

October 20, 1978 “One Moment in Time”

By Nathan Wilson

If I asked you what was the most memorable time, that one moment in time, that stood out to you as the most important in Weston, Missouri's history what would you answer? Tabacco, the Civil War, Applefest; if you asked me I would probably be a little biased and say that it was in October of 1978 near the intersection of forty five and H Highway just outside of downtown Weston, Missouri. Before 1978 the land was a flat piece of potential, but on a summer day in June of 1979 a new bank was finally completed and would begin serving the anxious Weston community. Why is this new bank so significant in Weston's history? This new branch was not just any new branch of a large federal bank across America. This Bank was the new home branch of the Bank of Weston, and it to this day serves as a crowning achievement of the city of Weston's perseverance and its community despite all the hardships dealt to us throughout the years.

The late seventies were a time of change in America. Disco's fame was being consumed by pop rock. Home computers were just starting to become affordable to the average consumer. The Bank of Weston was no exception to this dramatic change in our culture. By 1978 the Bank of Weston had grown so large that a new branch's construction was presented to the Bank's board of directors. The small original location downtown constructed on April 4, 1893 no longer served the needs of the Weston community. Parking, a drive through, and more office space was needed to meet the bank's growing demands of the modern age. The Missouri Division of Finance on July 28, 1978 approved the Bank's plan to move its main location from downtown Weston 421 Main Street to 800 Highway 45. This decision would forever impact the course of Weston, Missouri.

Later that same year on October 20, 1978 my grandfather and respective colleagues on the board of directors convened the ceremonial groundbreaking for the new bank. This bank today still serves as the current home branch of the Bank of Weston that my family has had the honor of owning since 1926 when my great grandfather Emmett C. Wilson took over after Judge C.D. Hall. By June of 1979 the new bank had been completed. Retrofitted with the highest security of the time, the new home branch of Weston was everything the bank and the community had ever wanted. Weston now had a modern fully functioning main branch to serve the community, and it has stayed that way ever since. I may have never known my grandfather Roger well (he died when I was young) but I am sure it would please him greatly to see the crowning achievement of his career still up and running strong.

As the years progressed the Bank of Weston would be tested. Multiples downturns and recessions in the U.S. economy (not to mention the recent government shutdown) have threatened to end the small bank. However, instead of people taking their money and running as was the case in the great depression, people held firmly to their trust of the local family owned Bank. As a result the Bank of Weston has thrived building three additional branches up to the modern day. The reason I considered the current home branch's construction to be that one moment of time of importance is because it showed that Weston was not going anywhere. Weston was prospering, growing and expanding, and was not about to become some forgotten historic ghost town on the Lewis and Clark trail. The groundbreaking of the new branch signified that Weston was going to live on for years to come.

Mine and my brother's story in the Bank of Weston has yet to be fully written. For two years I have worked as a CSR (Customer Service Representative) more commonly referred to as a teller. Although I have greatly enjoyed working there, I am not quite sure my moment in

Weston's time is destined with the family bank as my occupation. However, that was not the case with my grandfather; the bank was his life, and he served the people of Weston well in his moment of time. Throughout the years the bank's deposits totaled from a measly \$ 159.25 on its opening to over one hundred million dollars today. I can only imagine what the bank will grow to become in the following years but one thing is for certain. Almost everything that I know the Bank of Weston and its legacy to be today came from the construction of the bank on H highway on October 20, 1978 "One Moment in Time".

Miller, Sandra. *Memories of Weston, Missouri A Visual History - 1837 to 1992*. Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing Company, 1993. Print.