

Adams/Cheshire Savings

Co-op Bank reports record year

ADAMS — The largest increase in its history has been recorded in 1980 by the Adams Co-operative Bank, according to a year-end report from the institution with offices at 63 Park St. here.

The 68th annual report, presented to the board of directors, said the "banner year" saw a 17.36 percent increase in deposits, representing a hike of \$3,279,470.

Operating income grew 18.7 percent; assets increased \$3,515,331, or 17 percent over 1979; and total assets reached \$24,209,830. Interest paid to savers amounted to \$1,468,712, up 33.06 percent over last year. The bank's surplus shows an increase of 11 percent, report said.

The bank invested \$2,585,100 in mortgage loans to home buyers in the northern Berkshire area and \$1,763,921 was written in installment loans over the 12-month period.

Methodists to hold mid-week services

CHESHIRE — The United Methodist Church will introduce mid-week evening worship services starting Wednesday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. pastor Daniel J. Biela has announced.

The services will be open to the general public.

Mr. Biela said he plans to have the new series of services vary considerably from the former so-called "prayer meetings." Contemporary films, guest speakers from other communities, music by folk singers and other groups will be included in the weekly programs which Mr. Biela said he hopes will renew and stimulate Christian growth in the church and the communities which it serves.

The film "Developing the Person as a Leader" will be shown on Jan. 21. That film, Mr. Biela said, is especially designed for those interested in the areas of evangelism and church growth.

Town lists holiday hours

ADAMS — Bar hours, landfill closing and employee time off for the New Year's holiday have been announced by the board of selectmen.

Bars, which normally close at 2 a.m., may remain open until 3 a.m. on New Year's Eve, the board decided.

Town employees will be off both Thursday and Friday. The landfill will be closed Thursday and Friday but will reopen on Saturday.



LANDMARK CONDEMNED—The Woolworth building on Park Street in Adams has been condemned as unsafe because of dangerous roof sagging. The owners have been told by building inspector James J. Lietch to remove tenants from 13 third and fourth-floor apartments. (Transcript-Vallette)

Leitch condemns apartments

ADAMS — The two upper floors of the four-story Woolworth building at 19-25 Park Street have been condemned, and the fate of apartment residents there is uncertain.

The floor was condemned because of roof structural problems determined by James J. Leitch, building inspector. The wooden trusses supporting the roof have deflected more than a foot since the roof was built, according to the inspector, and the resultant pressure is starting to pop bricks from the upper parts of the exterior.

It was about 1 1/2 years ago that the problem first came to the inspector's attention. At that time a wire was set up along the roof to gauge deflection. The roof has sagged another inch since then, indicating that the problem is worsening and that collapse is possible, he said.

In a letter to the owners of the building, Bruce R. Patenaude, 12 Walker St., and Thomas R. Hawke, 214 Prospect St., both of North Adams, who together formed P & H Realty and purchased the structure about two months ago, Mr. Leitch indicated that the occupants of the apartments on the top two floors would have to be evacuated, but no deadline for the eviction was set.

There is one apartment on the fourth floor and a 12 on the third. Two other apartments on the second floor and the first floor tenants, the assistance being sought by the ACDC.

The ACDC is looking for financing methods that would make the corporation a partner in the building, he said. The structure is a key building on a key parcel in the downtown area, he added, and whatever needs to be done should be tackled to make the building safe.

Police calls
ADAMS — The following incident was logged by police here:
Tuesday, 6:25 p.m.—The Alert Hose Company extinguished a chimney fire at the Ziemba homestead on Walling Road.

Water board named 3rd-party defendants

CHESHIRE — The town's water commissioners have been named 3rd-party defendants in a suit stemming from a fatal 1978 gas explosion.

Patrick E. Rondeau, town counsel, said papers were served Tuesday on the current members of the commission, Wilbur A. Chase and Donald R. Rueger, and on former member A. Filere. The three are charged with negligence in relation to the explosion which injured Ruth J. Williamson. Mr. Rondeau said there is no description in the papers of exactly how the commissioners were negligent.

The suit was originally filed by Robert Williamson against Berkshire Gas Co. in November, 1978, eight months after the explosion and seven months after Mrs. Williamson's death. Berkshire Gas in turn named Heller Co. of Decatur, Ill., John Molino and the commissioners as 3rd-party defendants. The Illinois firm is alleged to have sold the gas firm gas-service items — curb stops and boxes — with breached warranties. The gas leak which led to the explosion is alleged to have stemmed from those items.

Robert Williamson died in September 1979, and the suit is being carried on on behalf of Mrs. Williamson's estate.

Mr. Rondeau said he will begin an investigation into the negligence charge. He will check insurance coverage and meet with the water commissioners.

Berkshire Gas Co. is represented by the Donovan and O'Connor law firm of Adams and the plaintiff by Edward LaPointe and Andrew Campoli of Pittsfield.

Mr. Rondeau said procedure calls for a response to the negligence charge to be filed within 30 days.



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