

The First National Bank of/in Ontonagon, Michigan

by Lawrence Falater

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN was organized on May 26, 1903, in a small upper peninsula village in a lumbering community on the shores of Lake Superior.

The primary organizers of this bank, C. Meilleur and James Mercer, were previously partners in a private bank in the nearby village of Greenland, which had a total of 21 individuals investing a total of \$10,000.

The First National Bank was capitalized at \$25,000, the minimum allowed for banks located in small towns. The bank issued the following National Bank Notes:

Third Charter Red Seals

10-10-10-20 plate	\$63,150	serials 1 to 1263
-------------------	----------	-------------------

Third Charter 1902-1908 Date Backs

10-10-10-20 plate	\$83,000	serials 1 to 1660
-------------------	----------	-------------------

Third Charter Plain Back Blue Seals

10-10-10-20 plate	\$159,500	serials 1661 to 4850
-------------------	-----------	----------------------

Small Size, Series 1929

\$10 Type 1	\$34,560	serials 1 to 576
\$20 Type 1	\$17,280	serials 1 to 144
\$10 Type 2	\$570	serials 1 to 57
\$20 Type 2	\$420	serials 1 to 21



The first \$20 banknote issued by the bank, a marvelous Red Seal, ex-Grinnell. (courtesy Dr. Wallace Lee)

The archives of the First National Bank of Ontonagon, Michigan, and its successor, The First National Bank in Ontonagon, offer insight into National Banking history in general, especially during the Great Depression, when few if any documents were preserved.

Below: A letter from the Comptroller of the Currency dated Oct. 27, 1915, to officers and directors of all National Banks reminding them of the director's sworn duty to uphold various provisions of the National Bank Act. The letter includes the statement that laws regarding usury have often been grossly ignored by some banks.



COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 27, 1915.

To all National Banks:

SIRS: The attention of your officers and directors is called to the oath which was signed by each director upon his qualification, in which he solemnly swore as follows:

"* * * I will, so far as the duty devolves on me, diligently and honestly administer the affairs of said Association; that *I will not knowingly violate, or willingly permit to be violated, any of the provisions of the Statutes of the United States under which this Association has been organized.* * * *"

Your attention is called to Sec. 5197 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, being part of the National Bank Act, which provides that a National Bank—

"may take, receive, reserve, and charge on any loan or discount made, or upon any note, bill of exchange, or other evidences of debt, interest at *the rate allowed by the laws of the State, Territory, or District where the bank is located, and no more*, except that where by the laws of any State a different rate is limited for banks of issue organized under State laws, the rate so limited shall be allowed for associations organized or existing in any such State under this Title.

"When no rate is fixed by the laws of the State, or Territory, or District, the bank may take, receive, reserve, or charge a rate not exceeding *seven per centum*, and such interest may be taken in advance, reckoning the days for which the note, bill, or other evidence of debt has to run. * * *"

This office regrets to report that the sworn statements of condition of a great many national banks show that section 5197, U. S. R. S., against usury, has been grossly violated by these banks.

You are respectfully advised and admonished that this provision of the National Bank Act should be faithfully observed by all national banks, their officers and directors, in accordance with the solemn oaths taken by the directors.

You are requested to read this letter at the next meeting of your board of directors, and to have it inscribed upon the minutes, and to send a copy of this letter to every member of your board who may not be present at such meeting, with the request that he promptly acknowledge its receipt to you.

Within thirty days after your next board meeting, and not later than December 20, 1915, you are requested to send to this office letters from all members of your board who may not have been present at the meeting at which this letter is read, acknowledging the receipt by each absent director of a copy hereof, together with a certified extract from your minutes, showing that this letter has been read to your board and giving the names of the directors present at the meeting at which it is read.

Respectfully,

John Keelson Williams

Comptroller of the Currency.



Washington, D.C., SEPTEMBER 30, 1922.

Whereas, the Act of Congress of the United States, entitled, "An Act to amend section 5136, Revised Statutes of the United States, relating to corporate powers of associations, so as to provide succession thereof for a period of ninety-nine years or until dissolved, and to apply said section as so amended to all national banking associations," approved by the President on July 1, 1922, provided that all national banking associations organized and operating under any law of the United States on July 1, 1922, should have succession until ninety-nine years from that date, unless such association should be sooner dissolved by the act of its shareholders owning two-thirds of its stock, or unless its franchise should become forfeited by reason of violation of law, or unless it should be terminated by an Act of Congress hereinafter enacted;

Now therefore, I D. R. CRISSINGER,
Comptroller of the Currency, do hereby certify that

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ONTONAGON

in the VILLAGE of ONTONAGON
and State of MICHIGAN was organized and operating under the laws of the United States on July 1, 1922, and that its corporate existence was extended for the period of ninety-nine years from that date in accordance with and subject to the condition in the Act of Congress hereinbefore recited.




In testimony whereof, witness my hand and Seal of
office this THIRTIETH day of SEPTEMBER, 1922.

D. R. Crissinger
Comptroller of the Currency

The original document extending the charter of #6820 of the First National Bank of Ontonagon for a period of 99 years. It bears the signature of the Comptroller of the Currency, D.R. Crissinger as well as the Comptroller's bronze seal. Such documents are highly prized by National Bank Note collectors, although not nearly as desirable as an actual charter. Unfortunately, neither the original charter of 1903, charter #6820, nor the successor bank, charter #13929, appears to have survived.

Right: A form letter from the Comptroller of the Currency of the Treasury Department dated Oct. 12, 1922, to the First National Bank advised the bank that an Act of Congress passed July 1, 1922, has extended the corporate existence of the bank for a period of 99 years. Shortly after this action, Congress passed another provision which extended charters in perpetuity.



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

ADDRESS REPLY TO

COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY


Cashier,

Sir:

I am inclosing certificate that your association was organized and operating under the laws of the United States on July 1, 1922, and that its corporate existence was extended for a period of ninety-nine years from that date, by the Act of Congress approved July 1, 1922, unless your association should be sooner dissolved by the act of its shareholders owning two-thirds of its stock; or unless its franchise should become forfeited by reason of violation of law, or unless it should be terminated by an Act of Congress hereinafter enacted.

Please promptly acknowledge the receipt of this certificate and if any action has been taken since July 1, 1922, for the purpose of dissolving your association, this office should be promptly advised of that fact.

Respectfully,



Deputy Comptroller.

Below: A book of archived stock certificates of the First National Bank (of) Ontonagon beginning with serial #1. As certificates were sold, the canceled certificates were pasted to the original corresponding stubs, which is a customary method of accounting for same. Note that the date is 1920 and not 1903 (the original date of incorporation) since the capital stock had been increased to \$50,000 from the original \$25,000. Unfortunately, all of the certificates have been severely canceled by triangular cuts in the signature areas.

Certificate

No. 1

For 10 Shares
Issued to
Andrew Natta
Original -

Dated August 27, 1920
From whom transferred

Date	No Original Certificate	No Shares Transferred
	1	+1

Received Certificate No. 1
for 10 Shares
this 27th day of Aug. 1920
Andrew Natta

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
CAPITAL \$50,000.00

Incorporated under the laws of the United States of America

CERTIFICATE

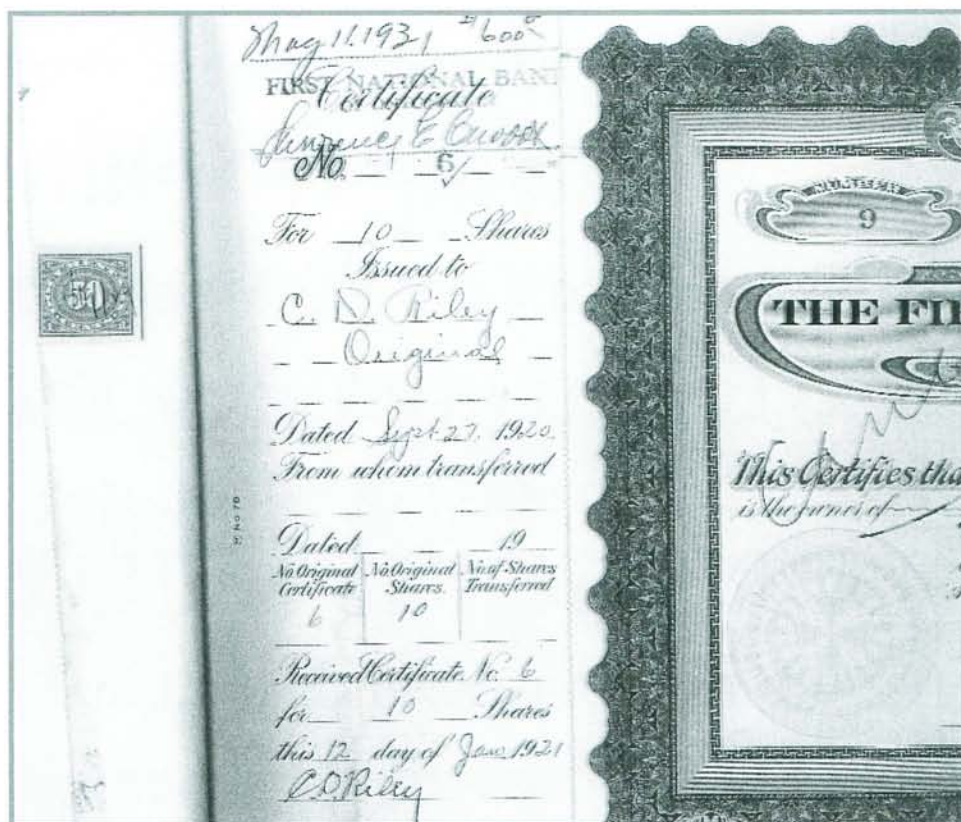
I hereby certify that Andrew Natta owns the Capital Stock of The First National Bank, Ontonagon, Mich. transferable only on the books of this Corporation unless so endorsed otherwise upon the reverse of this Certificate properly endorsed.

In Witness Whereof, the said Corporation has caused this Certificate to be signed by its duly authorized officers and its corporate seal to hereunto affixed this 27th day of August, A.D. 1920.

Andrew Natta President
B. J. [illegible] Cashier

100 EACH

Right: The Comptroller of the Currency in 1931 determined that the bank's capital (due to improper banking practices as well as uncollectible loans due to the substantial constriction of business activity during the Depression) had been impaired. An assessment of 60% was directed to be made on the stockholders. The #6 stub (no canceled certificate attached) states that the 60% assessment had been paid on May 11, 1931, in the amount of \$600.00 on 10 shares. Approximately half of the stubs bear a similar type annotation.



Below: Serial #37 presents interesting circumstances. An attached temporary certificate of increase of capital stock was issued to an original shareholder, Lawrence Burke in 1920. An ink notation on the stub states: "This stock sold at public auction 6/13/31 at \$60.00 per share called by Comptroller 2/13/31." It appears that Mr. Burke surrendered his entire equity by not submitting the 60% assessment as required by the Comptroller of the Currency. The new owner, Mrs. Margaret Haveland, paid \$60 for each share, a 40% discount from the \$100 stated stock valuation. This book of canceled certificates runs through serial #100 which is dated through 1926. A second book starting with serial #101 commences in 1927 runs through #156, which is dated December 1932. Serial nos. 157-200 were never issued.



Right: A picture of the impressive bank building built during the teens is basically unchanged except for an addition on the far side of the building. The bank's previous building (behind the Mobilgas sign) is also shown.



The First National Bank, Ontonagon, MI Defalcation

During the Great Depression, The First National Bank in Ontonagon, Michigan came under scrutiny from the misdealings of two of the bank's top officers, Emil Arthur Wedan, Cashier, and Goodenough A. Townsend, Assistant Cashier. These misdealings were discovered and brought to light in a letter drafted by the First National Bank to the National Surety Company (their insurer against defalcation) in New York City dated October 3, 1930.

It appears that these two individuals were playing the stock market about the time of the great stock market crash of October 1929. Erroneously viewed by some as a buying opportunity and a quick way to pocket some extra cash through speculation, the situation quickly deteriorated into a severe disaster.

The bank's Board of Directors had previously notified the National Bank Examiner of irregularities in a letter of July 16, 1930, regarding false entries to cover such things as forged deposit withdrawals and other unauthorized entries. The net loss to the bank was \$18,869.39, a sizable amount in the days that a house could be



Above: The interior of the bank building during the 1930s or 1940s shows the bank cashier, Laurence E. Chabot, standing at right.

purchased for \$500 in the Ontonagon area.

The two officers resigned, were quickly replaced and soon arrested. They pleaded not guilty at the time of arraignment, but entered guilty pleas shortly thereafter. The former Assistant Cashier, Goodenough Townsend, was good enough to cooperate with authorities in pointing out false entries which finalized the situation. Federal Judge Fred Raymond sentenced them each to three and one-half years in the Chillicothe, Ohio reformatory for misappropriation and embezzlement of bank funds.

Right: The original defalcation insurance settlement presentation folder is shown. This is probably one of the rarest possible type of documents to survive for any bank.

Below: A Plan of Reorganization and Notice to the stockholders, depositors and creditors of the (old) First National Bank of Ontonagon, pursuant to the provisions of the Bank Conservation Act passed by Congress March 9, 1933, spells out \$225,000 worth of assets which could not be assumed by the reorganized bank. Other conditions include a 50% reduction of the value of unsecured depositors' and creditors' claims once a 75% vote of the shares of stockholders was achieved for reorganization. These extremely extraordinary provisions were required in order to establish a state of solvency for the new bank.

REPORT ON DEFALCATION
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN
YEARS 1898 AND 1900

ARTHUR J. HENNINGHAUS & CO.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND NOTICE

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS, DEPOSITORS AND OTHER CREDITORS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN

It is proposed to reorganize the affairs of this bank in the manner described in the Plan of Reorganization hereinafter set forth, by and with the written consent of depositors and other creditors of said Bank representing at least 75% in amount of its total net unsecured liabilities as shown by its books, pursuant to the Provisions of Section 207 of the Bank Conservation Act enacted by Congress March 9, 1933. The Plan, approved by the Comptroller of Currency of the United States, is as follows:-

It has been determined that approximately \$225,000.00, book value, of the assets of the Bank cannot be approved by the Comptroller of the Currency for inclusion in the current assets of a new or reorganized national bank. Subject to adjustment as of the date of reopening, approximately the following must be eliminated in effecting the reorganization of this institution.

Slow, doubtful and uncollectible loans.....	\$39,130.44
Depreciated bonds and depreciation on acceptable bonds	\$124,700.37
Depreciation on banking house, furniture and fixtures	\$ 36,000.00
Other Real Estate.....	\$ 24,051.08
Miscellaneous items.....	\$ 1,168.74

The present capital of \$50,000.00, surplus of \$200.00, and undivided profits of \$2,005.53 will first be applied against the above eliminations. The Conservator to borrow from Reconstruction Finance Corporation on unacceptable assets the sum of \$50,000.00. The remainder must be absorbed through reduction in the liabilities of the bank to its depositors and creditors who will, accordingly, be called upon to waive to the bank 50% of the amount of their respective net unsecured claims. This waiver will produce approximately \$132,000.00 and, under the terms of Section 207 of the Bank Conservation Act, will be binding upon all unsecured depositors and creditors, when consented to by 75% of them in amount.

The assets which are to be eliminated will be transferred to Trustees who will hold and liquidate them for the benefit of the waiving depositors and other creditors and participation certificates will be issued by such Trustees to each waiving depositor and other creditor evidencing their respective rights in such liquidation. After giving effect to the application of the capital structure, the above loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and the 50% waiver, and after the conveyance of the eliminated assets to the Trustees, the bank will have been brought to a state of solvency.

In order to take advantage of the provisions of the Banking Act of 1933, it is deemed advisable to organize a new national bank to be known as the First National Bank of Ontonagon or such other name as may be approved by the Comptroller of the Currency. The new bank will have common capital stock consisting of 250 shares, which will be sold to the former shareholders and depositors of the First National Bank, and to others, at \$140.00 per share, and, Preferred Stock consisting of 250 shares which will be sold to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation at \$100.00 per share. The new bank, when chartered, will have \$25,000.00 common stock, \$25,000.00 Preferred Stock, and a paid in surplus of \$10,000.00.

The acceptable assets of the First National Bank will then be sold to the new bank and the new bank will assume to pay all of the known and determined liabilities of the old bank after giving effect to the waiver of unsecured depositors and creditors and excepting the liabilities of the old bank to its shareholders as such. When the reorganization becomes effective the new bank will hold available and subject to check for the account of the waiving depositors 50% of their respective net unsecured claims. These balances will be available without restriction.

All claims entitled in law to be paid in full will be available to the respective claimants without reduction. All interest-bearing claims will have the interest thereon computed to the date when the old bank last conducted an unrestricted business, such interest to be computed as a part of the total claim, whether secured or unsecured. Interest will not be accrued between the date of suspension and the date of resumption of normal business.

You are accordingly notified that said Plan will be put into effect at the expiration of fifteen days from this date or as soon thereafter as the requisite consent of depositors and other creditors, and of stockholders, shall have been obtained, and all other necessary steps shall have been completed.

DATED at Ontonagon, Michigan this 26th day of September, 1933.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ONTONAGON

By Laurence E. Chabot, Conservator.

An important document which terminates the conservatorship of the old First National Bank of Ontonagon on Jan. 8, 1934, is signed by the Comptroller of the Currency. The blue embossed seal of that office is affixed to the document.

No 6820

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Office of
The Comptroller of the Currency
Washington, D. C.

WHEREAS, Mr. Laurence E. Chabot was duly appointed and commissioned Conservator of The First National Bank of Ontonagon, Ontonagon, Michigan, on the 29th day of March, 1933; and

WHEREAS, The First National Bank in Ontonagon, Ontonagon, Michigan, is willing to purchase certain of the assets of said The First National Bank of Ontonagon, Ontonagon, Michigan, and assume and pay on demand in full to the extent provided in the plan of reorganization of The First National Bank of Ontonagon, the liabilities of The First National Bank of Ontonagon outstanding after giving legal effect to certain waivers executed by depositors and creditors pursuant to the provisions of Section 207 of the Bank Conservation Act of March 9, 1933; and will also take over and hold segregated; and pay on demand, as contemplated by Sections 206 and 208 of said Act of Congress, all deposits made with said Conservator, and

WHEREAS, I am satisfied that under such circumstances it would be in the public interest to terminate such conservatorship; and that such termination may be safely done; and that said The First National Bank of Ontonagon may be permitted to resume the transaction of its business for the purpose of entering into and consummating a contract with said The First National Bank in Ontonagon of the foregoing tenor:

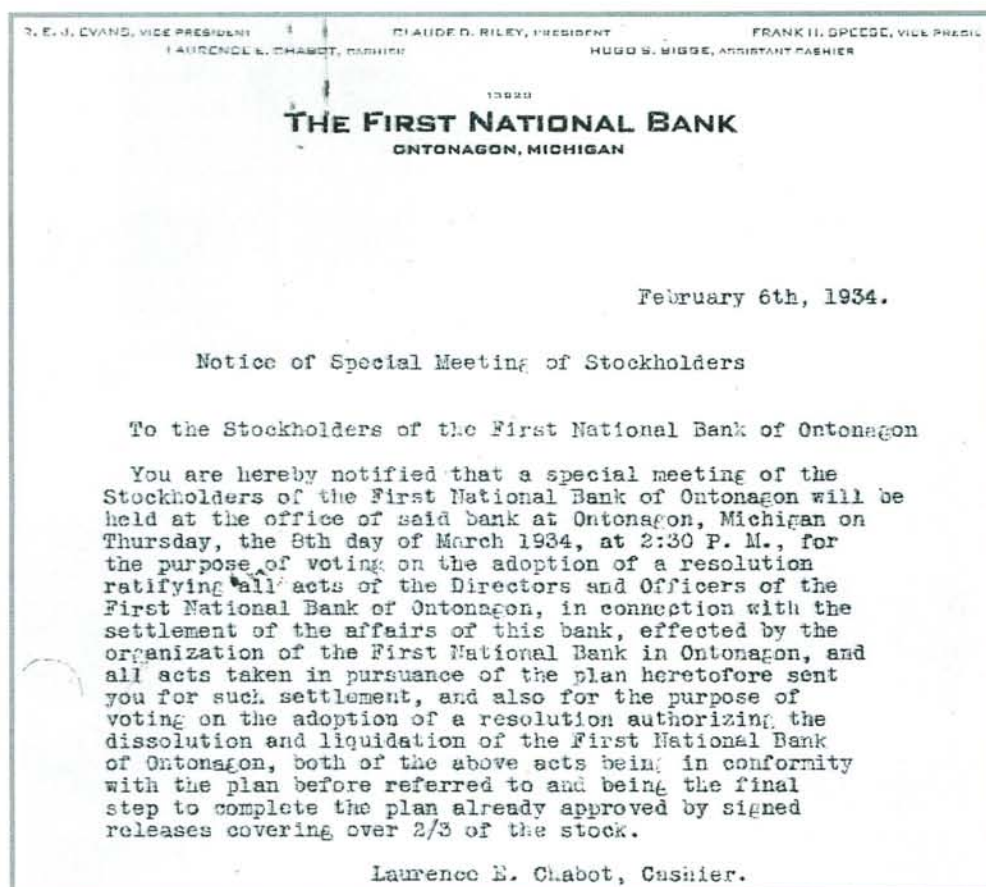
NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby terminate the conservatorship of said The First National Bank of Ontonagon, said termination to take effect at 3:30 o'clock A. M. on the 8th day of January 1934; at which time the assets of said bank, and the control of its affairs, are authorized to be returned to its Board of Directors; and said bank may thereupon resume its operations to the extent necessary to enter into and consummate said proposed contract with said The First National Bank in Ontonagon.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused my seal of office to be affixed at the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this 4th day of January A.D. 1934.

[Signature]
WILLIAM H. O'CONNOR,
Comptroller.



A letter from the cashier to stockholders announcing a special meeting for the ratification of the liquidation of the old bank, First National Bank of Ontonagon, as well as the establishment of the new bank, First National Bank in Ontonagon. The letter is curiously written on stationery of the new bank, charter #13929.



INSURANCE For The Paper Money Collector

Your homeowners insurance is rarely enough to cover your collectibles. We have provided economical, dependable collectibles insurance since 1966.

- **Sample collector rates:** \$3,000 for \$14, \$10,000 for \$38, \$25,000 for \$95, \$50,000 for \$190, \$100,000 for \$278, \$200,000 for \$418. Above \$200,000, rate is \$1.40 per \$1,000.
- **Our insurance carrier** is AM Best's rated A+ (Superior).
- **We insure paper money, paper ephemera, manuscripts, books, autographs and scores of other collectibles.** "One-stop" service for practically everything you collect.
- **Replacement value.** We use expert/professional help valuing collectible losses. Consumer friendly service: Our office handles your loss—you won't deal with a big insurer who doesn't know collectibles.
- **Detailed inventory** and/or professional appraisal not required. Collectors list items over \$5,000, dealers no listing required.
- **See our website** (or call, fax, e-mail us) for full information, including standard exclusions.

Collectibles Insurance Agency

P.O. Box 1200-PM • Westminster MD 21158

E-Mail: info@insurecollectibles.com



See the online application and rate quote forms on our website

Call Toll Free: 1-888-837-9537 • Fax: (410) 876-9233

More Info? Need A Rate Quote?

Visit: www.collectinsure.com

A resolution of voluntary liquidation was voted upon by the shareholders of the first bank with 404 "yes" votes and 96 abstentions. Had less than 75% of the shares of shareholders not voted for the voluntary liquidation, the bank would have been forced into involuntary liquidation; the shareholders chose the less painful alternative.

Old Account NO. Coml. **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ONTONAGON, MICHIGAN** Certificate NO. 100

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

This is to certify that Agate Bluff Rod & Gun Club is the owner and holder of the right to participate in and receive from the undersigned Trustees for certain Depositors and Creditors of the First National Bank of Ontonagon, his pro rata share of the proceeds of certain assets of the above named Bank, heretofore conveyed to the Trustees by the Bank, for the benefit of certain Depositors and Creditors of said Bank, up to but not exceeding the sum of \$5.89

.....dollars with interest on any unpaid balance at the rate of Two per cent per annum from the 8th day of January, 1934.

The total of participations in the proceeds of the assets in the hands of the Trustees, is the sum of \$131,187.49 and all distributions made by the Trustees on account thereof shall be divided among the holders of this and all other similar certificates, in the proportion that the face amount of their respective certificates bear to the total amount of all certificates outstanding.

This certificate is issued pursuant to all the terms and conditions of:

1. An agreement entered into by the unsecured depositors and creditors of the First National Bank under the terms of Section 207, of the Bank Conservation Act, passed by Congress, March 9, 1933, whereby in order to rehabilitate said Bank, and permit it to be returned to its Board of Directors in order that they may negotiate and execute a sale of its assets to First National Bank in Ontonagon, the unsecured depositors and creditors waived and released unto the Bank a proportion of their respective claims against said bank.
2. An agreement of trust entered into on the 8th day of January, 1934, between the above Bank and the Trustees, whereby the Bank conveyed to the Trustees, in trust for the unsecured depositors and creditors of the Bank certain assets which were eliminated from the Bank on the occasion of its reorganization, and reopening, on the 8th day of January, 1934, to be liquidated by the Trustees, and the proceeds thereof distributed ratably among the unsecured depositors and creditors.

Distributions or payments on account of this and all other like certificates will only be made when and as declared to be paid by the Trustees, but no payment will be made unless this certificate shall at the same time be presented to the Trustees, and the fact of such payment endorsed thereon. When final distribution is made as provided in the Trust Agreement referred to, this certificate is to be surrendered to the Trustees and cancelled.

This certificate may be transferred only on the books of the Trustees, and is transferable only as to the whole amount thereof, and the Trustees shall be entitled at all times, regardless of direct or indirect notice to the contrary to treat and regard the owner of this certificate as shown upon the books of the Trustees as the true and actual owner thereof, and upon compliance with all the other regulations of the Trustees to make payment of any distribution to such registered owner.

Issued at Ontonagon, Michigan this 8th day of January, 1934.

SIGNED:
J. H. BICE, JOHN HAWLEY, LAURENCE E. CHABOT, Trustees.

Laurence E. Chabot
Secretary.

Above: An extremely interesting form titled "Certificate of Participation" spells out the *pro rata* amount due depositors and creditors of the old bank. In this case, the Agate Bluff Rod & Gun Club is due \$5.89. The form is dated Jan. 8, 1934, and bears the facsimile signature of the secretary Laurence E. Chabot. Interestingly, Chabot was the cashier of both the old and reorganized banks as well as being the conservator of the old bank. The form is a product of the Goes Lithographic Co. There must have been a great quantity of these or similar type documents for the many, many reorganized banks throughout the country during the Depression. The almost total absence of this type of document indicates that bankers, extremely interested in putting the bitter memories of the Great Depression behind them, destroyed this type of reminder as soon as legally possible.

Right: The back of the "Certificate of Participation" form shows a seven-year duration for liquidation of the \$5.89 balance due to the Agate Bluff Rod & Gun Club. This extended into 1942 when the substantial industrialized war effort of WWII generally brought an end to the Depression.

For Value Received, _____ hereby sell, assign and transfer unto _____

the rights represented by the within Certificate, and do hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint _____ Attorney,

to transfer the said Certificate on the books of the within Trusteeship, with full power of substitution in the premises.

Dated _____ (T. S.) _____ (T. S.)

WITNESS: _____

NOTICE:—The signature to this assignment must correspond with the name as written upon the face of the Certificate in every particular, without alteration or enlargement, or any change whatever.

Record of Payments in Liquidation

Date	Percentage	Amt. Declared	Balance Due
12-23-34	5	30	5.57
12-21-36	10	57	5.00
12-20-37	10	57	4.41
12-23-38	15	85	3.53
12-11-39	5	30	3.23
12-16-40	2 1/2	15	3.08
12-19-41	3	11	2.70

Opposite: An important document in which the Reconstruction Finance Corp. (RFC) acquired \$25,000 of preferred stock in the new bank, First National Bank in Ontonagon is dated Jan. 8, 1934. The agreement spells out restrictions on the Board of Directors. The preferred stock assures priority to the RFC in the event of future problems including liquidation.

AGREEMENT

In consideration of the purchase by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, hereinafter called the "Corporation", of Twenty five thousand (\$25,000.00)-----Dollars of Preferred Stock ~~on the condition that the Corporation shall not~~ *** from The First National Bank in Ontonagon hereinafter called the "bank", said Bank agrees that so long as the Corporation shall hold not less than twenty-five (25) percent of the aggregate principal amount of debentures at the time outstanding, the members of the Board of Directors and the officers of the Bank shall at all times be persons acceptable to the Corporation, and all directors, officers and employees of the Bank shall receive compensation at such rates as may be fixed by the Board of Directors of the Bank subject to such maximum limitations, if any, as may be fixed from time to time by the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of Preferred Stock or Debentures or Capital Notes outstanding, and that all directors, officers and employees shall be elected or appointed subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

This agreement shall be binding upon the successors of the undersigned and shall inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Dated January 8, 1934

(SEAL)

The First National Bank in Ontonagon

Ontonagon, Michigan

By

Claude A. Riley
President

And

Lawrence E. Butler
Cashier

The first note "issued" by charter #13929, serial no. 1 1929 \$20 Type 2.
(courtesy of Lee DeGood)



The First National Bank in Ontonagon (charter #13929) was chartered in January 1934 to obviously succeed the First National Bank of Ontonago (charter #6820), and to assume the "good" assets of the predecessor bank. The following bank notes were issued:

Small Size, Series 1929

\$5 Type 2	\$3,270	serials 1 to 654
\$10 Type 2	\$2,510	serials 1 to 251
\$20 Type 2	\$2,340	serials 1 to 117

Total amount of circulation issued: \$8,120

The entire issue consisted of only 1,022 notes with a face value of only \$8,120! Only \$20 notes are currently known, serials 1 through 6 from the first sheet which was cut up several years ago to satisfy several dedicated collectors. The new bank assumed the circulation of charter #6820, so the outstanding face value of \$25,000 is rather meaningless to note collectors, as this figure represents the total amount charter #13929 was obligated to redeem.

The First National Bank in Ontonagon, during the period of bank consolidations of the 1980s-1990s, was sold to a regional banking organization and no longer exists. ❖

One of the interesting more recent National Bank documents from the Comptroller of the Currency which authorizes the increase of capital from \$50,000 to \$100,000 in 1958. The Comptroller's gold seal adds to the attractiveness of this document.

