

About TEXAS

Mostly

By FRANK CLARK

Posted Poem Recites Seven Ages of a Banker

WHILE AGO I WAS GOING THROUGH A box of postcards at the 1999 St. Louis Paper Money Show when I found the postcard that this article is about. My find was a postcard on the Commercial National Bank of Greenville, Texas.

It was mailed to Mr. R.N. Wright in care of the Canyon National Bank of Canyon City, Texas. The postcard was cancelled in December of 1907 and has a one-cent stamp attached.

There is also a shield on the left side of the postcard with the phrase, "We Want To Do Business With You," and the bottom of the shield contains "The Commercial National Bank Of Greenville, Texas."

The postcard was mailed from one banker to another, possibly a predecessor to our e-mail humor of today.

Its back has a poem pasted on it, which reads as follows:

THE SEVEN AGES OF A BANKER

*At two with toys he used to play,
And gladly passed the time away.
At age six it came to pass,
He passed the kindergarten class.
At twenty-one, brimful of knowledge,
He passed, with honor, out of college.
At thirty, to the altar [sic] he
["you'll have to hurry" with a line
drawn to "thirty" is scribbled here]
Passed down the aisle, a groom-to-be.
At forty-five a man sedate,
At church he always passed the plate.
At sixty on life's downward trend,
He boldly passed a dividend.
At last a million he was worth,
And then he passed away from earth.*

—Detroit Free Press.

However, there are two more lines after the credit line (added by the newspaper reprinting the original):

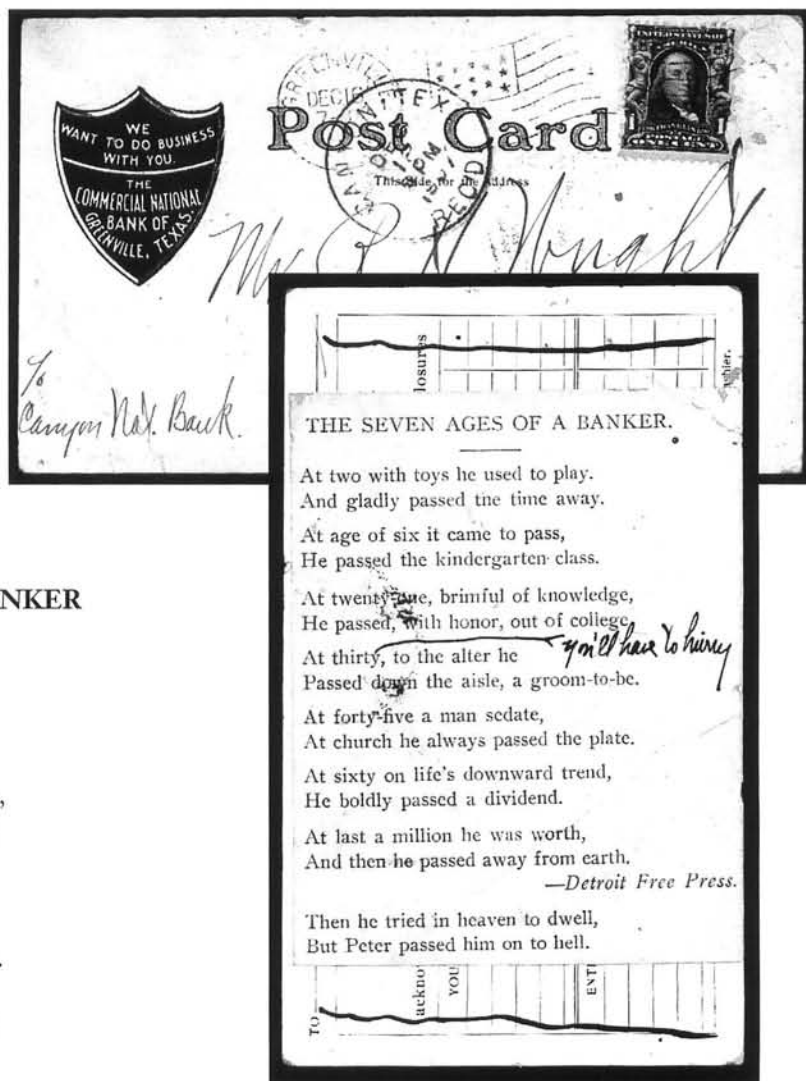
*Then he tried in heaven to dwell,
But Peter passed him on to hell.*

This poem traces the life stages of a banker. It also depicts the opinion most people hold about bankers, especially at this time.

The back of the original postcard displays only enough clues to determine that its original purpose was to be used for mundane banking correspondence.

This postcard probably still exists today only because of the poem, which is why the recipient Mr. Wright saved it.

I was very fortunate to find this postcard and add it to my collection.



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