



Post Office and Bank Artifacts At The Old Jail Museum

The enterprising folks of the Old Jail Museum in Vienna always seem to come up with novel ways to display the old artifacts that are left in their care. The latest innovation is the interesting way they have devised to display the interior facades of the Maries County Bank and the Vichy Post Office within a newly remodeled structure on the Old Jail property. Instead of merely putting these historical artifacts out in an open area for simple display, museum officials have constructed attractive rooms within what once was a large, single open area. Several rooms so seamlessly incorporate the bank and post office facades that visitors immediately sense they have actually walked into the old Vichy Post Office and into an earlier day of the Maries County Bank.

The post office display, which includes not only the customer counter but the boxes as well, came to the Old Jail Museum after the current post office there was constructed. Modern fixtures were installed in it and there was no longer a need for the older unit. Incidentally, this historical window unit and accompanying boxes originally came to Vichy from Belle when newer fixtures were installed there.

attempt to open the boxes because the combination temporarily had been forgotten.

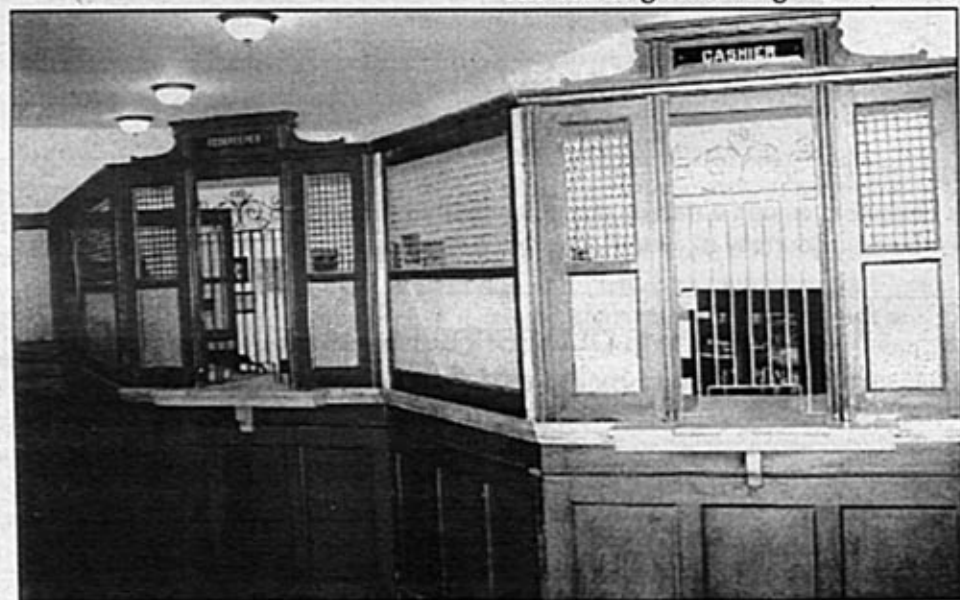
The current Vichy site continues to operate today as a third class post office. This is no small accomplishment, as many other communities of similar size have lost their post offices due to consolidation and closure. The first post office in this Maries County community was created on Dec. 13, 1880, with John W. Holloway appointed its postmaster.

The very interesting Maries County Bank teller counter apparently hasn't been in use since 1961, when it was replaced at the bank by more modern fixtures. Upon walking into the room housing the unit, visitors may excuse themselves if they expect to hear a teller or cashier ask, "May I help you?"

Maries County Bank cashiers and their years of appointment are as follows:

John Coates, 1900
L. W. Hawkins, 1915
W. H. Holmes, 1919
George Cansler, 1921
Lloyd Nichols, 1939
Travis John, 1954
Jeff Duffin, 1968
Lawrence Buschmann, 1992
Terry Snodgrass, 1998

The building containing the venerable



Many visitors to the Old Jail Museum building housing this display will recall having used post office boxes like these with their combination locks. People who have used these kind of boxes may remember times when it took more than one

bank and post office fixtures also houses many other things. Various other rooms are dedicated to displaying religious artifacts of Maries County, school fixtures, military memorabilia, as well as other interesting historical items.

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