

For more than a century Lyons Federal Bank has proven its commitment to Rice County

A little more than a century ago a group of Lyons men believed that Lyons and the area should be, as nearly as possible, a community largely of home owners, through funds loaned from a financial institution which would provide a safe and profitable place for savings and investment accounts. They formed such an organization, and on March 12, 1913, held the first organizational meeting of the Lyons Building and Loan Association.

Following three name changes, and at least four locations later, the Lyons Federal Bank celebrated its centennial in 2013.

Lyons Federal Bank, then LB&L, began with a capitalization of \$13,500, when 27 local residents made \$500 deposits each. The association was formed as a “mutual,” meaning that there are no stockholders, but the firm is essentially owned by all the customers. What is now Lyons Federal Bank is an institution of more than \$83 million in assets, which includes all deposits, and capital of more than \$10.2 million. The 12 percent capital is above the amount required by federal banking regulations for a healthy organization, and continues to grow as the bank continues its unbroken years of profitability.

In addition to the growth in monetary terms, the institution has grown in physical ways and in services. A branch was established in Ellsworth in 1966, under the Lyons name. In 2007 Lyons Federal Bank acquired the Farmers National Bank (formerly Bushton State Bank) in Bushton, and renamed it Quivira Federal Bank. The association also has a wholly-owned subsidiary, Kansas Central Services, Inc., which recently purchased the Sherman Insurance Agency, and offers a complete line of insurance services.

Over the years the bank’s business has evolved from a lender that was devoted primarily to residential lending to one which is engaged in all forms of consumer and commercial loans, including cars and trucks, machinery, personal expenditures, agricultural land and operating expenses, and livestock.

Lyons Building and Loan, was originally located on the north side of the square, and then on the east side, where Carol’s Corner and Gibson Drug Store, were more recent tenants.

The next location was a new, modern brick building in the 100 block of East Avenue North, just south of the alley and south of the Lyons Post Office. It occupied the structure along with Pulliam Investment Company. It is now the Bush, Bush and Shanelec law offices.

In 1969 another move was made, this time to its present location on the southeast corner of the square, where the Palace Hotel and a car agency once stood. The buildings were torn down and a brand new, custom-designed home was constructed for the financial institution.

When that structure went into operation, the firm had six employees. It now has 17 full-time and two part-time employees, and by 2007 had outgrown its nearly 40-year-old home. That structure was demolished, and the present large new one was occupied in 2009. It has a second story community room, complete with a small kitchen; has a fully-staffed drive in window to service two drive-through lanes; and provides a larger teller line, which still features sit-down transactions.

The bank has an automatic teller machine (ATM) located at 201 S. Grand Ave. in Lyons (corner of Grand and Commercial).

The name has undergone three changes. The original Lyons Building and Loan Association was first changed to the Lyons Savings and Loan Association. Then in 1990 it became Lyons Federal Savings Association, and with the move into the new structure, in recognition of its expanded role in all forms of real estate and commercial lending, became Lyons Federal Bank.

It is a strong supporter of the community. It annually awards four-year scholarship funds for the Lyons High School valedictorians and salutatorians from the Don Turner Memorial program; supports local health services in such areas as new equipment; supports youth athletic teams; has made financial donations to Camp Wa-Ja-To and the Rice County Community Foundation, and is involved in a myriad of other community services.

Key personnel are Kevin McClure, president and chief executive officer; Shane Edwards, executive vice-president and chief lending officer; Cathy Shanelec, vice-president and chief financial officer; and Cy Rolfs, vice-president and commercial loan officer.

The board of directors consists of McClure, chairman; Shane Edwards; John Saylor; Dr. Kent Hanson, and Dan Shanelec.

A statement by the institution states “Lyons Federal Bank’s objective has always been to remain a sound institution for our customers’ investment and loan needs. We are proud of the way we are able to meet those needs in a most efficient and friendly way. Lyons Federal Bank is still a locally-owned ‘home-town’ bank with a long history of providing efficient, courteous services to all its customers.”



Built in the early years of the 20th century, the Township Hall in Alden has served as a center of the community. It was renovated in the 70's by almost all volunteer labor including central heat & air, restrooms, and a small kitchen. The hall has been the site for many meetings reunions, parties, and other community functions. The second floor, once a lodge meeting area, now displays items from the many uses of the Township Hall during its long history.

A short history of Alden

Alden originated in the manner of many western towns; land was homesteaded along the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad and ultimately the population increased until a trade center was feasible. One of the first to settle in the community, where the town of Alden was later to be established, was Mr. S.C. Klady who bought an eighty at the east side of the future town site in 1878 after the railroad had been laid through the site in 1872.

Alden was named after the son of Mr. Nickerson, the division superintendent of the AT&SF. The original city of Alden was established in 1881. During that year, Gideon Steinmetz gained permission to subdivide and sell lots on the land one block east and one block north of a cafe he was operating at that time. In the ensuing years, the additions of Steinmetz, Mudge, and Werner became part of the little city of Alden.

Alden flourished in its trade area for nearly half a century, although the population probably was always well below five hundred people. During its heyday, Alden boasted a hotel, a hat shop run by Miss Fanny Proffitt, a telephone office, an automobile agency, a livery stable, several hardware stores, a cold storage locker, blacksmith shops, several service stations, a funeral parlor and furniture business, a drug store, a number of grocery stores (one of these was a J. S. Dillon store, perhaps the first Dillon store), at least four doctors at different intervals of time, several cafes, a creamery, a public library, the Mazda theater, a newspaper, and a bank (one of the oldest banking concerns in Rice County).

Early names included Ross, Stout, Steinmetz, Klady, Mudge, Caywood, Engel, Stewart, Fair, Proffitt, Ward, Werner, Wellman, Nielsen, Parsons, Goerke, Grady, Jeter, Page, Read, Lawson, Frederick. Mitchell, and Isern.

Memories might include: concrete blocks manufactured by S.C. Klady and Sons, the Alden Journal, the Sandhill Sage, Dr. Muir, the Township Hall, Zoe Klady, nostalgic Saturday nights, Maher Drug Store, Alden Mercantile. “Literary Night”, Chautauqua, Possum Jeter, Stella Moore, 1911 fire, broomcorn, PRIDE, school reunions, Alden Farm Supply, and others too numerous to mention.

Alden became active in the PRIDE program in 1973 and annually wins awards for cities of this size. In 1990, Alden was presented its third Pacemaker Award and Governor Finney attended the festivities at the local school in 1991 to celebrate the occasion. Alden is one of only three in Kansas to certify as a Pacemaker community 3 times.

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SOMEDAY POLIO WILL BE GONE FOREVER.

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Meets Every Tuesday Noon
at the Lyons Town & Country Club

We are almost there. After twenty years and over two billion vaccinations, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating polio forever. But we can't finish the job without you. Thanks to a challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, your donation will work twice as hard.

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Humanity in motion.

Coronado-Quivira Museum

The Coronado-Quivira Museum in Lyons is one of the best small museums in Kansas. Separate displays focus on early inhabitants, Spanish explorers, the Sante Fe Trail, and the coming of homesteaders and permanent settlers.

Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday 9-5;
Closed Holidays.
Admission: Adults \$2.00, Children 6-12 \$1.00 FREE for Rice County Historical Society members and Rice County residents

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