

## Press Releases

---

April 27, 1999

### OTS 99-24 - Grange Receives OTS Approval to Set Up Full-Service Thrift

#### Office of Thrift Supervision

#### News Release

FOR RELEASE at 10:30 A.M. EDT

For further information

Wednesday, April 27, 1999

Contact: William Fulwider

OTS 99-24

202/906-6913

---

### Grange Receives OTS Approval to Set Up Full-Service Thrift

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 27, 1999 - Grange Mutual Casualty Company, a Columbus, Ohio insurer, has received a federal thrift charter and will set up a full-service thrift institution in Columbus, the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) announced today. Grange Mutual becomes a unitary thrift holding company.

The new thrift, The Grange Bank, will conduct operations in a publicly accessible office in Columbus. It will, however, also market its products and services through the insurance company's network of insurance agents in six states and, to a lesser extent, nationally through direct mail to existing insurance customers, as well as the general public. The product line will emphasize home equity lending, but also will include first mortgage, new and used auto loans and miscellaneous consumer loans.

OTS qualified its approval of Grange Bank with several conditions. Among them, OTS will have to approve any material change in the business plan must be approved by OTS; the new institution must develop and obtain OTS approval of a comprehensive compliance management plan that includes loan underwriting standards for each major credit product; the bank must review annually its loan production to determine the number of loans inside and outside the Columbus metropolitan statistical area; and the holding company and thrift must take steps to ensure that agents who market deposit products make appropriate disclosure to customers concerning insured and non-insured products.

In addition, at least 40 percent of the thrift's board of directors are to be members who are not affiliated with the bank, and at least one member must be independent of both the bank and holding company. Grange Bank, the holding company and all affiliates have to abide by anti-tying statutes and comply with Year 2000 guidelines.

[View Grange Approval Order](#)

###

The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), a bureau of the U.S. Treasury, regulates and supervises the nation's thrift industry. OTS' mission is to ensure the safety and soundness of thrift institutions and to support their role as home mortgage lenders and providers of other community credit and financial services. For copies of news releases or other documents call PubliFax at 202/906-5660, or visit the OTS web page at <http://www.ots.treas.gov>.