

PRESS RELEASE

September 2008

25 Year Time Capsule Opening at Austin Bank in Bullard

A time capsule sealed inside the walls of Austin Bank, formerly First National Bank of Bullard, will be opened Wednesday, September 17th at 5:00 p.m. and displayed to the public.

The year was 1983. Bullard was a small community with a population of 890. Houston Street ran through the small quiet town consisting of a 4-way stop, U.S. Post Office and small school system. There was no building boom going on in Bullard at that time, but a group of business men came together with a vision to build the First National Bank of Bullard at 210 N. Houston. During the bank's construction, they also had the forethought to place a time capsule inside the walls of the front entrance with instructions to open in the year 2008.

The bank opened with eleven Directors: Billy Bacon, John Cowan, Terry Cowan, Martin Z. Sammons, Walter Cook, Thelma Cravy, Comer Hudson, Carl Oates, Jerry Parker, Jack Studdard and E. J. Young. The bank president was Billy Jack Dunklin, and J.C. Rutherford was named executive vice president.

"1983 was a year of cultural changes and far-reaching world events," said Chairman Jeff Austin, Jr. "We are excited about revealing what was stored in the time capsule and what they wanted us to know about their life," commented Austin. "We don't know what is behind the wall but eagerly anticipate seeing the contents."

The public, along with Directors and former employees of First National Bank of Bullard, are invited to attend the capsule unveiling. A reception will immediately follow in the Austin Bank lobby.

Austin Bank, a community bank with headquarters in Jacksonville, Texas, has \$1 billion in assets with 28 offices in nine counties throughout East Texas. More information about the bank can be found at www.austinbank.com.