

## ***German-American Bank /Citizen's National Bank (209-211 South Central Ave.)***

*The building was built in 1891 for the German-American Bank. The south portion was combined with the north half in 1946 for Citizen's National Bank. (See Marshfield News Herald, January 10, 1948 article at end of this story for additional details of the 1948 renovation.) The original brownstone was covered with the Art Deco Panels depicting local industry.*

*Anna Passante, wrote a book about the sculptor who did these panels, the late Milwaukeean Dick Wiken. She mentions Wiken's daughter, Jori Flanner, found information in her father's business records about the panels. Passante also found a newspaper clipping in the Milwaukee Journal dated November 4, 1948, "Scenes of Wisconsin Industry Cast in Aluminum Panels to Decorate New Bank in Marshfield," that verifies the 1948 date of construction of the panels.*

*In correspondence with Dr. Les Crocker, architectural historian and preservation expert in 2007, Les describes the panels as follows:*

*"The four figurative panels show the 30's expressionistic sculpture style, it was also used in book design and wood-block prints and posters. Some people call it 'Socialist Modern' since it often uses images of the strong and noble worker, in industrial, agricultural, mining, maritime, and logging activities. It certainly is related to design and philosophy used by the Socialist and Communist parties in their art. In Wisconsin these images would be seen as more Progressive than Socialist in political terms. The worker as hero is certainly the theme. They use the ancient idea of symbolism, one symbol represents a whole range of activities and events. The gears and levers image is perhaps the simplest story, as if the artist doesn't know how to represent it.*



*The American National Bank (on left) ca. 1908, prior to any remodeling or expansion. (Don Schnitzler collection)*



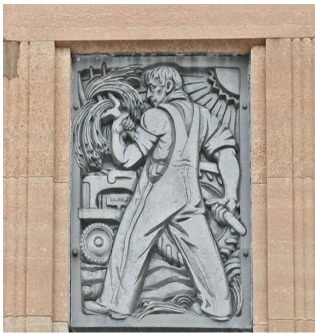
*(Photo by Mark Nelson)*



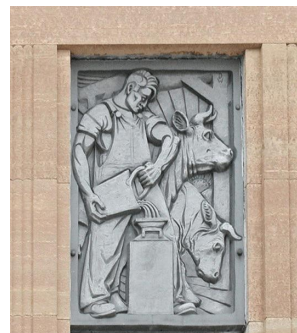
*The first panel is industry, gears and levers define that world, heavy gloves and a stiff cap catch the eye.  
(Photo by Mark Nelson)*



*The next panel is logging. The logger works with his cant hook along a stream and there is a belt driven saw rig in the background with a log headed for the saw blade. In the distance is a cut over hillside with stumps.  
(Photo by Mark Nelson)*



*Panel 3 is agriculture, more specifically wheat. Look at the contrast with the old pitchfork in the foreground and the new tractor in the background. A blazing sun leaves no doubt as to the season.  
(Photo by Mark Nelson)*



*Panel 4 is Dairy Farming, pouring milk into a milk can, two really mighty cows behind him and a timber framed barn with plank sides behind them all. This image is the most interesting to me because of the sweep of the circular forms through the images.  
(Photo by Mark Nelson)*

*So you've got the four economic legs of local economics, sometimes there is a shipping or maritime theme as well, but that doesn't appear here which makes it even more likely that these were a special commission from the artist.*

*They were done by the same artist, little question of that. The style is consistent in all four. The stocky figure, massive head and body, deep contrast between figure in foreground and secondary action in background, no real middle ground, figure is so powerful he pushes outside the encompassing frame overlaps it."*

***Additional Notes:** A city plat map found in the Marshfield Times & Gazette dated May 2, 1885 shows the original property was owned by the Williams and Martin Hardware Store, sellers of Sash, Doors, Nails and Tinware.*

## ***Citizens National Bank Planning Extensive Renovating Program***

*(from Marshfield News Herald, January 10, 1948, p. 3.)*

*Plans were announced today for a renovation program at the Citizens National Bank Building, 211 S. Central, to include an entirely new front, improved interior lighting, and changes increasing the floor space in the lobby.*

*Active work on the project is slated to start and be completed this summer. Bids covering the proposed changes have not yet been sought, but the remodeling is expected to cost between \$12,000 and \$16,000.*

*The present two Central avenue doors and steps leading into the bank will be eliminated in favor of a central*



entrance with a nonskid tile vestibule floor starting at street level and rising on a slight grade to the level of the present lobby floor.

#### *Polished Stone Exterior*

The new 44-foot front will make possible a single attractive exterior for what is at present two fronts with different styles of architecture. Up to the base of the second floor windows, the new front will be of a camellian shade of polished granite. The upper portion of the front will be of polished pink buff stone, and areas between the windows will be finished in a contrasting shade of marble.



*The Citizen's National Bank some time prior to 1948 remodeling.*

*Letters and fluting above the main entrance will be etched.*

*Fabricated seamless tubes of aluminum will be used for doors and casings, transoms will have aluminum grills, and frames and sash of the same material will have a satin finish.*

#### *Pictorial Panels*

*A feature of the exterior will be 3 1/2 x 4-foot pictorial panels over the second floor windows. Four of the ornamental cast aluminum panels will depict types of activities which play a large part in this area's industry, lumbering, farming, and dairying.*

*A 5 1/2-foot high wainscoting of polished pink Tennessee marble will be installed in the vestibule, and a re-*



*Architect's Sketch of New Citizens National Bank Front (Marshfield News Herald)*

*cessed radiator will also be installed there.*

*A new night depository box is also contemplated.*

*Four rows of strip lighting, with neon or fluorescent tubing, will replace present lighting within the bank.*

#### *Lobby Changes*

*In the lobby, bank cages will be moved back two feet on the north and south sides, making possible a 30 x 24 floor area. The door leading from the vault to the lobby will be widened and an ornamental partition and gate will be installed.*

*Minor changes involved in the remodeling include some to the heating system. Certain counters running at right angles to the sides of the lobby will also be shortened.*

*The building renovation has been discussed by the bank directors for several years. Various architects submitted sketches last year, and the plan of Edgar A. Stubenrauch, Sheboygan architect, was deemed most suitable.*

*Members of the building committee are directors John P. Adler, E. M. Lee, and E. A. Kalsched.*

#### **CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK COMPLETE**

*Entire Interior is Refurbished—'Citizens Room' Is Added on 2nd Floor*

*When the directors of the Citizens National Bank met last year and authorized a new addition to the rear of the building they hardly envisioned a \$125,000 building and remodeling program that would change the entire inner appearance of the bank. But that's what happened, and the directors are most happy about it.*

*The urge to replace the old with the new grew, and as one change was made another was born. The end result is a building which the directors happily describe as being "completely devoid of the 'old bank.'"*

*About 100 visiting bankers attended a cocktail party and toured the remodeled building Wednesday evening, and the opportunity to view the changes will be provided to several thousand more persons over the weekend.*

*Saturday afternoon between 2:30 and 4 o'clock the bank will be open for inspection by stockholders whose names begin with the letters A through L. From 5 o'clock to 7 o'clock stockholders with names beginning with letters M*



through Z will tour the building.

Starting at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon patrons of the bank will be able to view the results of the remodeling program. The general public has been invited to attend an open house between 4 o'clock Monday afternoon and 8 o'clock that evening.

Foremost change in the building almost has to be the 43 x44 foot addition to the rear of the old building. One story high with a full basement, the addition was built to house the bank's bookkeeping department. But it offers much more.

At the extreme rear of the addition were constructed an outside "walk up" window and a "drive up" window. Both are covered by a canopy and permit bank patrons to complete their business transactions without ever entering the bank. Patrons using the "drive up" window must approach from the south.

As soon as it arrives, a new Citizens National Bank sign will be put in place at the read of the bank.

The bookkeeping department takes up most of the space on the ground floor of the new addition, but in the new section are a richly furnished women's lounge and a fireproof storage vault

The basement of the building in addition to housing the completely new heating and air-conditioning plants, provides space for an attractive employees' lounge. The room has a vinyl asbestos tile floor, is completely equipped with cooking facilities, has television and radio and all new furniture.

In remodeling the old building seven old-type banking fixtures were removed and have been replaced by a modern 10-window unit which is located along the entire north wall of the building. Under the old setup the fixtures were located on both sides.

With the 10 new fixtures, the "walk up" and "drive up" windows in the rear, and a new "walk up" window opening directly into Central avenue, the bank now has 13 service windows.

Officers of the bank, once scattered about the building, now hold forth at desks along the south wall of the building. Available to them is a conference room which occupies the space formerly used by the president as a private office. The conference room has the latest acoustic tile walls which prevent conversations from being heard outside, although the room is not entirely enclosed.

The old safety deposit box booths to the rear and on the right side as one enters have been removed and replaced with three new single units and one double unit. In addition, a safety deposit conference room has been installed in what was formerly part of the old bookkeeping department. The directors' room remains in the same place, although it, too, has



Noeldner Sisters; Mary, Carol, Kristine, Beatrice and Helen, later called the Noel Sisters, 1959. Notice portions of the murals on the walls in the background.



been remodeled. Just north of the directors' room, a part of the old bookkeeping department has been converted into another conference room.

Striking new murals on the wall of the bank were designed and painted by G. F. Dahlstrom of the Minneapolis firm, Dahlstrom and Weinberger.



Noeldner Sisters; Mary, Carol, Kristine, Beatrice and Helen, later called the Noel Sisters, 1959. Notice portions of the murals on the walls in the background.

complete.

In the remodeling, three types of flooring were installed to replace the old. In the lobby proper the surface is pure vinyl tile. The directors' room and the space occupied by the bank's officers have carpeted floors. Vinyl asbestos tile cover the rest of the building.

The ceilings are either new or have been remodeled with acoustic tile. New light fixtures have also been installed, and lighting in the lobby has been increased 100 percent.

Many of the rooms in the bank are individually surfaced with Roddiscraft. Those that aren't have been painted in easy-on-the-eye pastel shades.

In the lobby of the bank have been installed two new "check desks" and a safety deposit desk which can be used for the same purpose. New planters placed in various spots throughout the bank hold beautiful plants and flowers.

A Seeberg music installation goes on and off every 15 minutes providing bank patrons with soft music.

Perhaps the biggest eye-catcher of the whole remodeling program is the new outside sign in the front of the building. The sign is lighted and provides pedestrians and motorists on Central avenue with the time and temperature 24 hours a day. This information is also available to those inside the bank on a smaller sign just over the entrance.

Three scenes on the south wall and one on the north wall depict the basic idea of the activities of the bank, according to Dahlstrom.

The mural on the center of the south wall above as open bank vault which symbolizes the money used for research, agriculture, industry, social institutions and business.

The picture on the north wall is dedicated to the dairy industry. The foreground shows the activities around a modern dairy products plant, while the market place, or city, can be seen in the background.

The murals, oil paint on canvas, required about three weeks to

*Outside the bank, near the southwest corner of the building, a new...  
(from the Marshfield News Herald, May 1, 1959)*

*Also see story on the American National Bank*

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*If you have any additional information (including pictures) regarding this business or location, we would really appreciate you contacting us and sharing. We will add information whenever possible.*

*For questions, or for sharing additional information, please contact us at [schnitzl@charter.net](mailto:schnitzl@charter.net). Please include what story the information relates to.*

*Attach your text information in the form of a word document, please no PDF's. Photos should preferably be in jpeg format.*

*For additional stories on the historical sights and businesses of Marshfield, visit our website at: <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/OR-Codes-of-Historical-Marshfield.html>.*



*In 2012 the building is the home to Vanguard Title, Envoy Mortgage and Marshfield Chiropractic, Therapy & Massage. (Photo by Vickie Schnitzler)*