



A Bank That Changed Its Title

by Howard W. Parshall

Many national banks, during the note issuing period (1863-1935), changed their titles. These title changes were reflected in the National Currency issued by these banks.

One of the most notable bank title changes is illustrated in the two notes accompanying this article.

The original title of this bank, chartered in 1920, was "Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Co-operative National Bank of Cleveland," Ohio. This title had the distinction of being the longest to appear on large size National Currency.

On February 15, 1928 the bank's title was shortened to "Engineers National Bank of Cleveland," Ohio.

A careful examination of the illustrations of these two notes tells us several things.

First, both notes were issued by a bank operating under charter number 11862.

Second, the printed date on both notes is the same: "Oct. 25, 1920."

Third, the signatures of the U.S. Treasury officials are

the same; W.S. Elliott, Register of the Treasury, and John Burke, Treasurer of the U.S.

Fourth, the serial numbers indicate their order of issue. The U.S. Treasury serial number (A173235E), bank serial number (34689), and regional letter (M) on the earlier note indicate it was issued before 1925. The appearance of the bank serial number (14341) twice on the later note indicates it was issued between 1925 and 1929.

Fifth, the striking contrast in the signatures on the two notes is very noticeable.

As I have studied these notes over the year I have wondered what changes took place in the bank's administrative and personnel policies to bring about such a drastic change in its title and signature style. Perhaps a maturing process took place and they found it no longer necessary to be quite so bold in their title or so vain in their signatures.

In any case, notes issued by this bank continue to be a source of pride and speculative conversation by collectors and students of National Currency.

The bank was liquidated on September 12, 1930.

