FIFTY years ago today—July 1, 1863—
The First National Bank of Chicago opened its doors for business. Its progress is typical of the development of Chicago and the vast territory commercially tributary to it. Its policy, built upon the idea of efficient personal service, has enabled it during this half-century to achieve not only a marked growth but also to maintain the very highest standard of banking. From the beginning it has recognized the first principle of good banking—that the interests of its customers are identical with those of its shareholders. The success of one is essential to the success of the other. The facilities of The First National Bank of Chicago are international in scope. Foreign relations, constantly extended during the entire period of the bank's existence, enable it to handle financial business in every part of the world. Small as well as large accounts receive personal and individual attention from officers especially qualified in their specific lines, thus enabling the bank, at all times, to maintain each department at a high standard of excellence. The record of each commercial account discloses the depositor's progress, enables the officers to properly discern his commercial needs and to give him, when desired, financial advice valuable in the successful conduct of his own business. An intimate knowledge of the demands of merchants, manufacturers and other business men has been acquired by the officers of the bank, and in this knowledge is the value of their service—a service that is appreciated by all financial and commercial interests.

With the growth of the national bank came the demand for trust and savings facilities, met in 1903 by the organization of the First Trust and Savings Bank, with a capital stock of $1,000,000. Its early years have been marked by the growth. The bond and trust departments have been equally great and successful. The former offers for safe only such securities as have been purchased, with the discrimination resulting from years of experience, for the bank's own investment, while the latter, under the authority of law, acts as trustee, administrator and in other fiduciary capacities, both for individuals and corporations. The savings department allows three per cent interest on savings accounts. Interest-bearing certificates of deposit are also issued. Special and reserve accounts are given particular attention.

Associated with these banks is the National Safe Deposit Company with $3,500,000 capital. Its vaults are located on the ground floor, and are perfectly equipped for the safe and secret care of valuables. Trunks and other packages containing articles of value are received for storage and receipts issued.

On the basis of efficiency, absolute safety and personal convenience these institutions invite the business of responsible people, confident of their ability to render satisfactory financial service in every conservative form.