



(Daily News photo by Dick Dillon)

SITE OF NEW BANK — Ground breaking ceremonies this week for the new Wilton Manors National Bank at 26th St. were attended by this group of officials. In the front row, left to right, are Earle Middleton; Albert J. Heinnermann; John E. Morris Sr.; Clarence

Riggs, president of the city council; Charles Saxer, councilman; and George Richardson. In the rear row are John E. Morris Jr.; Frank Starling, councilman; Charles McKirahan, architect for the project; Stanley J. Martin, contractor; and E. L. Gainer.



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Wilton Manors Topics

01/12/56

By VIRGINIA ROGERS

Residents here now have around-the-clock police and fire protection. Starting at 11 p.m. Tuesday, the police department radio station, 2197 Wilton Dr., went into operation with P. J. [Tmyl] Terrill as night dispatcher. Terrill was appointed by Mayor Frank Starling pending council action.

"The police department will now be open 24 hours a day," Chief Richard Beaney said. "Call Logan 4-1000 day or night. Fire, water department and police vehicles will all be radio controlled."

BICYCLE SAFETY CLUB

Bike owners still have a chance to join the Optimist Bicycle Safety Club here. Driver's tests will be given at Hagen Park from 10 until noon each Saturday through Jan.

As far as we know this is the first and only bicycle safety club in Florida," Foster McCarl Sr., club director, said. "We want every boy and girl cyclist under 16 to join in the fun."

Starting Feb. 1, there will be events every Saturday—picnics and races. A "rodeo" with trophies and cups for the winners and the awarding of a bicycle to the boy or girl earning the most points by April 31 will climax the year's activities. Club members bringing in a new member get 10 points."

BANK ELECTS

C. D. Dyal Jr. was elected president of the Wilton Manors National Bank at the board of directors meeting Tuesday. Dave Turner, retiring president, is now chairman of the board of directors; Charles C. Burton Jr., cashier, Dwight L. Rogers Jr., vice president.

Directors for 1956 remain the same: John E. Morris Jr., James C. Dean, C. D. Dyal Jr., J. D. Hawkins, A. J. Heiennemann, J. Morgan McJunkin, Earle L. Middleton, Dwight L. Rogers Jr., Edward W. Smith Jr., Dave Turner, and Fred Williams.

Reporting to the stockholders, Burton said the first eight months were "most encouraging." Net loss has been reduced to \$431.76, and deposits have increased steadily. On Dec. 31, 1955 the bank had \$3,167,420 on deposit.

The new president, C. D. Dyal Jr., 1541 NE 27th St., moved here last March to become executive vice president of the bank. He was formerly vice president of the First National Bank, Orlando. He is married and has two daughters, Nola, six and Dee 3.

FIRE NEWS

After fighting two fires in Collier City west of Pompano for several hours Monday, Fire Chief Wallace Wakely notified the County Commission that the Wilton Manors station would have to make Race Track Rd., the South Pompano boundary, their northern fire-call limit. While returning from Pompano firemen discovered a brush fire on Race Track Rd. and were fighting the third out-of-city fire when the alarm came in via radio that the area surrounding St. Clements Church was on fire. Although one truck is always kept inside the city, high winds and dry brush jeopardize the city when the men are too far away, Wakely said. No damage was reported.

PTA POSTPONED

Due to cold weather and conflicting events, the Wilton

Manors PTA meeting is postponed from tonight until February. A panel discussion on juvenile delinquency is planned.

RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Election of 1956 recreation board officers, postponed because of cold weather, will be held Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Hagen Pavilion. All delegates are urged to attend.

KIWANIS INSTALLATION

The fifth annual Kiwanis banquet and installation of officers was held Tuesday night at Bahia-Mar Yacht Club. Robert Pryor succeeded Louis Menefee as 1956 president. Other officers are Ed Claggett Jr., first vice president; W. Bryan Davis, second vice president, and Carl Hellpen, secretary-treasurer. Installing officer was Judge J. E. Newell, Division 10 lieutenant governor. Guest speaker was G. Harold Martin, past governor.

GIRL SCOUT HONORED

Betty Riebling, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Riebling, 2400 NE Eighth Ave., has been chosen as one of four Broward County senior Girl Scouts to attend national encampment at Pontiac, Mich., next June. Betty, a Scout for eight years, is a member of Mrs. Robert Newton's Troop 36. She has been

working hard for two years to qualify for the Senior Roundup, where 5000 top Senior Scouts will pitch camp for the 10-day program. First alternate is Mary Hildebrandt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Hildebrandt, 1700 Coral Gardens Dr., also of Troop 36.

Ft. Lauderdale Daily News
4-B Thurs., Jan. 12, 1956

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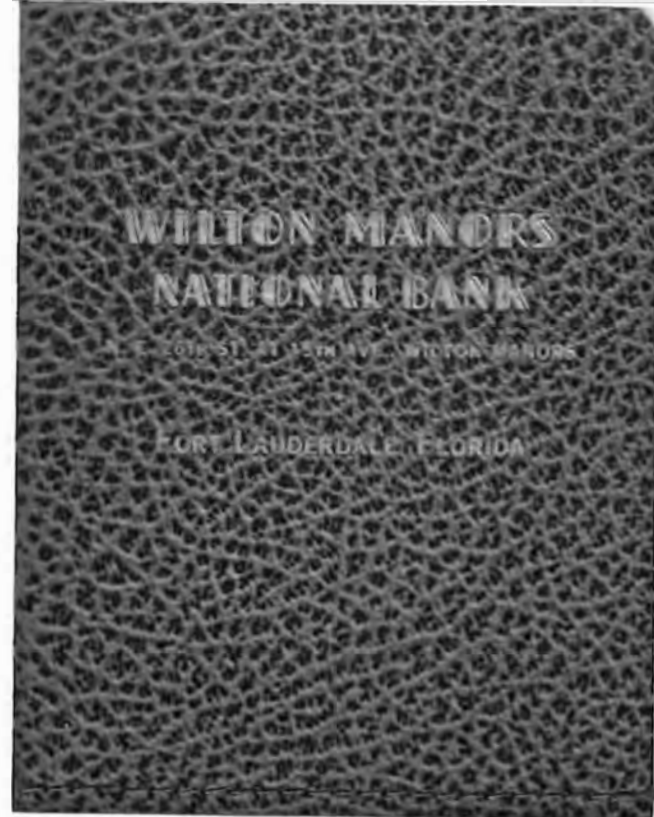


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REAL ESTATE TAXES are exacted by the county and the city in which you live and in most counties are billed separately. Taxes are assessed as of Jan. 1 each year. Taxes are due and payable on Nov. 1 and become delinquent if not paid by March 31 of the following year. County taxes are payable at the Collectors Office, County Court House, and city taxes, if billed separately, are payable at the City Hall. A discount applies if taxes are paid in November (4%), December (3%), January (2%) or February (1%).

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION is a unique factor in Florida. It has interesting ramifications, but is primarily designed to exempt from taxation the first \$5,000 of the assessed value of your home providing such home is actually your homestead; that is, not entirely rented as income property, nor used only a fraction of the year as a vacation home. It must be your primary residence. Homeowners 65 years of age or older who have been permanent residents of Florida for five years prior to Jan. 1 may apply for \$10,000 exemption. Application for Homestead Exemption must be made every year between Jan. 1 and March 31 at the office of the County Tax Assessor, Court House. In some counties the value of Homestead Exemption is taxable, but at a reduced rate.

WIDOWS AND DISABILITY EXEMPTIONS—Widows are allowed an additional exemption of \$500 (does not apply to divorcees). Every person who is a bonafide resident of Florida and has been disabled in war or by misfortune is entitled to a \$500 exemption. The disability exemption does not apply for reasons of ill health or old age. An application for either of these exemptions must be filed with both city and county assessors between Jan. 1 and March 31 of every year.

INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RETURN must be filed and paid by each resident by June 30 to avoid penalty. This tax is based upon stocks, bonds, annuities, notes and accounts receivable (except U. S. Government and Florida Municipal Bonds) owned as of Jan. 1. The rate is \$1 per \$1,000. A discount applies if taxes are paid in January or February (4%), March (3%) April (2%) or May (1%).

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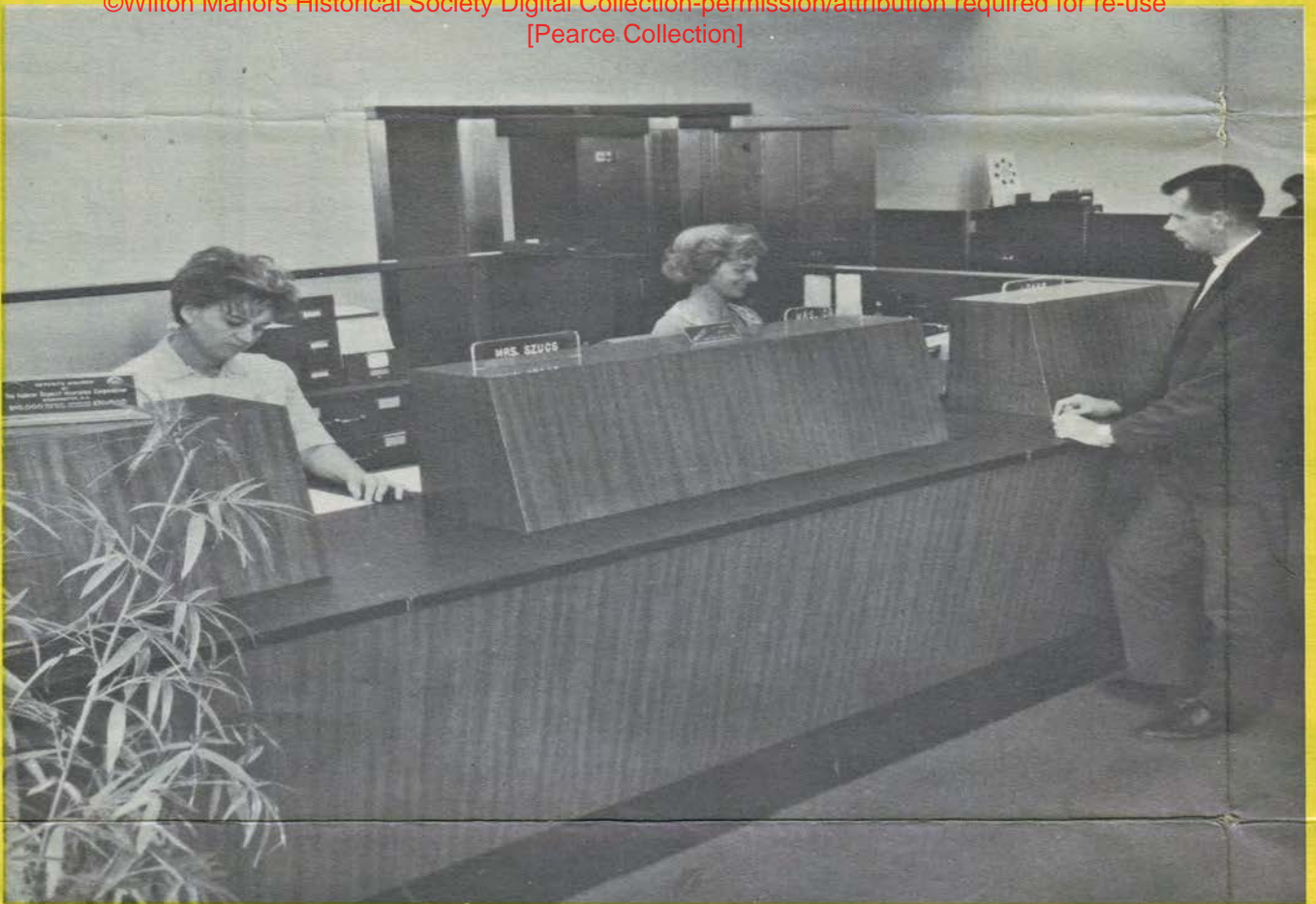
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Page 2 The TRIBUNE Thursday, April 24, 1975

Wilton Manors Celebrates 20th for local bank



OPENING DAY — This was the scene at the Wilton Manors National Bank on its opening day back on April 29, 1955. Those mid-calf length dresses are a sure give-away to that era in our history. Now the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, the bank is celebrating its 20th Anniversary on Tuesday, April 29 with an all-day celebration.

Back in 1947, Broward County was still a comparatively rural, quiet, uncrowded place. There were still a few more years of this rather leisurely living yet to come.



Standing by one of the most popular cars in 1955, the Chevrolet convertible, is a couple straight out of the Elvis Presley era — with the girl's bobby sox and saddle oxfords and the fellow's pegged jeans, argyle socks, rolled-up sleeves, turned-up collar and duck hair-do. Bringing back the memories are Kathy Mitchem, secretary, and John Riley, Assistant Cashier.



GROUNDBREAKING TIME — Founders and officials of the Wilton Manors National Bank dug in and turned the first spades of earth back in December of 1954 to signal the start of construction of the new bank.

That was the year some folks living on the northeast edge of Fort Lauderdale decided to make their little city an official city. So, they incorporated and kept the name of Wilton Manors. And little it was — some 87 freeholders and about 300 people — total.

Actually, the city was given its name 25 years earlier by the early settler and developer of the area, E.J. Willingham. It was in the early 1920's that Willingham decided to honor his wife by giving his new town his English wife's maiden name of Wilton — adding Manors to complete it.

After the city's incorporation, things went along rather quiet-like for three or four years, and then things began to happen. For one thing, a lot more people were moving into Wilton Manors. By 1955, the population had soared to some 5,000. That was also the year the city got its first and only bank. In December of 1954, ground was broken on NE 28th Street at 15th Avenue.

It was on April 29, 1955 that the Wilton Manors National Bank opened its doors for business. It was a small bank — just nine employees and only two drive-in teller windows. But, it was the fulfillment of a dream for Clay D. Dyal, Jr., the bank's founder, along with his associates and charter directors: James C. Dean, J.D. Hawkins, A.J. Heinermann, J. Morgan McJunkin, Earle L. Middleton, John E. Morris, Jr., Dwight L. Rogers, Jr., Edward W. Smith, Dave Turner and Fred M. Williams.

The growth pattern in Wilton Manors continued at a rapid clip, but under the guidance of the city



Assistant Cashier Virginia M. Pearce currently holds the record at the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors with over 18 years of service. Ralph F. Dellinger, Cashier, has been at the bank close to 15 years.

fathers and officials, the growth was orderly controlled. While the expansion on all sides of the city proceeded at a frantic gallop, Wilton Manors somehow appeared not unlike an oasis of calm in the midst of a stormy sea.

And so it was at the bank — pacing its growth in tune with that of Wilton Manors. At the conclusion of 1955, the bank showed total deposits of \$3.16 million. Ten years later, the deposits had more than tripled — reaching \$16.5 million. And at the end of 1974, the total was almost tripled again — coming to \$47.16 million. Meanwhile, the people still kept moving into town, with the current population in Wilton Manors at around 15,500 and about 99 per cent of its usable land used up.

The staff has now grown to 85. And now, 20 years later, 19 of the original checking accounts are still active, while eight of the savings accounts begun on opening day back in 1955 are still there.

A look at the longevity of many on the staff at the bank would indicate they like where they are. Ten years after the bank opened, four of the original

SUN BANK OF WILTON MANORS, N.A.

TO: Lou Tiller

RE: Plans for the Implementation of Branching

The Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, N.A. has received approval from the Comptroller of the Currency to open a one-mile remote facility. When open, this facility will be operated as a branch office and as such will provide a more convenient location for existing customers of the main bank office. All policies and procedures regarding loans, operations, personnel, etc. will conform with the existing policies and procedures of the main bank office. Under these circumstances, many of the questions contained in the Branching/Consolidation Questionnaire do not specifically apply.

1. One remote facility to be opened as a branch located at 3363 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, Florida - tentative opening date - March 1, 1977.
2. Virginia Pearce, Branch Manager, responsible for approving both Installment and Commercial Loans and overall functions of the branch.

Barbara Kohlhorst - new accounts and secretarial duties.

Betty Recher - functions of the Docutel, Commercial Loan Department and Paying and Receiving Teller.

Debbie Simmons - functions of the Docutel, Collections and Paying and Receiving Teller.

3. Four employees chosen from the present staff at the main bank and all cross-trained. See job descriptions listed in question #2 above.

4. Non-applicable to our situation.

5. All employees chosen for the remote facility have been cross-trained at our main bank and continuing training will conform with the training program of Sun Bank of Wilton Manors.

6. (a) All accounting will be done at the main bank with the branch having its own center number for identification.
(b) Same as (a).
(c) Branch customers requiring these services will be handled at the branch office as necessary.
(d) Same as Accounting, checks will have identifying code number.
(e) Non-applicable - will be handled by the main bank.
(f) Handled by the main bank.
(g) Handled by the main bank.
(h) Will be controlled by the Accounting Department of the main bank.
(i) The Branch office will have credit files on all of their loan accounts.
(j) Loan applications will be handled through the Credit Department in the main bank.
(k) Processed at main bank.
(l) Will be accomplished under the supervision of the Marketing Officer of the main bank.
(m) Under the direct control of the branch manager.
(n) Processed through the main bank.
(o) Processed through the main bank.
(p) Processed through the main bank.
(q) Processed through the main bank.
(r) Processed through the main bank.

7. (a) Present forms being used by the main bank.
(b) All equipment will be the same type as the main bank.
(c) Charges and fees for banking services will be standardized.
(d) Standardized
(e) Standardized
(f) They will conform with the main bank.
Lobby - 9 AM - 4 PM Monday through Thursday
9 AM - 7 PM Friday

Drive-Ins - 8:30 AM - 6 PM Monday through Thursday
Walk-Ups 8:30 AM - 7 PM Friday
Tubes
(g) Work cut-off time will be 4 PM.
8. (a) Oakland Ridge Office will have one loan officer with a \$10M unsecured lending limit.
(b) All loan applications submitted at Oakland Ridge Office that exceed the loan limit of the lending officer will be presented at the Finance Committee each Wednesday for prior approval.
(c) (1) Credit investigation will be done at the main bank on the Telex.
(2) Credit files on branch customers will be maintained at branch office.
(3) Payments received at the branch for loans originating there will be applied and sent to Proof Department at the main bank daily.
(4) Controlled at branch office.
(5) Credit inquiries will be accepted at either main bank or branch and cross-checked.
(6) Loan collection will be handled at the branch on all loans originating at the branch.
(7) Large credit extensions will require prior approval and credit investigations will disclose all related borrowing between main bank and branch.
9. (a) Each department will have a telephone for incoming and outgoing calls.
(b) Arrangements have been made to provide the branch office with one line to the main bank and one outside line.
(c) Separate listing for branch office in both telephone and bank directories.
10. We have a complete written security plan including robbery, bomb threat, extortion, etc. New employees are informed of these in the teller training program. An addendum will be made for the branch covering specific situations for the branch office.
11. (a) Processed through the main bank.
(b) Questioned signatures will be verified through use of the Quip machine. Account balance inquiries and holds can be handled by telephone to the main bank.
(c) Controlled through analyzation of large deposit print-out.
(d) Certificates of Deposit can be redeemed at the branch office even though the Certificate was not issued there. This is possible because of centralized accounting and processing.
(e) Centralized at main bank.
(f) Centralized at main bank.
(g) Close proximity of main office and the availability of cash shipment does not require a large cash reserve. Cash will be held to a minimum.
(h) Ordering of coin and currency will be done at main bank and transported by Wells Fargo to branch office.
(i) Cash letter corrections will be handled at the main bank by our central Proof Department.
(j) Balanced and maintained at each branch office.

11. (k) Inter-office deliveries will be done by an individual from the main bank on a regular basis.
(l) Proof functions will be centralized and teller corrections will be handled by the telephone or inter-office delivery.
(m) Stop Payment orders will be telephoned to central bookkeeping when received with supporting documents transported to main bank through inter-office delivery.
12. See attached addendum.
13. n/a
14. n/a
15. n/a
16. n/a
17. Yes
18. n/a
19. Documents requiring the bank's corporate seal will be sent to the main bank daily.
20. A separate Occupational License will be required for the branch office since it is located in the city of Oakland Park, Florida.
21. See attached addendum.
22. Virginia Pearce, Vice President
Ralph F. Dellinger, Vice President and Cashier
H. Thomas Johnston, Executive Vice President



Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, N.A.

C. E. LeGette
President

March 23, 1977

Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks
Washington, D. C. 20219

Re: Proposed One-Mile Remote Facility to be located at
3363 North Federal Highway, Oakland Park, Florida
To be known as: Oakland Ridge Office

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 17, 1976 approving the subject facility to be established pursuant to Florida's one-mile remote facility law. Please be advised that we plan to open this facility on April 18, 1977.

It is our understanding that prior to opening we are to be issued a certificate authorizing subject office which should be forwarded to the undersigned.

Please be further advised that it is our intention that this office will offer a complete range of banking services to its customers.

We hope this meets with your approval and if you need any additional information, please let us know.

Yours very truly

C. E. LeGette
President

CEL/e

cc: Mr. Donald L. Tarleton, Regional Administrator of National Banks
Sixth National Bank Region - Atlanta, Georgia
P. O. Box 5647 / Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33310 / (305) 566-7581

BC: Dwight L. Rogers, Jr.
Joseph N. Belflower



Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

Sixth National Bank Region
1510 First National Bank Tower
Two Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Regional Administrator

August 17, 1976

Mr. Charles E. LeGette, President
Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, N. A.
P. O. Box 5647
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33310

Dear Mr. LeGette:

The Comptroller has approved the bank's application to establish a remote facility at 3363 North Federal Highway, Oakland Park, Broward County, Florida.

This approval is granted with the understanding that the remote facility will be opened within twelve months from this date. This approval shall automatically terminate at this time unless prior thereto the expiration date has been extended by this office. If this remote facility cannot be established within the time specified you should submit to this office, sixty days before the expiration of this approval, a written application for an extension of time, setting forth in detail the factors causing the delay and justifying the requested extension.

Please advise the Washington, D. C. Office by letter, with a copy to this office, two weeks in advance of the definite date on which the remote facility will be established and furnish us with its exact address, including street number, and the popular name by which it will be known. The Comptroller's Certificate authorizing its establishment will be issued when that information has been received. In no event should the remote facility be opened for business until you are informed that the necessary certificate of authority has been issued by the Comptroller.

Very truly yours,

Donald L. Tarleton
Regional Administrator of National Banks
Sixth National Bank Region

Sun Bank of Wilton Manors is opening our new Oakland Ridge Office April 17

We are proud to announce that Mrs. Ginny Pearce,
Vice President, will be the Manager of our new office.



Ginny Pearce

For the convenience of our customers in the Oakland Park area, Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, N.A. is opening a new Sun Bank Office April 17, 1977, at 3363 N. Federal Highway, just opposite the Coral Ridge Shopping Center, on the west side of the highway.

It will be known as the Oakland Ridge Office. Our new remote facility is offering three drive-in lanes, eight teller stations currently manned by two tellers, installment and commercial loans. You may purchase Cashier's Checks, Money Orders and Savings Bonds.

The Oakland Ridge Office will also feature our SunBanker 24 Total Teller, the 24-hour automatic banker providing eleven banking transactions night and day, seven days a

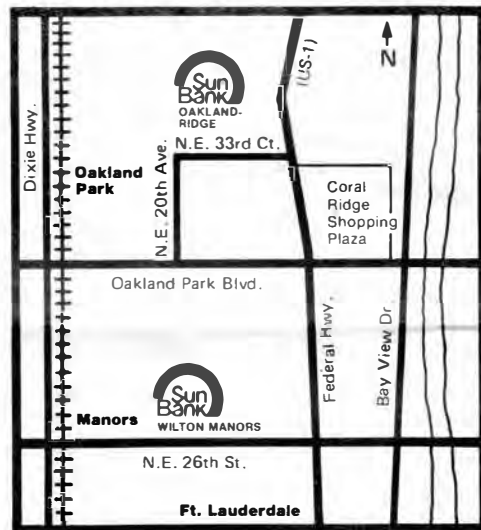
week, Sundays and holidays included.

We are proud to announce that Ginny Pearce, Vice President of Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, N.A., will be Manager for the new Oakland Ridge Office.

Mrs. Pearce, formerly from Maryland, joined the Wilton Manors National Bank, as it was known then, in 1956.

She has worked in every department, giving her a wide variety of experience. In 1974, she was promoted to Assistant Cashier. In 1975, she was again promoted, this time to Assistant Vice President. On January 1, 1977, Mrs. Pearce was promoted to Vice President.

She and her staff are eagerly waiting to open the one-mile remote facility in April. As this office will be a convenience for both new customers as well as present customers of the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, Mrs. Pearce hopes to see a lot of familiar faces at the new site.



Oakland Ridge Office

3363 N. Federal Highway

LOBBY HOURS

Mon.—Thurs. 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Fri. 9:00 a.m.—7 p.m.

DRIVE-IN HOURS

Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 a.m.—6 p.m.

Fri. 8:30 a.m.—7 p.m.

Located on U.S. Highway 1,
also known as North Federal Highway

Opening ceremonies at our new Oakland Ridge Office



Our "kick-off" ceremony, above, was truly a unique event. Fred Pereira of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers (and number 1 draft choice of the entire North American Soccer League) blasts a red, white and blue soccer ball through our opening banner. The ball bears the autographs of every member of the Striker team.



After the "kick-off", Pereira gives Ginny Pearce (Vice President of the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors) the specially autographed ball as Charles Legette, President of the bank, and Dwight Rogers, Board Chairman, look on. The official soccer ball will be donated to a local charity for fund raising by the Oakland Ridge Office.

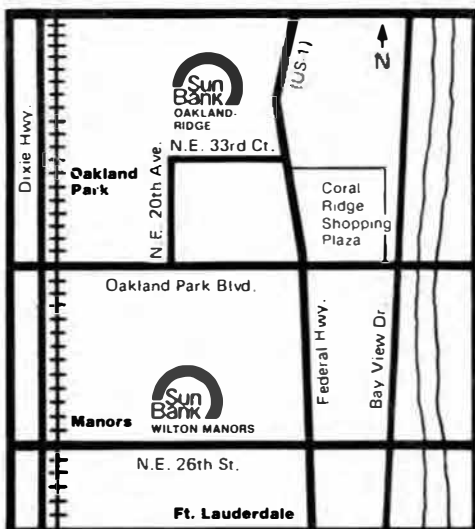


Ginny Pearce, a Vice President of the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, is the manager of the new office. Mrs. Pearce's staff will include Ms. Barbara Kohlhorst, Ms. Betty Recher and Ms. Debbie Simmons.



A. Robert Paulding Associates were the interior designers of the Oakland Ridge Office pictured above. Mr. Paulding commented: "When the customer enters the office, the overall feeling is one of brightness, movement and a feeling of being integrally involved with the Sun Bank system."

The Oakland Ridge Office is located at 3363 North Federal Highway in a 2600 square foot facility which includes seven teller windows inside and three drive-in lanes. The office also has a SunBank 24 machine which gives Sun Bank customers 24 hour banking 365 days a year. The machine is capable of making nine different transactions, plus serving as a night depository which gives affirmation of deposit receipts to businesses which are not able to make their deposits during the regular banking hours mentioned in the President's Message on page one.





Something
New
is up
at Sun
Banks

Meet Our People

"The one facet of banking that will distinguish one bank from another is customer service. We have always offered our customers exactly that, service. And, I'm proud of the folks who will be in our new Oakland Ridge office. Super people. You'll like Ginny, Barbara, Betty and Debbie, as soon as you meet them. They're good people, friendly, genuine."

C. E. Le Gette
C. E. Le Gette
President, Sun Bank of
Wilton Manors, NA

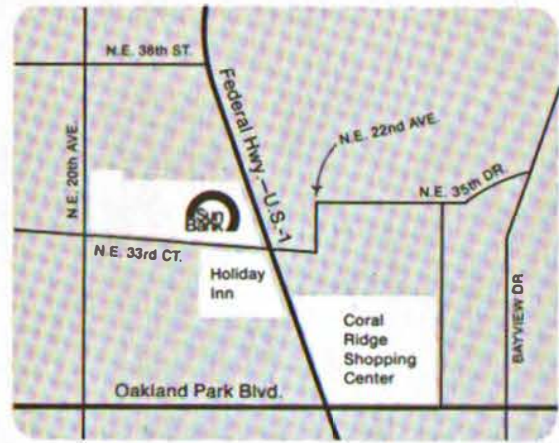


GINNY PEARCE
Vice President and Manager

Ginny joined the Wilton Manors National Bank, now the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors, in 1956. She has worked in every department giving her a wide variety of experience. She was promoted to Assistant Cashier in 1974, Assistant Vice President in 1975 and Vice President on January 1, 1977. Ginny and her husband Pat have a daughter, Sandra, and live in Wilton Manors.

SUNBANKERS.
Good people
working to make
your banking better.

Visit Our New Bank



Located on North Federal Highway (U.S. 1), just north of Oakland Park Boulevard. Offering three drive-in lanes, lobby tellers, night depository, free parking, easy "in" and "out" and featuring Sun Bank 24, the 24-hour automatic banker providing eleven banking transactions night and day.

LOBBY HOURS
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Fridays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

DRIVE-IN HOURS
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am to 6:00 pm
Fridays 8:30 am to 7:00 pm

SUNBANK 24 HOURS
Every day, all day, all night!

SPECIAL GRAND OPENING
(April 17th through April 22nd)

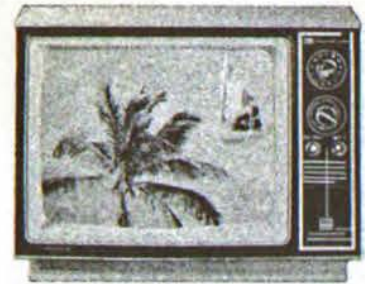
See Bonus Card for details about the
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
Be sure to visit us and
register for free prizes!

REGISTER AT OUR
OAKLAND RIDGE OFFICE
... YOU MAY WIN THESE

Free Prizes

Just estimate how many peanuts there are in the wooden barrel in the new Oakland Ridge Office.

My estimate is _____
(Fill in number)



19" DIAGONAL PORTABLE COLOR TV
First Prize. Featuring high performance, low energy consumption chassis with increased reliability.

BENIHANA DISHES
Second Prize. A complete service for six.

SANKYO DIGITAL CLOCKS
Third Prize. Three to be awarded.

COINS OF YESTERYEAR
Fourth Prize. Five authentic coins in attractive box.

BRING THIS CARD TO THE NEW SUN BANK AND DEPOSIT IT IN THE REGISTRATION BOX, NO OBLIGATION. LIMIT ONE PRIZE PER FAMILY. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M. APRIL 22, 1977. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED APRIL 25, 1977.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____

AUGUST, 1979



This rendering shows what the expanded Sun Bank of Wilton Manors will look like when completed next year. The major renovation and expansion program was necessitated by increased growth and customer service demands. The second floor will house bank operations, including loan and according departments.

\$1.1 Million Expansion Program At Sun Bank of Wilton Manors

A major renovation and expansion program that will more than triple the size of the facilities is under way at Sun Bank of Wilton Manors.

According to Charles E. LeGette, president, the 12-month, \$1.177 million project is being undertaken on the 25th anniversary of the Sun Bank of Wilton Manors.

Total area, including storage space, will be increased from 9,281 sq. ft. to 21,688 sq. ft.

The expansion program will also add over 1,000 sq. ft. to the lobby and customer service area, increase teller windows from 10 to 15, as well as adding two more drive-in banking lanes for a total of 8.

40th Annual Pioneer Day Souvenir Program

October 20, 2012

Cohosted by the City of Oakland Park and
the Oakland Park Historical Society

Wilton Manors Historical Society

Virginia “Ginny” Pearce is a native of Nantucket Island, Mass., and her parents were Raymond and Josephine Smith. Raymond Smith, Jr., is her brother.

She attended high school in Hyattsville, Md., and successfully received her high school diploma upon graduation. After leaving high school, Pearce pursued a work study course at the University of Maryland Department of Agriculture. She also took banking courses at the American Institute of Banking and supervisory and management courses at Sun Bank.

In 1950, she, her husband and their young daughter, Sandra Crews Watson, left Maryland and came to Fort Lauderdale. Her husband, an employee of Southern Bell Telephone Company, was assigned to assist with hurricane cleanup. The family liked the area so well they decided to stay.

In 1970, Pearce moved to Wilton Manors. As a young wife and mother, Pearce frequented the popular Manor Market on Wilton Drive for its excellent selection of local produce, poultry and beef. In 1953, Manor Market’s owner, Lamar Braddy, needed someone to help in the store’s office and convinced her to work part-time for him doing administrative and customer service.

Pearce worked for Manor Market until 1956. When taking the market’s deposits to the newly built Wilton Manors National Bank, she often ran into the bank’s president, Clay D. Dyal, Jr., who came to offer Pearce a position with the bank. When she approached Braddy about the job offer he encouraged her to accept this opportunity to realize her potential. In 1956, Pearce began a long and successful career with

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Virginia Pearce. Credit: From Her Collection

another institution that formed the backbone of the Wilton Manors community

Pearce began as a teller, and held progressively more responsible positions, accepting assignments in every department. In 1974, she became the first female officer of the bank. That same year, the community was saddened to learn of the death of Dyal, who was widely recognized for approving

loans to many successful local business leaders.

On May 1, 1974, the bank was purchased and renamed Sun Bank of Wilton Manors. To better serve the needs of its ever-increasing customer base, the bank’s first branch was opened in 1977, across from Coral Ridge shopping center. Pearce was tapped to serve as branch manager and promoted to vice president. For that time, this was considered a

remarkable accomplishment for a woman in banking. Pearce enjoyed over a decade as manager of the Oakland Ridge Branch Bank. Later she moved into private banking and retired after 33 successful years in the banking profession. Sun Bank became today’s SunTrust Bank in 1995.

In addition to her active work schedule, she has held officer positions with the North Broward Chapter of the National Association of Bank Women and has served as secretary to the Wilton Manors Police Civil Service Board. She also served as a junior achievement advisor and bank representative to the Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

Pearce remarried in 1968, to Richard “Pat” Pearce, a native Floridian. They purchased a home in Wilton Manors in 1970, and established a swimming pool service and repair company that remained in operation until Mr. Pearce’s passing in 2006. Pearce still resides in her Wilton Manors home. ■