

2020 in Review, a message from David M. Ryan

Santa Trivia

The holidays are here!

Did you know St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of banking?

How about a quiz with other Santa facts?

1. Artists have portrayed St. Nicholas more times than any other saint, except _____.
2. Before the modern Santa Claus became popular, Scandinavian countries believed in a magical _____.
3. According to historians, the first mention of Mrs. Claus was in what short story from 1849?
4. You may leave milk and cookies for Santa, but in Austria the tradition is to leave what?
5. In what city and state was a man legally named Santa Clause elected to the city council?
6. What poem introduced the sleigh and reindeer, Santa's mode of transportation?

Greetings Friends,

Well, here we are, the last month of the year known as 2020! It certainly seems like much of this year has been out of our collective control. Lots of news and information overload and collateral damage comes to mind as we've weathered another election year, a world-class summer storm, and finally COVID-19's unrelenting attack on our physical bodies and personal and business assets.

But all is not lost. 2020 has been extraordinary in many ways, and as I sit here in my office, I am reminded how

thankful I am to have been surrounded by such quality people at work and within our community.

The word courage comes to mind when I think back to March and April and watched everyone blindly jump in and do their part when so much was unknown about COVID-19. Local outreach to local restaurants comes to mind. So does the processing of millions of dollars in aid to our small businesses and friends through the Paycheck Protection Program, along with various stimulus packages that provided support.

Moving from spring to summer, courage seemed to turn into dependability. We had plenty of work and plenty of work obstacles, yet everyone went about their lives in dependable hard-working fashion. Surprisingly, the Derecho, the storm of the century, took our minds off the pandemic for just a while ... and there you went again, helping families, friends, and neighbors dig out and clean up in record time.

I suppose we all deserved to rest on our laurels a bit in late summer as it appeared (at least for a short while) the worst of everything was behind us ... and sure enough, the pandemic reared up in late October/early November and showed it wasn't done with us yet, with record numbers of cases and hospitalizations. The amazing work of our healthcare service industry shall never be forgotten as they double downed, put their own health on the line, and are slowly bringing our collective nation back to good health.

And let's not forget that during all of this, the jobs in Eastern Iowa have remained plentiful with many businesses still searching for help



December Events

Christmas Hours

Christmas Eve
Thurs., Dec. 24
Bank open until noon

Christmas Day
Fri., Dec. 25
Bank CLOSED

New Year Hours

New Year's Eve
Thurs., Dec. 31
Bank OPEN

New Year's Day
Friday, Jan. 1
Bank CLOSED

Santa Trivia Answers

1. Mary
2. Yule goat
3. "A Christmas Legend" by James Rees
4. Beer and sherry
5. North Pole, Alaska
6. "A Visit From Saint Nicholas," Clement Moore's 1822 piece now commonly referred to as "Twas the Night Before Christmas"

Longtime Teller Retiring

After nearly 28 years of local banking service, teller Jan White is retiring at the end of the year.

"I'll miss everybody," Jan said.

Jan arrived at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust on Feb. 1, 1993, first working in the bookkeeping department. A couple of years later, she began her tenure as a teller.

Jan's banking career began in Albia and continued in Des Moines before her arrival in Mount Vernon.

She said she has enjoyed getting to know customers – and that happened right away.

Not long after her start at Mount Vernon Bank & Trust, she went on a Friends Plus trip to see Holiday on Ice in Illinois. It was a great way to get to know customers, she said.

And she got to know them well.

The group encountered an ice storm on their way back to Mount Vernon-Lisbon and spent the night at the truck stop in Walcott until roads were safe to travel.

Jan said she has lots of memories about working here – namely, the customers and coworkers.

"I've really enjoyed working here," she said.

Jan has three children – a daughter in North Carolina, a son in Des Moines, and a son in Mitchellville – and one grandson.

Congratulations on your retirement, Jan!

Thank you for your years of service to Mount Vernon Bank & Trust Company!



2020 In Review ... FROM FRONT PAGE

as we speak. Additionally, those investing in local real estate or the broader equity markets have fared very well in 2020. There is much to be thankful for....and I'm always humbled and reminded what an honor it is to be able to give thanks to those who admire, love, and care for both past and present this time of year.

I remain incredibly thankful for the creative and gallant efforts of the Mount Vernon and Lisbon citizenry. What a great place to call home!

Please be safe for the remainder of 2020, and work to find the good in the coming weeks and months ahead. Special thoughts and prayers to our co-workers, family, and friends who have been negatively impacted by Covid-19 recently ... may you recover soon!

Take care everyone; and we'll see you in 2021!

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