

CORNERSTONE LAID ON FINE NEW BANK

Event Was Unannounced and Took Place This Afternoon at 2 O'clock Promptly.

NEW BUILDING IS ALBANY'S FIRST FIREPROOF STRUCTURE

First Banking Building of the First National Bank Located Near Fortmillers.

Quietly and without any previous announcement, the cornerstone of the new 5-story building of the First National Bank of this city which is now under course of construction at the corner of First and Broadalbin streets was laid this afternoon at 2 o'clock, an event of no small import in the history of this city.

The big block of sandstone which marked the corner of the city's finest structure was leveled and swung into position this afternoon by Messrs. Sandstrom and Shahan and after it had been leveled and trued to its position, the ceremony of laying the cornerstone occurred.

The building being erected by the First National Bank of this city is Albany's first fireproof class A constructed building and is a type that will be used in the buildings in the cities of the future. Eugene as yet has no fireproof buildings and Salem has but two, outside of the state building.

This is the third building for the First National Bank. The first building stood on the site of the Masonic Temple, just adjoining on the East the undertaking parlors of the Fortmiller Furniture Co. This building was a one-story brick and was erected by Mr. John Conner, the president of the bank, in the fall of 1871, and designed exclusively for the use of the bank.

It was later torn down to make room for the Masonic Temple. The present building was erected by Judge L. Flinn in 1888.

The new building will be one of the finest and best equipped bank buildings in the state. The lower floor will be occupied entirely by the bank, the second floor is to be devoted to legal offices, the third floor to physicians and dentists, and the fourth and fifth floors to general offices.

Within the cornerstone a sealed box was placed in which were the following documents to be opened and read by future generations, perhaps centuries hence:

A copy of the November issue of the "Land and Bush Quarterly" containing an article on the history of the First National Bank of Albany; a list of the officers, directors, employees and stockholders of the bank; a copy of the published statements of the bank; a copy of the published statements of condition of the First National Bank, the First Savings Bank, J. W. Cusick and Co. Bankers, and the Albany State Bank; a copy of the Herald Democrat, Pacific Banker and the New City charter; a letter head of the bank and a wooden "banking hint"; some pictures of the present building from and of the bank's "Hib"; cards of the Brayton Engineering Co., W. F. Tobey, architect, the Hercules Sandstone Co., and Messrs. Sandstrom and Shahan; and last and not least a copper penny.

First National Bank Cornerstone



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