

Southland Building Shows Slight Gain

The Southern California construction picture brightened during 1967 as the area's overall volume of building activity surpassed the 1966 level, Security First National Bank reported today.

According to the bank's Economic Research Department, the slight increase is attributed to a substantial come-back in the residential sector and a continuing uptrend in the heavy engineering category.

"Since August, the Southland's total construction volume has averaged slightly in excess of an annual rate of \$4 billion, seasonal factors considered, compared to an average annual rate of \$3.4 billion during the January-July period," Security Bank's report noted.

On the basis of data through the first ten months of 1967, it is projected that actual dollar volume of all building and construction for 1967 will total more than \$3.6 billion, up 3.8 per cent over 1966. Except for 1966, the year of 1967 will be the lowest volume year since 1960.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING—Southern California's residential building during 1967 will total approximately \$1,260,000,000, up 8 per cent from 1966. Valuation of single family home construction, an estimated \$835 million for 1967, will exceed the 1966 level by 8 per cent, while multiple unit valuation, at \$265 million, will be 15 per cent above the previous year.

Expenditures on alterations and additions to residences are expected to decline slightly—from \$165 million in 1966 to \$161 million in 1967.

In terms of dwelling units authorized in 1967, there will be nearly 39,000 single dwelling units and approximately 26,000 units in multiples. Overall, this represents a gain of 11 per cent over 1966, with singles up 7 per cent and multiples increasing 16 per cent.

NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING—Nonresidential building in 1967 will register its first year-to-year decline since 1961. Dollar volume is expected to total slightly more than \$1.5 billion, off 7 per cent from 1966's all-time high of \$1.65 billion.

Security Bank reported that with the nonresidential sector, industrial construction will be the only category to record an increase, reflecting the strong growth by the aerospace and other manufacturing industries throughout the year. Industrial projects worth \$182 million are expected to be authorized in 1967, up 15 per cent over 1966 and the best year for factory construction since 1957.

Commercial construction, which includes stores, restaurants, office and professional building, and warehouses, will total close to \$570 million during 1967, a decline of 2 per cent from 1966.

In the miscellaneous non-residential category, which includes military structures, public and private schools, churches, hospitals, state and federal buildings, total vol-

ume is expected to reach \$775 million, down 15 per cent from 1966.

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION—Heavy engineering construction, the third major sector of the construction industry, has expanded during 1967. Total

value of contracts awarded during the past year is projected to hit a record high of about \$870 million, up 24 per cent from 1966's total of \$701 million and topping the previous high of \$818 million set in 1965.

COUNTY PATTERNS—Ac-

cording to Security Bank's report, eight of the Southland's 14 counties are expected to show increases in overall volume of construction activity during 1967. Of the eight, San Diego County will record the best performance.

Activity in that county in all sectors of construction is

at high levels. In the housing sector, it is anticipated that about 11,800 units will be authorized in 1967, an increase of 60 per cent over 1966. Nonresidential building and heavy engineering construction are moving at record rates. San Diego County's total construction volume

during 1967 will approach \$420 million, highest since 1964.

Los Angeles County is expected to record a slight gain.

During the Middle Ages, the Swedes used skis in warfare.

Bellflower Man to Head Better Business Bureau

E. Thornton Ibbetson, president of Union Development Co. of Bellflower, has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the Better Business Bureau in this area.

Ibbetson succeeds Aaron Schultz, a Long Beach furniture dealer, as chairman of the bureau's board. Other new officers of the board are Harry P. Peterson of Long Beach, vice chairman, and Herbert E. Pyle, division comptroller of McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Co., secretary-treasurer.

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Northrop To Begin New Term

Applications for admission to the spring and summer quarters at Northrop Institute of Technology are now being accepted, according to Stanley L. Schillerstrom, director of admissions at the Inglewood engineering college.

More than 130 courses will be offered in four-year programs leading to the bachelor of science degree in aerospace, electronic and mechanical engineering and in aircraft maintenance engineering technology.

Application forms, Schillerstrom said, may be obtained from the admissions office at corner of Arbor Vitae Street and Aviation Boulevard.

The spring quarter will convene March 25. The summer quarter, which is a full quarter and not a summer session, begins July 1.

Northrop Institute of Technology, a four-year privately supported college, is accredited as a senior institution by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

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