

and thereby indirectly acquire Central Bank & Trust, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 20, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-4799 Filed 2-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 23, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (Paul Kaboth, Banking Supervisor) 1455 East Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-2566:

1. Citizens Bancshares, Inc., Salineville, Ohio; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of Century Financial Corporation, Rochester, Pennsylvania, and thereby indirectly acquire Century National Bank and Trust Company, Rochester, Pennsylvania.

B. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Karen L. Grandstrand, Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, P.O. Box 291, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. Norwest Corporation, Minneapolis, Minnesota; to acquire 100 percent of the voting shares of First Bank, Katy, Texas.

C. Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (D. Michael Manies, Assistant Vice President) 925 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64198-0001:

1. Bethany Bancshares, Inc., Bethany, Missouri; to acquire up to 100 percent of the voting shares of Gallatin/New Hampton Bancshares, Inc., Albany, Missouri, and thereby indirectly acquire Bank of Gallatin/First State Bank, Gallatin, Missouri.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 20, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-4797 Filed 2-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than March 23, 1998.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. Republic Bancshares, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida; to engage *de novo* through its subsidiary, Republic Bank, F.S.B., St. Petersburg, Florida, and thereby engage in operating a savings

association, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4) of the Board's Regulation Y. The proposed activities will be performed throughout the State of Florida.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, February 20, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-4798 Filed 2-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

TIME AND DATE: 11:00 a.m., Monday, March 2, 1998.

PLACE: Marriner S. Eccles Federal Reserve Board Building, 20th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Proposal regarding a software contract within the Federal Reserve System.
2. Personnel actions (appointments, promotions, assignments, reassignments, and salary actions) involving individual Federal Reserve System employees.
3. Any items carried forward from a previously announced meeting.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Joseph R. Coyne, Assistant to the Board; 202-452-3204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: You may call 202-452-3206 beginning at approximately 5 p.m. two business days before the meeting for a recorded announcement of bank and bank holding company applications scheduled for the meeting; or you may contact the Board's Web site at <http://www.bog.frb.fed.us> for an electronic announcement that not only lists applications, but also indicates procedural and other information about the meeting.

Dated: February 20, 1998.

Jennifer J. Johnson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. 98-4887 Filed 2-20-98; 4:48 pm]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-P

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 962-3211]

Eye Research Associates, Inc., et al.; Analysis to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Consent Agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the draft complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., NW., Washington, D.C. 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judy Shepherd, FTC, Dallas Regional Office, 1999 Bryan St., Suite 2150, Dallas, TX 75201. (214) 979-9383. Matt Daynard, FTC/H-200, Washington, D.C. 20580. (202) 326-3291.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and Section 2.34 of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 2.34), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text of the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for February 19, 1998), on the World Wide Web, at "<http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions/htm>." A paper copy can be obtained from the FTC Public Reference Room, Room H-130, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20580, either in person or by calling (202) 326-3627. Public comment is invited. Such comments or views will be considered by the Commission and will be available for inspection and copying at its principal office in accordance with Section 4.9(b)(6)(ii) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 4.9(b)(6)(ii)).

Analysis of Proposed Consent Order to Aid Public Comment

The Federal Trade Commission has accepted, subject to final approval, an agreement to a proposed Consent Order ("proposed order") from Eye Research Associates, Inc. d/b/a Eye Care Associates, ICKRS, d/b/a/ International Controlled Kerato Reformation Society, and Sami G. El Hage, O.D., the sole

owner and President of the corporations.

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty (60) days for the reception of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty (60) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement or make final the agreement's proposed order.

This matter concerns print advertisements and videotapes provided directly to consumers, and to optometrists for distribution under their own name to consumers, for proposed respondents' "CKR") ("Controlled Kerato Reformation") orthokeratology service ("CKR ortho-k"). CKR ortho-k is an eye care service involving the use of a series of contact lenses purportedly to reshape the cornea gradually for the treatment of myopia, or nearsightedness (difficulty seeing at a distance), hyperopia, or farsightedness (difficulty seeing up close), and astigmatism (blurred vision).

The Commission's complaint charges that the proposed respondents engaged in deceptive advertising in violation of Sections 5 and 12 of the FTC Act by making false and unsubstantiated claims that: (1) CKR ortho-k corrects nearsightedness and astigmatism thereby permanently eliminating the need for all corrective eyewear, including eyeglasses and contact lenses for nearsightedness and astigmatism; and (2) all or most people can achieve normal vision without eyeglasses or contact lenses on a permanent basis if they wear CKR ortho-k devices occasionally or at night.

The complaint further alleges that proposed respondents made false claims that: (1) Four named University studies prove that CKR ortho-k is safe and effective in correcting, controlling, or improving nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism; and (2) consumer testimonials for respondents' CKR ortho-k services reflect the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who receive those services, which experience is that CKR ortho-k patients typically achieve 20/20 vision and no longer need corrective eyewear.

The complaint further alleges that proposed respondents made unsubstantiated claims that: (1) A significant number of people can achieve normal vision without eyeglasses or contact lenses on a permanent basis if they wear CKR ortho-k devices occasionally or at night; (2) all or most people will experience stabilized vision after only a few weeks

or months of CKR ortho-k treatments; (3) CKR ortho-k prevents and reverses deteriorating nearsightedness in children; (4) CKR ortho-k is as safe as contact lens wear; (5) CKR ortho-k is as effective as refractive surgical methods in correcting, controlling, or improving nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism; (6) CKR ortho-k has helped thousands of people achieve normal vision; and (7) CKR ortho-k provides commercial pilots and other career professionals with stable 20/20 vision thereby enabling them to meet occupational requirements for unaided vision.

The proposed order contains provisions designed to remedy the violations charged and to prevent proposed respondents from engaging in similar acts in the future.

Paragraph I of the proposed order prohibits proposed respondents from claiming that CKR ortho-k, or any substantially similar service (defined as any ophthalmic service or procedure using contact lenses or similar devices to modify the shape of the cornea and reduce or eliminate nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism): (1) Corrects nearsightedness and astigmatism thereby permanently eliminating the need for all corrective eyewear, including eyeglasses and contact lenses for those conditions; and (2) all or most people can achieve normal vision without eyeglasses or contact lenses on a permanent basis if they wear devices used with CKR ortho-k or any substantially similar service occasionally or at night. Paragraph I further prohibits proposed respondents from representing that four named University studies prove that CKR ortho-k or any substantially similar service is safe and effective in correcting, controlling, or improving nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.

Paragraph II of the proposed order prohibits proposed respondents from making any representation for CKR ortho-k, or any substantially similar service, about: (1) The number of people who can achieve normal vision without eyeglasses or contact lenses on a permanent basis if they wear devices used with such service occasionally or at night; (2) the number of people will experience stabilized vision after only a few weeks or months of treatments under such service; (3) the ability of such service to prevent or reverse deteriorating nearsightedness in children; (4) the comparative safety of such service and contact lens wear; (5) the comparative effectiveness of such service and refractive surgical methods in eliminating nearsightedness,

farsightedness, or any form of astigmatism; (6) the number of people whom such service has helped achieve normal vision; and (7) the ability of such service to provide pilots and other career professionals with stable visual acuity sufficient to meet occupational vision requirements, unless, at the time the representation is made, proposed respondents possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific evidence that substantiates the representation.

Paragraph III of the proposed order prohibits proposed respondents from misrepresenting the existence, contents, validity, results, conclusions, or interpretations of any test, study, survey, or report.

Paragraph IV of the proposed order prohibits proposed respondents from representing that the experience represented by any user testimonial or endorsement of any service, procedure, or product represents the typical or ordinary experience of members of the public who use the service, procedure, or product, unless the representation is true, and competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiates that claim, or respondents clearly and prominently disclose either: (1) What the generally expected results would be for program participants; or (2) the limited applicability of the endorser's experience to what consumers may generally expect to achieve, that is, that consumers should not expect to achieve similar results.

Paragraph V of the proposed order prohibits proposed respondents from making any representation about the relative or absolute efficacy, performance, or benefits of any ophthalmic service, procedure, or product purporting to treat, mitigate, or cure nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism, unless the representation is true and, at the time the representation is made, proposed respondents possess and rely upon competent and reliable scientific evidence that substantiates the representation.

Paragraph VI of the proposed order requires that proposed respondents: (1) Not disseminate to any optometrist or eye care provider any material containing any representations prohibited by the order; (2) send a required notice to each optometrist or eye care provider who has attended one of proposed respondents' seminars since January 1, 1994 requesting that the optometrist cease using any materials previously received from proposed respondents that contain any claims violative of the order, informing the optometrist of this settlement, and attaching a copy of this proposed

complaint and order; (3) in the event that proposed respondents receive any information that subsequent to receipt of the required notice any optometrist or eye care provider with whom the proposed respondents have an agreement to market and/or perform CKR services is using or disseminating any advertisement or promotional material that contains any representation prohibited by the order, immediately notify the optometrist or eye care provider that proposed respondents will terminate the optometrist or eye care provider's right to market and/or perform CKR ortho-k if he or she continues to use such advertisements or promotional materials; (4) terminate any such optometrist or eye care provider about whom proposed respondents receive any information that such person has continued to use advertisements or promotional materials that contain any representation prohibited by the order after receipt of the required notice; and (5) for a period of three (3) years following service of the order, send the required notice to each optometrist or eye care provider who attends proposed respondents' seminars who has not previously received the notice; the notices shall be sent no later than the earliest of: (1) The execution of a sales or training agreement or contract between proposed respondents and the prospective optometrist or eye care provider; or (2) the receipt and deposit of payment from a prospective optometrist or eye care provider of any consideration in connection with the sale of any service or rights associated with CKR ortho-k. The mailing shall not include any other documents.

Paragraph VII of the proposed order contains record keeping requirements for materials that substantiate, qualify, or contradict covered claims and requires the proposed respondents to keep and maintain all advertisements and promotional materials containing any representation covered by the proposed order. In addition, Paragraph VIII requires distribution of a copy of the consent decree to current and future officers and agents. Further, Paragraph IX provides for Commission notification upon a change in the corporate respondents. Paragraph X requires proposed respondent Sami G. El Hage, O.D. to notify the Commission when he discontinues his current business or employment and of his affiliation with any new business or employment. The proposed order, in paragraph XI, also requires the filing of a compliance report.

Finally, Paragraph XII of the proposed order provides for the termination of the

order after twenty years under certain circumstances.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed order, and it is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order, or to modify in any way their terms.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-4753 Filed 2-24-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Dkt. 9284]

Mesa County Physicians Independent Practice Association, Inc.; Analysis to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed Consent Agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the complaint that accompanies the consent agreement and the terms of the consent order—embodied in the consent agreement—that would settle these allegations.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 27, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be directed to: FTC/Office of the Secretary, Room 159, 6th St. and Pa. Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Baer or Robert Leibenluft, FTC/H-374, Washington, D.C. 20580. (202) 326-2932 or 326-3688.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 6(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 38 Stat. 721, 15 U.S.C. 46 and Section 3.25(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice (16 CFR 3.25(f)), notice is hereby given that the above-captioned consent agreement containing a consent order to cease and desist, having been filed with and accepted, subject to final approval, by the Commission, has been placed on the public record for a period of sixty (60) days. The following Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes the terms of the consent agreement, and the allegations in the complaint. An electronic copy of the full text to the consent agreement package can be obtained from the FTC Home Page (for February 19, 1998), on the World Wide Web, at "http://www.ftc.gov/os/actions/htm." A paper copy can be obtained