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Date: Interview recorded in 2008

Description: Interview with Emery Skillin about bank name changes in Presque Isle

Brian: And what bank was that?

Emery: It was Northern National Bank.

Brian: OK

Emery: And when I first went there, I went - I lived through four, four mergers. Uh, when I went to work it was the Northern National Bank of Presque Isle. Of course that became a dirty word after a while, you know. People were just moving into Aroostook County and it was expanding so. And they had certain loyalties with bankers. And they didn't like that, especially people in Westfield and Mars Hill and all those other places.

Brian: Yeah

Emery: They wanted their own bank. So it just happened that that was the time when there was a lot of expansion. They branched out a lot then. There were branches in all the towns.

Brian: And they changed their name? They dropped the Presque Isle?

Emery: Well, the Northern National Bank of Presque Isle.

Brian: Yuh.

Emery: So then they made a big change. It became Northern National Bank. Because they thought that was not as ominous sounding as, as Northern National Bank of Presque Isle. Especially people of Caribou.

Brian: Right

Brian: It's always been that way

Emery: It's always been that way. So I went to work at Northern National Bank. And then over the years it, it changed to Northern National Bank of Presque Isle first. Then Northern National Bank. Then, uh, Casco Northern Bank. Casco Trust was in Portland and we became part of that. And that was a pretty big bank in Maine and, uh, other parts of the New England area. Then lo and behold another merger came. Became, uh, First of Boston. First National Bank of Boston Massachusetts was buying up banks around here - all over the place. And so we decided after that, boy, that was the end. There wouldn't be any more mergers because there wasn't any bank bigger than the First of Boston.

Brian: Yeah.

Well we found out differently from that. The boys in the back room got smoking their cigars. Wheeling and dealing. A lot of things happening that you don't think are going to happen. So sure enough we were First of Boston. And before we realized it, First of Boston was gobbled right up - into, into big Key Bank. Key Bank was a national - national bank. So I went through four mergers. And it was at that time that I decided to leave because I was getting along in years anyway. I worked there 33 years.