

# Ekblom: Low-Key Chief Of European-American

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By DOUGLAS W. CRAY

Harry E. Ekblom, chairman, president and chief executive officer of the European-American Bank and Trust Company, is wasting no time in getting acquainted first hand with the bank's newly acquired personnel and properties.

Late Tuesday afternoon, following the formalities—that paved the way for European-American to acquire the deposits and branch operations of the insolvent Franklin National Bank, Mr. Ekblom took off in a helicopter for a round of visits to Franklin branches on Long Island.

Accompanied by his vice chairman, Klaus Jacobs, Mr. Ekblom sought out branch managers and other employees, assuring them of plans for a "business as usual" policy during the transition period.

At a news conference yesterday at European-American's headquarters, at 10 Hanover Square in the financial district, Mr. Ekblom said he was pleased with the re-

sponse he found at the bank's new branches.

A regular traveller to and from Europe, where his bank's six shareholder banks are located, the native New Yorker appeared calm and cool after a whirlwind day and a long night on Long Island.

Dressed in a light blue suit and smoking an occasional cigarette, in a holder, Mr. Ekblom fielded questions at the hour-long conference in an open and affable manner that suggested long experience with such gatherings. He conceded afterward, however, that he had never before faced such a collection of television cameras and reporters.

## Degree in Law ..

Mr. Ekblom, who is 46 years old, was graduated from Columbia University in 1948 and received a law degree from New York University in 1956. He was admitted to the New York State bar in 1957.

Before joining European-American in 1970, Mr. Ekblom worked for 20 years at the Chase Manhattan Bank. He was a senior vice president in charge of European operations when he resigned in June, 1970, to become a director of both the European-American Bank and Trust Company and the European-American Banking Corporation. Later that same year he was elected president and chief executive officer of the sister institutions. He was elected chairman in March of last year.

Married to the former Elizabeth J. Harkin, Mr. Ekblom lives in Ridgewood, N. J., where he sometimes gets a chance to play golf at the Ridgewood Country Club. The Ekbloms have three children. The oldest, Harry E. Jr., is a junior this year at Colgate University. His father said yesterday that Harry Jr. worked this summer at a bank in Switzerland but that it was too early to tell whether he intended to pursue a career in banking.

Associates describe Mr. Ekblom as a quiet, low-key executive who is a particularly good listener. When he is not traveling—on the average of one week every month either in Europe, Asia or around the United States—Mr. Ekblom is generally in the office by 8:30 A.M. and customarily departs about 6 P.M.

In addition to his duties as European-American, Mr. Ekblom also serves as a director of the Hoover Company, the Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company and Thos. Cook & Son, Inc.