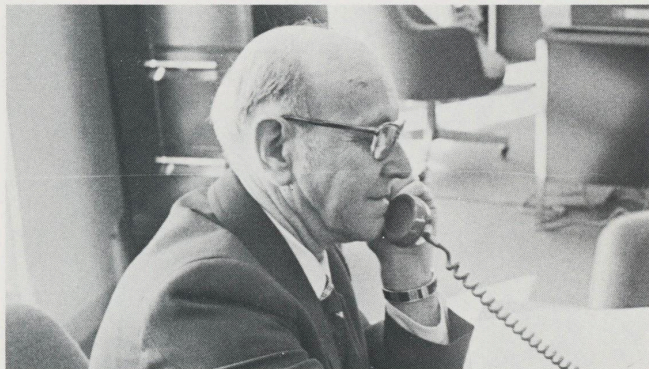


Dudley Arthur Dutton

1913-1987

Dudley Dutton retires after 49 years



Retiree Dudley Dutton says he’s enjoyed helping customers along the way.

Months before the stock market crash in 1929, Dudley A. Dutton joined Meriden National Bank as a part-time runner. Both he and Meriden National survived the Depression very well, although Meriden National “retired” through merger with CBT in 1946, and Dudley retired just this month.

“No one was really aware of the impact of the Crash,” Dudley remembers. People he knew didn’t have much money in the market. But it was rough going during the Depression and during the Bank Holiday, when President Franklin Roosevelt closed all the banks for a time to prevent failures.

“Many people lost their jobs,” Dudley recalls. “Then, when others were let go, I had to take on their work, sometimes putting in 50 or 60 hours.” This included Fridays until 8 or so, and Saturdays until 2, staying after to do posting, which, of course, was all hand done. As a bookkeeper, no, he never wore an eye shade. “In fact,” he says, “I never wore glasses until the writing on the rate charts became so small.” There was no overtime in those days, but Dudley says that he enjoyed coming to work because the challenge was so big. “There was so much to learn,” he says.

In certain ways they worked harder years back, as Dudley remembers it. But, today, it’s more difficult to satisfy the public. It’s interesting that he notes this, for it sounds as though years ago, banks went to great effort to satisfy the public. For example, the head bookkeeper used to call all NSFs every day, 20 or 25 of them, so that they could run in with their deposits.

The biggest change, of course, has come with computers, which have come hand-in-hand with more complicated problems, including laws which make lending and general operations more difficult.

Dudley has enjoyed his lending experience, finding every loan application different. During interviews, he found learning about customer operations interesting. “I enjoyed helping a lot of them along the way. It’s satisfying to see them grow and prosper.”

Dudley became a lender with a good background in operations, as he held most branch jobs. When he returned from World War II (“Everybody was taking coffee breaks — that was new to me.”), he continued as head teller. After the merger, he became an assistant treasurer, and, in the Fifties, an assistant vice president. Most of his career was spent at East Main (which happens to be near the site of the Meriden National).

During those years, he was active in the community in Meriden, with two terms as president of the Chamber of Commerce, 26 years as treasurer of Kiwanis Club and four years as treasurer of the Visiting Nurses Association, plus participation in numerous drives, such as that of United Way.

Dudley insists he’ll take it easy now — no more calls about the night deposit not working. While he’ll miss the association with the employees, he’ll be busy with his wife, daughters and grandchildren. He says he also has “a million” tools in the cellar and will be busy going into spring, painting his house and caring for his garden.

“Maybe I’ll enlarge the garden,” he says. “Nothing like fresh vegetables. I like to see things grow.”

Somehow that sounds like a loan officer nurturing the potentially good business of an interesting customer.

Name:

Dudley A Dutton

Occupation:

ASSISTANT VICE
PRESIDENT

Industry:

COMMERCIAL BANKING

Marital Status:

Married

Birth Date:

27 Mar 1913

Birth Place:

Connecticut

Address:

210 CHARLES Street

Residence :

Meriden, Connecticut

Death Date:

3 Nov 1987

Death Place:

Meriden, Connecticut

Age:

74 Years

Spouse:

Dorothy

Father's Surname:

Dutton

