Guaranty Bank Is One Of Area’s Foremost

A familiar landmark in Lafayette, the chiming clock of the Guaranty Bank and Trust co. distinguishes a banking institution that has gained recognition both within and outside the area.

Since September 11, 1937, when Guaranty opened for business at the intersection of Jefferson and Congress streets, the organization has made tremendous strides.

Original officers of the bank were T. L. Evans, president; L. P. DeBlanc, vice-president; Isidore Prejean, vice-president; P. Robley Duplex, cashier, and G. J. Guidroz, assistant cashier.

On September 11, 1937, the accounts were: capital, $100,000; surplus, $20,000; undivided profits, $5,000.

As of June 30, 1949, these accounts were: capital, $100,000; surplus, $150,000 and undivided profits, $107,702.21.

Shortly after opening for business, a night depository safe was installed at the Guaranty bank. In September, 1938, air conditioning equipment was installed and in June, 1945, the chiming clock was placed over the bank.

Of the original officers of the Guaranty bank, Evans, DeBlanc, Duplex and Guidroz still maintain their positions. George Arceneaux, now an assistant cashier, has also been with the bank since its founding. Seven members of the board of directors have served continuously since the bank was established.

In November, 1949, F. L. Gauthier was named vice-president of the organization.

Several citations were awarded the Guaranty Bank and Trust co. for the part it played in bond campaigns during World War II.

President Evans has been extremely active in banking circles, both state and national, and served as president of the Louisiana Bankers’ association in 1941-42.