

IBSC Community Bank of the Month

Seven in '07 is how Scott Blackmon describes **Arthur State Bank's** expansion plan for Columbia. By the end of next year, Blackmon says as often as possible, the Union-based bank's local footprint will be firm, having grown from a toehold last summer. Arthur State opened its first Midlands branches, on Beltline Boulevard and Garners Ferry Road, at the start of 2005. Next was a Gervais Street branch. The bank soon will open another two locations and has plans for two more. Before moving into Columbia, Arthur State was primarily an Upstate bank. Most of the lender's 19 branches are in Union, Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Part of Blackmon's job is to help J. Carlisle Oxner III, president and chief executive, fulfill his plans to turn the family-controlled, privately held institution into a statewide bank. For Blackmon, a veteran of several large regional banks, the role of helping a small community bank expand is also a personal mission.

Arthur State finished 2005 with deposits of \$398.4 million. That was a 16 percent jump from the \$338.8 million reported a year earlier. The state average for deposit growth was about 12 percent during that period. Blackmon said these results hardly reflect the potential of Columbia's market. Arthur State still has tight limits on how much it can lend. The bank has about \$513 million in assets. But Blackmon said that still gives him the ability to make plenty of loans to small businesses. For Arthur State, which got its start in 1933 making small business loans in the Upstate, continuing that tradition means focusing on the customer. It's apparent when customers call the bank. Blackmon's boss, Oxner, does not allow any employees to have voice mail. When a customer calls, they will reach a person. The same is true for employees. This is something Rhonda Hughey, a loan officer, says makes a smaller bank like Arthur State more nimble and adaptable to market conditions. And chief executive Oxner, she added, seems to know all 200 or so employees. Blackmon helped Oxner get a start on his banking career, hiring him at C&S. Now Blackmon is happy to wind down his career working for his former employee.

The State, March 23, 2006.

***A.C. English Retires***

Andrew Carl English, President of the Bank of Clarendon, has announced his retirement. "A.C. personifies who the Bank of Clarendon is to so many in our community. His honesty, integrity and his dedication to the people of our area are what make him an outstanding banker and a remarkable friend. The banking industry and Clarendon County have been fortunate that A. C. has dedicated his life to making a difference in the lives of his clients, colleagues and his community. I feel confident that he will continue to use his many strengths and talents to contribute to the community in his retirement years.", said Bill Buyck, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank. Mr. English will remain as a member of the Board of Directors and will also maintain a consulting position at the bank.

Mr. English is a 1959 graduate of Manning High School and graduated from Wofford College in 1963. After two years of service in the United States Army, he began his tenure at the Bank of Clarendon in 1965. In 1975 he was named Executive Vice President of the Bank of Clarendon. During his career as a banker, he completed the South Carolina Bankers School, the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University, the Commercial Lending School at the University of Oklahoma, and the Senior Bank Officers Forum at Harvard University. He was named President of the bank in 1997 after the retirement of Mr. Howard Elkins.

Mr. English has been active in virtually all civic organizations in the county. He was a founding member of the Clarendon School District Two Education Foundation and is currently a Commissioner of Central Carolina Technical College. In 2005, Mr. English was named Business Person of the Year by the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce. He has always been very active in the Presbyterian Church of Manning, serving on the Personnel Committee, the Finance Committee, and as an Elder in the church. Mr. English has also been very active in banking organizations within the state. He has served on various committees of both the Independent Banks of South Carolina and the South Carolina Bankers Association. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Independent Banks of South Carolina Association in 1996 and served as the organization's President in 2002. Upon Mr. English's retirement, J. Barry Ham will be named the new President of the Bank of Clarendon.

Bank of Clarendon, March 1, 2006.

IBSC Members Appointed to ICBA Committees

Independent Community Banks of America 2006 standing Committees were appointed following the Convention in Las Vegas. The following South Carolinian's were appointed to Committees:

Curtis Tyner; Bank Services
Charles Laffitte; Marketing
William (Bill) Stevens; Tax
W.C. Bennett; Nominating
Chris Smith; Marketing

Committee Members will visit the Congressional Delegation from South Carolina during the 2006 ICBA Joint Committee Meetings scheduled for May 21-24, in Washington, D.C. at the J.W. Marriott Hotel.



THERE'S STILL TIME!
2006 IBSC BANK OFFICER
CALL TRAINING SEMINAR, PART II
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006
10:30 AM – 4:30 PM
THE SUMMIT CLUB
1301 GERVAIS STREET, 20TH FLOOR
COLUMBIA, SC



INDEPENDENT BANKS OF S.C.
 PO Box 1184, Irmo, SC 29063-1184
 Phone: 803.798.0670 or 800.438.7103
www.ibsc.org

Announcement

Bank of Travelers Rest announces the promotion of Sarah R. Wales to Internet Department Manager. Wales is a graduate of Bob Jones University and has been with the bank for three years.

Bank of Travelers Rest, March 15, 2006.

Incentives for Banks

A Senate Finance subcommittee has approved tax breaks for banks that are similar to tax incentives other industries already receive. The breaks are needed for a deal involving South Financial Group, which announced last week it would add 600 jobs as it expands its corporate headquarters in Greenville. South Financial, the parent company of Carolina First Bank in North Carolina and South Carolina, is spending \$100 million on a new facility. The legislation says S.C. banks are eligible for incentives for new jobs, new construction or the establishment of corporate headquarters.

The State, March 25, 2006

IBSC Calendar

April is "Community Banking Month"

Thursday, April 27, 2006
Officer Call Training Seminar Part II
The Summit Club
Columbia, SC

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 @ 10:30 am
Board Meeting
Association Office
Columbia, SC

Wednesday, July 26, 2006 @6:00 PM
Board Meeting
The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

July 27-30, 2006
IBSC Convention
The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

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