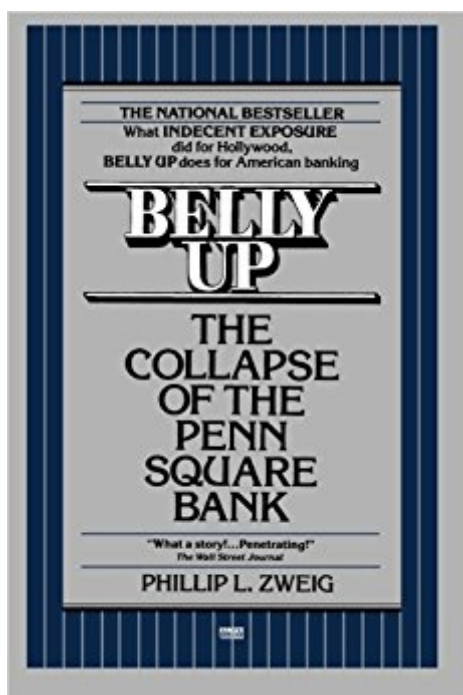


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# Belly Up: The Collapse Of The Penn Square Bank



## Synopsis

No economist could have predicted that the Penn Square Bank, a small, obscure lender in an Oklahoma shopping mall, would become the instigator of a financial charade that would see billions of dollars in loans made on the basis of imaginary oil and natural gas reserves—just as a worldwide oil glut and the repeal of regulatory gas laws were about to pull the rug from under the Oklahoma energy boom. *Belly Up* tells this amazing true story with brilliant reporting, delicious detail, and an unbelievable yet all-too-real cast of characters, from the young geologist who convinced banks to invest lots of money in a huge new source of natural gas to the banker who became notorious for lending money to every con artist and wildcatter with a lease, a rig, and a dream. *Praise for Belly Up*—“*Belly Up* merits a slot on any investor’s literary shelf as surely as it does a Pulitzer Prize!”—*Financial World*—“Investigative reporting at its best.”—*The Baltimore Sun*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Wall Street Journal reporter Zweig details how the Oklahoma City Penn Square Bank went under. PW recommended Mark Singer’s account of the same events in *Funny Money* unless “the reader’s appetite is for unembellished facts, presented in plain prose, of events that are of themselves exciting.” Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Another perspective on PS. Very interesting and well written. Whether it is all true or not, I don’t know. Author keeps it reading almost like a novel.

We lived in OKC during that the timeline of most of the book. Well written and informative.

As a banker who began his career after 1982 it was good to read this bit of bank history. If we do not know our history we are doomed to repeat it.

Mr. Zweig's detailed investigation into the Oklahoma gas boom bubble documents the hysteria that can simultaneously infect sophisticated investors, bankers and the public at large. He carefully leads the reader along the course of the unfolding tragedy. As is often the case in these incidents, one is left wondering how professionals who are accustomed to prudent banking practices become so slipshod. Mr. Zweig answers that question

This is a great book about the rise and fall of a shopping center bank and how it affected money center banks such as Continental Illinois and Seattle First National. It is entertaining, as well as informational. With the current oil and gas boom, Belly Up may include lessons for today. *Belly Up: The Collapse of the Penn Square Bank*

Best book I have read on what really happened in 1982. I live here. I lived it. Should be required reading for any college banking classes.

Great book that is a must read for every banker

Great! I lived through it, and saw the play, knew some of the actors.

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