# East Texas National Bank celebrates 100th anniversary

By CHERIL VERNON
Palestine Herald-Press   Feb 5, 2011



East Texas National Bank of Palestine will celebrate its 100th birthday this week with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday

Palestine Herald-Press

For 100 years, East Texas National Bank has remained a locally owned community bank — serving the banking needs of customers in Palestine and Anderson County and adapting to economic ups and downs and numerous technology changes over the last century.

The bank originally opened on Feb. 11, 1911. The three men responsible for organizing the bank were former Texas Gov. T. M. Campbell, J. E. Angly and T. M. Campbell Jr.

They put together a group of 46 investors and raised $100,000 in capital to organize the bank which was originally named Campbell State Bank. Ten years later, Campbell State Bank and Guaranty State Bank merged keeping the Guaranty State Bank name. In 1924, the bank was reorganized as a national bank under the name East Texas National Bank.

"East Texas National Bank has been intertwined with the history of Palestine over the last 100 years," current bank president Jerry L. Nowlin Jr. said. "We are excited to be celebrating our 100 year anniversary with our customers and the community."

ETNB will hold a reception in honor of the 100th anniversary for the public from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10 at the bank.

"This is a great opportunity for us to say thank you to all of our customers who have helped make East Texas National Bank successful through the years," Nowlin said.

 The original bank building was located near the middle of block where ETNB is currently located in downtown Palestine.

In 1959, ETNB began acquiring the adjoining properties to accommodate its additional need for space. The architects for a new bank building were hired in 1963 and construction began in February of 1965. ETNB temporarily moved to the old Royall National Bank building until the new building was completed and opened for business on April 22, 1966.

During its 100 years of existence, eight individuals have served as bank president.

**Bank History**

East Texas National Bank is celebrating its 100th year in business serving the banking needs of Palestine and Anderson County. The official anniversary is Feb. 11, 1911.

The three men responsible for organizing the bank were former Texas Gov. T. M. Campbell, J. E. Angly and T. M. Campbell Jr. They put together a group of 46 investors and raised $100,000 in capital to organize the bank which was originally named Campbell State Bank. Ten years later, Campbell State Bank and Guaranty State Bank merged keeping the Guaranty State Bank name. In 1924, the bank was reorganized as a national bank under the name East Texas National Bank.

During these early years, there were four other banks in Palestine: Palestine National Bank, Royall National Bank, Robinson State Bank and First National Bank. Palestine National Bank was later consolidated with Royall National Bank.

P.W. Ezell was the first president of Campbell State Bank until his death in 1914. Gov. Campbell succeeded him and served until 1917. During this period, times were tough in Anderson County. The area economy was largely based on corn and cotton and cotton was selling for less than 10 cents per pound.

When World War I came, T. M. Campbell Jr. resigned as cashier of the bank in 1917 to volunteer for service in the armed forces. Soon thereafter, Gov. Campbell retired from the bank and sold his shares to J. E. Angly.

J. E. Angly was a native of Upper Alsace, France. He came to the United States in 1888 at the age of 15. He could not speak English when he arrived in New York City. Two years later, he moved to Palestine where he worked for I&GN Railroad for a number of years and also managed the Anderson County Salt and Coal Mines.

The board of directors elected Angly to succeed Governor Campbell as president. He served in that position from 1917 to 1946, and continued as chairman until his death in 1953. During these years, ETNB continued to grow. In 1930, ETNB acquired the Neches State Bank, located in Neches.

N. C. Woolverton took over as president of the bank in 1946. While his predecessor, Angly, guided ETNB through many difficult times, including two world wars and the Great Depression, Woolverton led the bank through many local and industry changes.

In 1949, ETNB established a full service Trust Department. In 1955, a Savings Department was established interest bearing accounts "to promote thrift among younger people."

As ETNB grew through the years, the Board of Directors begin to plan for future expansion. The original bank building was located near the middle of block where ETNB is currently located. In 1959, ETNB began acquiring the adjoining properties to accommodate its additional need for space. In that same year, ETNB purchased the Fadell building, located on the corner of Magnolia and Spring streets. In 1960, ETNB bought the City Barbershop building and the Ash building. The Ash building housed the Palestine Savings and Loan Association. In 1963, the Cartmell Home sold ETNB the building that was occupied by Roquemore's Mens Shop.

The architects for a new bank building were hired in 1963 and construction began in February of 1965. ETNB temporarily moved to the old Royall National Bank building until the new building was completed and opened for business on April 22, 1966.

During its 100 years of existence, eight individuals have served as bank president. They are:

P. W. Ezell (1911-1914)

Gov. T. M.  Campbell (1914-1917)

J. E. Angly (1917-1946)

N. C. Woolverton (1946-1967)

John D. Saunders (1967-1975)

Cad E. Williams (1975-1983)

Joe Crutcher (1983-2007)

Jerry L. Nowlin, Jr. (2007 - present)

ETNB has adapted to numerous changes through the years, including the rapid advancements made in technology over the second half of the 20th century. Despite thes changes and all of the local and national economic ups and downs over  the last century, ETNB remains a locally owned community bank.

Just as in 1911, over 90 percent of the bank is owned and controlled by people residing in Palestine and Anderson County.

**Profiles on Employees**

The bank officers at East Texas National Bank have deep roots at the bank and in the community. The officers at the main office in Palestine have over 240 years of banking experience, with two having over 50 years each. The top three executives of the bank, the co-chairmen and the president, all are graduates of Palestine High School and long time residents of Palestine

Joe Crutcher, a graduate of Palestine High School, began his banking career in 1959 in Houston. His first job was as a teller at MacGregor National Bank. After promoting through the ranks at several banks in the Houston area, Crutcher was hired in 1969 as president of Citizens State Bank in Hempstead. He held that position for a year before he was asked to come back to the Houston area and serve as president of Friendswood Bank in Friendswood. Crutcher ran the bank in Friendswood during a period of significant growth for the bank and the surrounding communities. In 1981, Friendswood Bank was acquired by Texas Commerce Bank. Crutcher

relocated to Lubbock to work for Texas Commerce Bank for the next two years. In 1983, Crutcher was asked to return to his home town to serve as President of East Texas National Bank. He served in that capacity until 2007 when he took the position of Co-Chairman of the Board.

Cad E. Williams, a graduate of Palestine High School, attended the University of Texas at Austin. After graduating from UT and fulfilling his military obligations, Williams began his banking career in 1961 at Capital National Bank in Austin. He then worked at City National Bank for nine years achieving the position of Senior Vice President and a seat on the Board of Directors. Between 1971 and 1975, Williams served concurrently as CEO of Texas State Bank and University State Bank. Williams joined the Board of Directors of ETNB in 1972. It was in 1975, however, that Williams returned to his hometown to serve as president of ETNB.  He became Chairman of the Board in 1983 and continues in that position today.

Jerry Nowlin Jr. graduated Palestine High School in 1991. He attended the University of Texas at Austin earning his bachelor's degree in finance. He attended law school at Baylor University School of Law and graduated in 1997. After working as an attorney in Austin for a couple of years, Nowlin returned to Palestine in 1999 to run the Trust Department for East Texas National Bank. He held that position until 2007 when he was promoted to bank president.

Other long time employees of East Texas National Bank include Betty Germany (29 years), Jane Mathews (31 years) and Susan Callahan (28 years).