

magazine, or browse through the current week's Cooper County Record or the various sale bills lying on the customers' table.

Les Carey meets his customers in a small, carpeted office with a glass wall at the front of the bank which some of his customers have jokingly named the "sweat box." He sits behind a glass-topped, wooden desk surrounded by file cabinets, bookshelves, typewriter, and telephone. A clutter of papers overflows his typing table and occupies one corner of his desk.

Mr. Carey usually comes to work about 8:30. He works at the bank until four o'clock, or five o'clock, or sometimes even six o'clock. Frequently he works at home on Sundays and holidays. He explained, "There is a considerable amount of work I do at home; there is no way to get it all done here."

Mr. Carey looks like a banker. A tall, slim, white-haired man with grey-blue eyes behind black-rimmed glasses,

he is undoubtedly the only man in Bunceton who wears a shirt and tie to work every day. Like executives everywhere, he carries a briefcase. It contains work from the office; in addition, it conceals a brown bag lunch.

Except for a brief stint as an insurance agent, Mr. Carey has been a banker since 1937 when he began work as cashier at the Bank of Speed. In 1947 he joined the staff of the National Bank of Boonville as executive vice-president. Mr. Carey came to the Bunceton State Bank in the fall of 1961. He was cashier and executive vice-president before being elected president in 1973. He retains ties with his previous bank employers, remaining as a director of both the Bank of Speed and the National Bank of Boonville. In addition, he has been president of the Bank of Speed for the past ten years.

Mr. Carey views the bank as a service institution. "There are only two institutions more valuable to the community than the bank: the church, of course; the other is the school."

The customers of the Bunceton State Bank are a varied lot. The largest number, of course, are farmers. Others include community businessmen, students, and retired persons. All of these customers have differing financial needs.

Mr. Carey explained, "If you are going to be a successful small town banker, you have to be a tax man; you have to know something of legal

terms. You must be a psychologist, too. You get many inquiries. You listen. Frequently you must give a word of advice, a word of encouragement."

In 1961 when Mr. Carey came to the Bunceton State Bank, the bank's total assets

were one million dollars. On June 30, 1978, the total assets reached five million dollars. Mr. Carey is understandably proud of the bank's growth. He emphasized that the bank has been successful because of a civic-minded board of directors, hard-working, faithful employees, and very loyal customers. "We are a small bank. We know it and we act like a small bank. The bank does everything it can to help the community. We do things for our customers that bigger banks don't do."

The son of Charles S. and Tabitha Ann Burrell Carey, Leslie Ray Carey was born in Speed, January 20, 1906. He attended grade school in Speed, high school in Boonville and Bunceton,