

THE PAPER COLUMN

by Peter Huntoon

The Scarce Type 2 Notes from Laramie, Wyoming

NATIONAL Currency was backed by bonds which were purchased by banks and deposited with the Treasurer. If the bank authorized its bonds to be sold, the immediate impact was for the Comptroller of the Currency to terminate shipments of new notes to the bank. Commonly, the result for the collector was the creation of rarities.

The purpose of this article is to examine the rare Type 2 issues of the Albany National Bank of Laramie, Wyoming, as a fascinating case history resulting from a bond sale. It turns out that although Type 1 notes are very plentiful from this bank, its Type 2 notes are among the rarest from Wyoming.

As a point of comparison, the 1929 issues for both the Albany and First National Banks of Laramie are shown in Table 1. Both banks had \$100,000 circulations, but the First National issued notes for about an extra year.

Periodic Shipments

Here is how it worked. The Albany National Bank had \$100,000 worth of bonds on deposit with the Treasurer since the teens and these secured an equal circulation in \$10 and \$20 notes. The Comptroller periodically shipped new replacements to the bank as worn notes were redeemed from this circulation. We collectors commonly underestimate the importance of such redemptions unless we carefully compare the total dollar value of notes issued with the actual circulations of the banks. In the case of the Albany National Bank, periodic shipments of replacements averaged about \$4,500 per month during the small note era. In real terms the circulation of the bank was turning over every 22 months. This record is compatible with other banks having similar circulations.

When a bank sold all or part of its bonds, the shipments of new notes ceased until redemptions exceeded the value of the sold bonds. By selling bonds at crucial points during the note issuing period, many banks missed issuing entire types and others issued only a few sheets of certain types. The Type 2 issues of the Albany National Bank fall into the latter class.

Early Bond Sales

The bank began selling its bonds a full year before the close of the National Bank Note era in 1935. Specifically the bank sold \$50,000 worth on May 28, 1934, and the remaining \$50,000 on Jan. 3, 1934.

What adds spice to the decision to sell is the fact that the bank had just begun receiving shipments from newly printed



Type 2 notes from the short lived Albany National Type 2 issues. The \$20 is from the first shipment of 30 notes sent to the bank on April 13, 1934, and is the only reported survivor from the 89 Type 2 \$20's sent to the bank during a three-week period in 1934.



Type 2 notes from the First National were issued in greater quantities than those from the Albany National but today they seem to be almost as scarce.

stocks of Type 2 notes. When these shipments were stopped, we saw the automatic creation of two of Wyoming's scarcest Type 2 issues. The Type 2 \$20 issue consisted of only 89 notes—the smallest issuance of Type 2's in the state.

As shown on Table 2, the Type 2 \$20 issue was comprised of only two shipments sent respectively on April 13 and May 4, 1934—a period of just 22 days. The \$10's were sent to the bank in seven shipments over a period of seven weeks ending May 24th.

Table 1. A comparison between the Series of 1929 issues for the Albany and First National Banks of Laramie, Wyoming. Notice that the Albany National Bank issues ceased a year earlier than those for the First National Bank.

	<i>Albany National Bank of Laramie (3615)</i>		<i>First National Bank of Laramie (4989)</i>	
	<i>serials</i>	<i>shipment dates</i>	<i>serials</i>	<i>shipment dates</i>
Series of 1929 Type 1				
10-10-10-10-10-10	1 - 2786	Aug. 31, 1929 - Apr. 5, 1934	1 - 2536	Nov. 5, 1929 - Mar. 19, 1934
20-20-20-20-20-20	1 - 698	Sep. 19, 1929 - Mar. 27, 1934	1 - 788	Nov. 13, 1929 - Mar. 9, 1934
Series of 1929 Type 2				
10	1 - 489	Apr. 5, 1934 - May 24, 1934	1 - 2016	Mar. 27, 1934 - Mar. 27, 1935
20	1 - 89	Apr. 13, 1934 - May 4, 1934	1 - 765	Apr. 5, 1934 - Mar. 18, 1935

Table 2. Record of the Series of 1929 Type 2 shipments from the Comptroller of the Currency to the Albany National Bank of Laramie, Wyoming.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Serials</i>	
	<i>\$10</i>	<i>\$20</i>
1934		
Apr. 5	1 - 84	
Apr. 13	85 - 139	1 - 30
Apr. 19	140 - 169	
Apr. 25	170 - 214	
May 4		31 - 89
May 10	215 - 329	
May 17	330 - 374	
May 24	375 - 489	

Needless to say, notes from these groups are rare. To date I have been able to document only three survivors, \$10's with serials A000137 and A000255, and a lone \$20 with serial A000025. The highest grade among these is a fine \$10. The \$20 grades VG.

Thanks to one major hoard and a few minor caches, 1929 Type 1 notes from the Albany National Bank have proven to be the most abundant source of small notes for Wyoming. Like many circumstances in numismatics, the notes from the Albany National Bank are generally judged on the basis of its rather common Type 1 issues. These simply divert attention from other genuine rarities lurking in the shadows waiting to be appreciated.

Comparison

As a point of comparison, I have included in Table 1 the statistics for the First National Bank of Laramie. The issuances from this bank are comparable with the Albany National Bank because both had \$100,000 circulations. The First National Bank held its bonds to the end of the small note period, selling them on May 9, 1935. Because it had an additional year to issue Type 2 notes, its Type 2 totals are more typical of a \$100,000 circulation bank.

Although the number of notes from the Type 2 issuance of the First National Bank is five times greater than that of the Albany National, the actual numbers are characteristically small. This situation typifies Type 2 issues nationwide. Known surviving Type 2 specimens from the First National

Bank are very scarce and number four notes at this time. After all, these notes were issued for a period of only a year as compared to almost four and a half years for the Type 1 issues.

Other banks in Wyoming which sold bonds in 1934 were the First National Bank of Kemmerer (5480) down \$70,000 from \$100,000, and the First National Bank of Green River (10698) down \$40,000 from \$80,000. In these cases, the bond sales also resulted in the abrupt terminations of Type 2 shipments. However, the sales were much later in 1934 than those for the Albany National Bank of Laramie, so substantially more Kemmerer and Green River Type 2 notes reached circulation. Type 2 issues from these two banks are not common by any means and are highly regarded by Wyoming collectors.

COUNTERFEIT CAPERS

Interesting gleanings
from
early publications

Forrest W. Daniel

Enderlin (N. Dak.) Independent

November 29, 1934

New York—Secret service agents believe they have smashed a counterfeiting ring that has flooded the country with \$2,000,000 in spurious currency in the last year and a half. They ended a three months investigation with simultaneous raids in New York, Newark and Tenafly, N.J., and arrested 10 men and one woman, seized several printing presses, \$70,000 in counterfeit notes and stores of paper. A die for making spurious passports with the seal of the secretary of state also was confiscated.

On December 13 the editor of the *Independent* published the following "Brief Comment": "The eleven men arrested as counterfeiters can put up a good defense by stating that they were just getting ready for inflation."