

Biography - Ames

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Home Federal's founder retires

By DUANE DOZIER

Of the Herald-Republic

After 35 years of heading the business he started in Yakima 35 years ago, John G. "Jack" Ames has retired as president of Home Federal Savings & Loan Association.

His "Number 2" person, Irma Grace Henderson, who has been with the firm since it started, first on a part-time basis and then full-time, also has retired. She was executive vice president of Home Federal.

New president and chairman of the board is Arvo Niemi, Goldendale, who has been a director since 1973. Named acting executive vice president by the directors was Robert Whitney; first vice president, Mrs. J. Hugh (Bette) Aaron; vice president, Karen Bodeen; and acting secretary, C.W. Halverson.

Ames and his wife, Rose, are avid flower lovers and often participate in flower shows and competitions. Ames said he now will be spending more time in the Ames gardens.

Ames was born and raised in Yakima and started business as a bookkeeper with Yakima Federal Savings & Loan Association Dec. 21, 1936. He was promoted to assistant secretary in the early 1940s but left to start Home Federal Savings & Loan Association in early 1946 and organization of the new thrift institution was completed Sept. 23, 1946. Ames was elected president and manager, a position he held until he retired.

Under Ames' leadership, Home Federal grew from one office to a main office with five branches, two in Yakima, one in Terrace Heights, one in Selah and one in Goldendale.

Henderson — Mrs. Chester Henderson — also worked at Yakima Federal. She was with that firm for seven years after college then left to have a family. When Ames started Home Federal, she went to work for him, first at home, doing accounts, then part-time in the office. She became a executive vice president in 1970 and a member of the board of directors in 1971, the first woman to be named to that office.

She has been active in many community and state organizations and is a past president of the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs. She continues to be active in the federation and indicated her retirement will give her more time to devote to federation and other interests.

At the conference, he attended a series of seminars on a wide range of subjects, including business insurance, pension programs and estate planning.

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