



## Statewide: 1965-87

In September 1965, Deposit Guaranty's board of directors voted to change the bank's charter from that of a state bank to a national bank, shifting the bank's regulatory framework from the state of Mississippi to the federal Comptroller of Currency. Among other benefits, the new federal charter enabled the renamed Deposit Guaranty National Bank to establish branch offices and involve itself in such lucrative fields as real estate and government securities. Deposit Guaranty launched an expansion drive that within six months included the acquisition of Greenville Bank and Trust Co. of Greenville, Mississippi; Mechanics State Bank of McComb; and Lawrence County Bank of Monticello. Energized by these new sources of income, Deposit Guaranty's assets rose from \$338 million at the end of 1966 to \$395 million a year later. Management's early decision to embrace computer technology was vindicated in late 1967 when its new automated Operations Center began processing the bank's financial transactions. An intense promotional blitz led to the successful launch of Deposit Guaranty's first credit card product, the Bank Americard, in mid-1968, and the acquisition of City Bank and Trust Co. of Natchez (1967) and Rightway Travel Agency (1968) signaled Deposit Guaranty's intention to continue expanding in new directions.

In October 1968, the bank's board voted to establish a bank holding company to be named