. Even when he was managing the bank, and was president, the Kearse family owned a large portion of the stock in the bank.

MJH: What do you know about the Kears family?

KC: I know a lot about the Kears family!

Laughter...

MJH: What was your relationship with the Kears family?

KC: There was Thomas Kears, who was the husband, and his wife, Rebecca Kears. They had one child, Roumaine. And Mr. Kears died when Roumaine was about twelve or thirteen years old. And so, he owned controlling interest in the bank when he died. During the 1929-33 period of time, when everything was failing, they had to raise more capital. And so Mrs. Kears—Rebecca—had to sell some of her stock in order to raise this capital. And she died, I believe, in 1964. She was president of the bank during that time. And then when she died, her daughter inherited the stock that she had. And Roumaine was on the board—she never was paid by the bank—but she was on the board until her death in 1995.

Don came to work here in January 1957. So he has been here for fifty-five years. And he and Roumaine knew each other through the operation of the bank.

MJH: Her name is spelled...

KC: It's R-O-U-M-A-I-N-E.

She never married, and didn't have any children, didn't have any brothers or sisters.

MJH: Would you say, then, that the bank was pretty much her life?

KC: It was. It was. It really was.

She lived at Fort Cobb. Mr. Kears also chartered the Washita Valley Bank at Fort Cobb. He had this bank, First State Bank in Anadarko, and he had the Washita Valley Bank at Fort Cobb.

MJH: Where did he come from?

KC: He came from Kansas. They saved everything. Newspaper clippings, pictures... Rebecca saved things, Roumaine saved things, and they didn't have anybody to pass those things on to. And so I ended up with these boxes of things.

MJH: Do you have those at home?

KC: Yes, I do. In fact, I went through them. I have some boxes of stuff in the house, that I didn't want—that sort of thing, you know. And we went through those. And that's where this came from.

Showed clippings...

And then, I have another box that's in the attic. I worked at the Pain and Garland attorneys here, in Anadarko, for about forty-two years. The law office represented the bank. We had an attorney on the board at the bank for all of that time. And so, at the law office, I handled the bank's business over there, and dealt with Ms. Kearse. And we handled her estate when she died in 1995. There are boxes of stuff over there too. I am retired from there now, and what they did with those, I do not know.

MJH: What is the name of the law firm?

KC: Pain and Garland. P-A-I-N and Garland.

When Roumaine died in 1995, eventually we had an estate sale. And some of the things from the sale, we purchased and donated to the museum. Roumaine had also donated some things to the museum. We bought a dress form—a standing dress form—that was Rebecca's. The museum had a dress of hers, a brown velvet dress, and so we donated [the form] to the museum so they could display the dress on there.

DC: Since she didn't have any children, she needed someone in her later years to kind of look after her and...

KC: You're talking about Roumaine.

DC: Yes, Roumaine. And so she came in one day and wanted to know if, you know, I would look after her, and become her power of attorney. So I had her power of attorney for years and years before she passed away. At her death, I was privileged to acquire stock. Eventually, I ended up with control. No one had had control of the bank until I purchased it, since 1933.

KC: Isn't that interesting?

MJH: It is. That's a wonderful story.

KC: This is a story that—it's just a wonderful story. And she was she was the neatest little lady.

MJH: Tell me about her.

KC: Now I'm talking about Roumaine, because I did not know Thomas and Rebecca. But I knew Roumaine very well. And she was a much smaller lady than I. And she was very direct. Very direct. She had a car, and she could just barely see over the steering wheel. And she didn't drive very fast. Everybody watched out for her, as they were going down the road. Every day, she went to the ____ in Fort Cobb and had breakfast. And then, she came to Anadarko and had another meal, and she would always ask Don, "Are you taking Kitty out to dinner tonight?"

Laughter...

MJH: That's wonderful. You said she was very direct. How did you see that? What was the evidence for that?

KC: Well, she would say, "Don, you don't need to be loaning money to so-and-so." That's direct! But she was direct about...If she thought something, she told you.

DC: Plain spoken.

KC: Very plain spoken.

DC: She was always coming into the bank and asking, "So you need any advice?" or "Do you need anything from me?" She used to teach school. She taught school for a period of time.

KC: That's right. And in fact, she earned her diploma from OCU.

MJH: So she graduated from there? That is a bit unusual, for that generation. What did she teach?

DC: I don't know.

KC: I really don't know. She was born in 1906. So, you know, in 1926, she was in college. And I'll tell you another part of that story that I think is really interesting: Rebecca, her mother, was president of the bank, but on the stationery, and on anything that she sent you, it was "R." In that day and time, women did not...And so, instead of having Rebecca as her name, it was "R." I think that is very interesting.

MJH: Do you have some of that stationery?

KC: Yes, there's a letter in there that has that on it.

Shuffling of papers...

KC: We put this letter in there because this shows that he was president of the bank after Thomas died. And then after he was president, then Rebecca became president.

MJH: That's so interesting too, that Mr. Dikeman came in for another year or so—no, I'm sorry, five years, the second time, from 1976 to 1981. So do you have any more—I mean, those are priceless stories of a woman who bucked the trend—graduated from college, served as a bank president, and so forth. What other stories do you have? What sort of reputation did she have around town?

KC: She was frugal. They were very frugal people. When Roumaine became advanced in age, and to go to the nursing home...

DC: We were on vacation.

KC: We were on vacation. She had gone to the doctor, and the doctor would not let her come home. He said, "You cannot drive any more. You will have to go to the nursing home." And so, we were on vacation, and one of the men here—and one of the attorneys at the law office—went to the doctor's office and took her to the nursing home. She wouldn't go in. She sat in the lobby. She said, "I'm not leaving until Don gets here." And that was all night. She sat in the lobby all night with her purse. The next morning, I would say about noon, we got home, and the phone was ringing, and they were wanting us to come to the nursing home. And we went out there. And Don said, "Roumaine, let's go back here in this room and sit down and talk about this."

They discussed it. And she said, "I need to go home."

And he [Don] said, "I'll take you home, if you won't give me any trouble about coming back, because the doctor says that you can't stay at home anymore."

So he took her home, and she got a few things, and went back to the nursing home. And we checked on her on a daily basis. I went after for the board meetings—picked her up, and brought her to the board meetings. The last board meeting that she came to was in December of 1994, and she died in January of 1995.

Her life was this bank. It never made her... But I think it's very interesting. She wrote to her mother when she was in college in Oklahoma City, and the bank examiners were trying to get her mother to sell some of the stock to raise capital. And her mother was resistant. She didn't want to give up controlling interest in the bank. But she [Roumaine] wrote her mother this letter, and she wrote, "Mama, you need to do what Mr. (his name is in the literature) the bank examiner wanted her to do. I don't care if I get anything out of this. I want the bank to remain. I don't want the bank to close. If I lose everything, I want the bank to continue." And she said that!

MJH: That would have been about...

KC: About 1926, '28 maybe.

MJH: I would love to get a copy of that letter.

KC: I can probably do that.

DC: I don't have a copy...

KC: That's real personal, you know. That's what I told him [Don]: "That right here shows you her mindset, that she wanted this bank to continue. And when she died, she wanted this bank to continue. That was her focus. The bank was her life."

MJH: That would have put her—Roumaine, that is—at about 20 years old. She was born in 1906...

KC: She was born in 1906, and she was in college in Oklahoma City when...Or maybe she was working. Because that's where she taught school, was in Oklahoma City. I would have to go back...When I said 1926 or 1928, we'd better make that 1933, because that's when all that was going on. That was during the moratorium, and they were having to raise capital. That was in 1933. It's a wonderful story.

And I think it's a wonderful story because—and I'll tell you this, because Don won't—Don was hired here in the bookkeeping department, in 1957. He got a job in the bookkeeping department. It worked for him; he liked it, and progressed from there.

MJH: Let me digress a little bit. Was that your first bank job?

DC: Yes, it was. It was.

MJH: Did you have any background, in econ or finance?

DC: No, I was just out of high school. I needed a job. And I had always kind of wanted to work in a bank. So after I went to work her, I drove to Oklahoma City for a number of months to go to school, at night. I don't remember for how long. Three hours a night...

KC: He lived in Binger. And I'll have to tell you that this bank has been his life too, for 55 years.

MJH: It sounds similar...

DC: I served as president of the bank administration institute chapter in Lawton for 2 terms.

MJH: Have you been involved with the OBA or the CBAO?

DC: There's an article or two in here where I was appointed to the government relations committee.

KC: He always goes to the convention, and he's on a first name basis with people there.

MJH: Have you been on the board as well?

KC: I am on the board. I have been on the board since 1988.

MJH: And you were saying that your law firm...

KC: Pain and Garland...

Looking at papers and articles...

DC: This is a little scenario that one of my employees wrote some time ago.

MJH: That's perfect. These kinds of things are really helpful.

DC: And then this is where I got my 50-year awards.

MJH: Okay. *Anadarko Daily News*?

KC: Yes.

MJH: Is that a weekly?

DC/

KC: It's a daily newspaper.

MJH: Where were you from?

KC: Gracemont.

MJH: I'd like to get back to the Roumaine story. Were there any other stories? The one you were telling me about, about how the bank examiners were trying to pressure Rebecca to sell stock—that's a jewel.

KC: I think that's a wonderful story. And the one about her mother being president, and going by R. Kears—I thought that was really unusual.

In 1919—Mr. Kears died in January of 1919—women didn't have the right to vote at that time. Women didn't get the right to vote until 1920.

Laughter...

Another story I'll tell you about Roumaine—I mean, Rebecca. When they first came to this country from Kansas, she homesteaded a place at Fort Cobb. You had to live on it. And this is a story that Roumaine told me—about how her mother lived on this farm for a year in order to homestead that place. And they never sold anything. The only thing they sold was that stock that they were forced to sell to raise capital. But they owned farms, around the Fort Cobb area, that they accumulated over the years, and they never sold anything. Nothing was sold until Roumaine died.

DC: This bank has been a fairly strong bank ever since it was chartered. Back then, around '29, when things went downhill—that's when the stock market crashed... This bank was in good shape when I became president, and I have tried to keep it there. And so far, I have.

MJH: Tell me about that. What do you see as the strengths of this bank, and what and why has it been such a survivor when all of these others, either in the thirties, or the fiasco of the eighties...

DC: I think because...Mr. Dikeman was a good banker. It was pretty much his life too.

KC: He was conservative.

DC: Yes. I don't remember what year his son went on the board. Neil Jr.—we were talking about that, he was the economist from OU—he was on the board for a number of years. And he and I were real good friends. In fact, I tried to get him to become president. I didn't think I could handle it. He didn't want it. He wanted me to do it. And she [Kitty] kept pushing me and saying, "You can do it!" So when Mr. Dikeman could no longer take care of his banking duties...I actually managed the bank for, probably, five years, before I became president, because of his age, and he was kind of getting a little bit of Alzheimer's before he went into the nursing home. Then I became president in 1981.

KC: When someone would say something about Don doing a good job managing the bank, Mr. Dikeman would say, "Well, I taught him!"

Laughter...

MJH: His background in banking was...

KC: He worked at other banks.

Looking through papers...

DC: I think it was the First National [Bank] of Chickasha, I think. I think it was the First National [Bank] of Chickasha.

KC: [Reading from article]: It says his banking career began in May 1918 at the First National Bank of Chickasha, and continued at the State Exchange Bank in Cement. He moved to the First National Bank of Anadarko in 1919 and later became a director and assistant cashier. On July 1, 1924, Dikeman was named cashier of the First State Bank, and then moved to the board of directors, January 11, 1927.

DC: And everybody concerned was interested in this bank remaining a locally owned, community bank.

MJH: And you have continued that tradition. What does that mean to you? What has that meant over the years, to be a locally owned, community bank?

DC: You look after the community and people who you serve. And if we don't do it, who will?

KC: The bank in Gracemont—we obtained the bank there, when it sold in 1988. It's just a small community, ten miles north of here. The bank, the post office, and a school: that's just about all there is.

MJH: Speaking of the 1980s, why don't we focus on that for just a minute? Tell me about your experiences then. You came into this bank as president in 1981. And the next year, Penn Square Bank failed, and...

DC: It was a tough time, especially with all the talk about bank failures. I think what kept this bank, was our reputation—being a conservative reputation. And over these years, our deposits have grown a lot faster than our loan demand has grown. And it's still that way today.

KC: Because of the reputation of being a safe and sound bank. You know, during this past year, when interest rates are just almost nothing, people are looking for a safe place to put their money.

DC: A place to park their money!

KC: And so, therefore, we've stayed, because of that.

MJH: In the eighties, did you have any participation in Penn Square loans? Were you involved in energy?

DC: No. We didn't get hooked up in buying any of the participations from any of the banks that were getting into the oil-related business. We stayed conservative, and we took care of our customers, and did the things we knew how to do.

KC: The oil and gas business was not the expertise here.

DC: And even today, 42 percent of our loan portfolio is in ag.

KC: We're an agricultural community.

MJH: What are some of your main ag borrowers?

DC: Cotton. We used to be...Probably one of the largest counties in the...state, in peanuts, until that program went away a few years ago. We still raise quite a few peanuts, but probably only a third of the peanuts that are grown now that was grown about five years ago. And wheat. A lot of them have diversified now, and are raising soy beans.

KC: We have a lot of cattle.

DC: Yes, a lot of cattle.

KC: He makes a lot of cattle loans.

MJH: Are there cow-calf operations?

DC: A lot of them are cow-calf. A lot of it is stocker.

MJH: At 42 percent, that's almost half of you loan portfolio. What are some of your other loans?

KC: Consumer loans.

Pause...DC looking at documents...

DC: Ag loans are the biggest. Then we have real estate loans, which are farms and that sort of thing, and homes. Real estate loans—land, and residential—probably is another 42 percent, combined. And then we have probably 20 percent...No, about 15 percent commercial loans. And then the balance of our portfolio is probably consumer [loans].

MJH: And that has been fairly consistent?

DC: Yes.

KC: And the bank has a good rating.

DC: I just got this letter this morning. It says, "Please be known that fewer than 2 percent of the national banks meet their rating criteria..." They rate 19,000 institutions, which includes life, health, annuity insurance, property, casualty, banks, savings and loans, and credit unions.

MJH: What agency is that?

DC: Wythe (?).

Looking at documents...

MJH: Would it be asking too much to shoot a copy of that?

DC: I can do that.

MJH: I hope it isn't proprietary stuff. But that's great.

KC: I think it is. I really do.

MJH: So back to the 80s. Were there other banks that failed here in Anadarko?

DC: In Caddo County, Gracemont was the only bank that failed. And it did not fail because of local loans. The bank there bought participations and made loans outside our local community.

MJH: So that's the one that you ended up buying...

DC: That's the one that we bought. And we bought it from the FDIC, because the bank failed. We were the high bidder on it.

MJH: Did you have much competition in the bidding?

DC: There were three bidders.

MJH: I am working on a project with David Rainbolt on a history of BancFirst. He told me a most interesting and funny story about bidding on a bank in Weatherford. Nobody showed up but him. He was the only guy in the lobby with a bid in his pocket. He about the gave Sid Carroll with the FDIC a heart attack when he gave him a low, low bid, because nobody else was there. Sid Carroll wasn't going to put up with this low bid, and he was screaming and hollering...It must have been quite a scene!

Laughter...

I guess in the 80s, prices were low, and bidders were few, from what I understand.

DC: When we bought the bank at Gracemont...Which was unusual. We kept all of the employees that were there at the time of closing. And the manager of the bank there still works for us today. And you mentioned Sid Carroll. I went to Dallas, to the office, and talked to Sid Carroll about the manager up there. I didn't want them looking over my shoulder! And he said, "No, it wasn't any of his doing." Because he hadn't been there that long. It was for loans that were made outside our area.

MJH: What was the name of that bank that you bought?

DC: The First National Bank of Gracemont.

KC: I can tell you a story about the law office, which I think tells you...This was in the days before Penn Square failed. Caddo County was a hot spot for oil and gas leases. I mean, they had people coming in here every day with these high-dollar leases and sight drafts to send in. We, at the law office, had a little expertise in that area, and so, people would come to us, to the attorneys there, to look over their oil and gas leases and make whatever changes that needed to be made. There was a period of time when I would go to work at 9:00, and people would be lined up, down the street, waiting to get in the office for an oil and gas lease, to see one of the attorneys. It progressed to the point where we put a curtain on the door, and started closing at 4:00, so we could process the people already in the office and go home.

DC: And that law firm is still our attorney.

KC: But isn't that an interesting story? Now, that doesn't really have anything to do with us. Well, it does, because that's what created the failure of Penn Square, was all of this high money that they were paying for these oil and gas leases. That was part of it.

MJH: That was the bubble.

KC: That was part of the bubble.

- DC: And since she mentioned Penn Square, something I just thought of, was—Romaine had an oil and gas lease. I forget how many thousands of dollars it was.
- KC: Well, I can tell you that she was going to...You can figure it up. She was going to take it in three payments, \$167,000 per payment. The attorneys recommended that she take it all at once. She said, "I don't want to pay the income tax on it." She got the first payment, and then she was supposed to get another payment, the same amount the next year, and the next year. She got the first payment, and then the bubble burst.
- DC: I tried to get her to cash it. She just didn't want to pay the tax.
- MJH: That was in character.
- KC: It was in character. She was a very frugal lady. And I will tell you that she and her mother—after her dad died, it was just the two of them—and they were not very trusting of men.
- MJH: Rebecca died in...
- KC: Rebecca died in 1964. And because of the fact, of having to sell that stock—that's where that all came in...
- She trusted Don completely, Roumaine did.
- MJH: You were telling the story of people lining up with their oil and gas leases. But still, this bank was not particularly involved in that. That was because of your traditional, conservative principles. Did you know much about the industry?
- KC: I think it was conservative principles. You don't loan money on something that you don't have expertise in.
- DC: I never wanted to make a loan on something I didn't know something about.
- Laughter...*
- MJH: Makes total sense to me! Normally, I guess some of these people would come from the law office and say, "Well, I guess I'd better see about a loan." Did a lot of them come over here?
- KC: Their sight draft that they got on their...Now, they weren't looking at loans. They were looking at a place to put their money.
- DC: They weren't looking for loans.
- KC: The bank grew considerably during that period of time.

MJH: So a lot of these folks, when they would go, if not to Penn Square, then to some other place that would do business with them...

KC: To borrow for the oil and gas industry?

DC: Most of the people down here—they were selling their leases, or leasing their leases, not selling them. They weren't wanting to borrow from anybody. They just wanted to deposit their oil and gas money that they were receiving.

KC: So many of these people were farmers. They farmed the land, but they owned the minerals. And here they had these lease hounds coming and offering them these big amounts of money for a lease on their minerals. So they wanted to go to an attorney and make sure that this was okay.

MJH: How would you describe the boom times here? I have read about them, and remember it, actually—Elk City, and some of these places. Did Anadarko have a big boom?

DC: We didn't have a big boom. I mean, we had the activity, but we didn't have the big boom, or companies or individuals here building motels—population building for oil and gas companies, like some of these towns. That just didn't happen.

KC: The only boom here was the leasing of the minerals, and the income from the leasing.

DC: This town has been fairly stable, ever since I've been here.

KC: When all of this leasing was going on, and they were offering people all of this money, you know, to lease their minerals... This went on for two or three years. There were people who thought that wasn't ever going to end. And then Penn Square failed.

MJH: It's interesting, too, that the Anadarko Basin [is so close].

DC: The Anadarko Basin isn't just here. I mean, it was...

MJH: Where did "Anadarko" come from?

DC: There was an Indian tribe... Now, this is what the paper... We have an annual Indian exposition, and they have an insert that always tells about the history and stuff. And they say there was an Indian tribe, the Nadarko.

MJH: I'll have to get my hands on one of those inserts.

DC: Probably the *Anadarko Daily News* could give you it to you.

KC: They're just right across the street. Their building burned a couple of years ago. It's being rebuilt. But they're right across the street, in temporary housing.

MJH: I might see about that.

KC: There's a lot of information in that. It's called a "Guide"—"Visitor's Guide." And they put that in the paper the week of the American Indian Exposition. That's in August every year.

DC: It's not as big as it used to be. It was at the fairgrounds. They'd put up tents and stay out there a week before the fair. They'd come from all over, not just the tribes here. We used to provide money to buy food and commodities and stuff to take out there for them to eat. For them to come here—it was a big thing!

KC: But you know, we're all used to air conditioning these days. Things have kind of changed.

DC: And the Indian culture here is great, really. And we don't take the advantage of it that we ought to.

KC: We have a lot of American Indian customers here. We have a lot of black customers. We have a lot of Hispanic customers. I personally attribute a lot of that to Don. His personality—he deals wonderfully with people.

MJH: That shows.

KC: It really does.

DC: And if you'd look at all the Indian art that's up. That flute was given to me—I can't remember what year—but Joe Big Bow made that flute, and I think he was 94 years old when he made it and gave it to me. He didn't just give it to me. He came in here and played it, before he gave it to me! And then I had it [put in] that shadow box.

KC: Don just had it here in the office, and I said, "You know, someone's liable to come in and pick that up!" He said, "I think I'm going to frame it."

DC: It was about a year, maybe not quite that long, that he passed away. I was a pallbearer at his funeral.

MJH: I'd like to talk a little bit about contemporary issues. Tell me what you think about the last two, three, four years, in your industry, since 2008. What has been your experience, and what are your thoughts about the banking industry?

DC: I think it's over regulated. That's to start off. They make all these regulations for large banks, and community banks have to follow all those rules and regulations, and guidelines. We just got through having an exam, and I asked one of the examiners, how much longer can a bank like this exist, with all the regulations coming out of Washington—the Frank—Dodd Bill, that's got 2,300 and some-odd pages. And—What's in it? We don't know what's in it. I said, "How is going to affect us when it changes into being a law in just a few months?" They said they didn't know. So, I think the pressure coming from Washington, to small banks...And small banks, community banks, are

going to fade away if something is not done. There is a need for the larger banks, but the small, community banks are the backbone of the community.

KC: Don has always said, and I really feel this way about it, that there is always going to be a place for a small, community bank. But it has to be well run for it to survive.

DC: And it's harder to manage a bank now than it used to be, because the margin's getting smaller.

KC: We'll just use MidFirst [Bank], for instance. They're big, and they can hire... And I'm not knocking MidFirst, by any means, because they do a lot for the state of Oklahoma. But their office here can pull on the big office in Oklahoma City. Whatever we do, we have to fund it ourselves.

MJH: MidFirst [Bank] is here, and then...

DC: Anadarko Bank and Trust.

MJH: And then, with First State Bank, that's the three.

DC: For a town this size, we're probably over banked!

KC: We have the Federal Land Bank, which is a government entity. And then we have the Farm Service Agency, and they just make loans. They are not what we call a bank, but they make loans.

MJH: Your niche, then—I mean, what your loan portfolio consists of, and so forth—is community service, and community investment, and all those kinds of things.

DC: We have to meet all the Community Reinvestment Act... We'd like to have all the business. But we have to prove to them that we have to. That takes time! Then there's the Bank Secrecy Act that came after 9/11. The Patriot Act... We have to gather all that information for the government, really. I've got one employee that, basically, all she does, is for regulations: the Bank Secrecy Act, the Patriot Act...

KC: We do a lot of things for the community. One project that Don has is furnishing bottled water to the school, that they sell at all the school activities. He gives them the bottled water, and they sell it, and then they use those funds to fund their...

DC: Of course, we mark it up to advertising, because it's got our label on it!

KC: There's just a lot of things...

DC: I have always supported the chamber of commerce. I've been on the board for 29, well, 30 years, really. In fact, I just got through helping support a war memorial project. And we built it. When you leave, go by the courthouse.

KC: Our courthouse has been remodeled. We built a new jail. We had to do that because of the guidelines for inmates. And in connection with building the new jail, they're remodeling the courthouse. And then, Don was in charge of the funds to raise money to build the war memorial. And it's built in front of the new courthouse, the remodeled courthouse, which is really nice.

DC: We raised something like \$50,000 to build it.

MJH: I wanted to ask you too—In terms of your customers, depositors, and loans, is your market pretty much Caddo County?

DC: Most all of...Our target area (CRA) is Caddo County.

MJH: So that's about a fifty-mile radius, something like that.

DC: Yes.

MJH: Are there any more anecdotes, stories about some of the founders, about Roumaine? Do you have any thoughts about where banking is going?

DC: I hope it remains a community bank. We don't know who is going to go first. If I go, you know, she is able to hold it together. We've got a senior vice president who is able to manage it. The lady next door, who is my secretary, could manage this bank. I've got some young ones that could probably manage it. I've got some long-term employees.

KC: No one ever quits. No one ever quits.

MJH: About how [employees] many work here?

DC: Here and in Gracemont, I've got 25. And you know, for a small town, that's a pretty good payroll!

KC: I tell him, nobody ever quits because he treats everybody well.

DC: Paula, she's been here forty some-odd years.

MJH: She's your...

DC: Secretary.

KC: Our son works here.

MJH: What's his name?

KC: Gary.

DC: And he's also on the board. And Randy, our senior vice president, is on the board.

MJH: Is that another son?

KC: No that's Randy Johnson.

DC: He's senior vice president.

And I think all of our employees have my same philosophy of being conservative, and to take care of the customers.

KC: That's the main focus.

DC: The bank down the street has the same services I've got. I just want to deliver them better.

MJH: I like that. I think I've got a pretty good idea of where you've been, and where you are. And I will know more when I read through some of these articles.

KC: If you need more, you can call us.

End