



## Business Activity Steady in December

Southern California's business activity held steady in December to close the year better than nine per cent above the December 1960 level, H. P. Atherton Jr., manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported today.

"The local economy's vigorous recovery from the late 1960-61 recession enabled 1961 to record the second largest year-to-year gain since 1956," Atherton said.

Security's index of business activity for December stood at 234.5 (preliminary), as compared with November's reading of 234.9.

**EMPLOYMENT** in most areas increased, the bank said, with the Los Angeles - Long Beach, San Diego and Riverside - San Bernardino areas ending the year at all-time highs. The last month of the year also marked the first time that the total civilian force in the Los Angeles-Long Beach area exceeded three million.

Unemployment in Southern California increased moderately in December, but it was less than usually occurs from November to December. The total was substantially below the December 1960 figure, when the recession-swelled to

tal was nearing its high point, Security noted.

ACCORDING TO Security's research staff, business failures in the Southland decreased in each quarter of 1961, with the fourth quarter reporting the fewest number of failures since 1959. In all, 1,223 businesses failed this past year; five per cent less than in 1960.

Security reported that department store sales improved sufficiently during 1961's latter half to establish a record year. The new mark was spurred by a healthy holiday increase.

**TOTAL BUILDING** and construction activity during 1961 was valued at \$3,659,000,000 to set a new record for the 10th consecutive year. This was a 4 1/2 per cent gain over 1960.

Engineering construction had its best year, while residential building was high, although not a record level. Non-residential construction declined for the second year in succession, the bank said.

Homebuilding activity rose sharply in the year's second half. A total of 141,950 dwelling units were authorized by building permits, making 1961 the fourth largest year on record, Security said.

## Natural Aspects of State To Be Lecture Subject

Mysteries of the seashore and coastal plains of Southern California will be explored by Torrance residents this spring during a series of lectures at North High School on "Land and Life in California." Specialists in the fields of geography, geology, zoology and life sciences, hydrology and anthropology will present 12 coordinated lectures beginning Tuesday, Feb. 6, at North High.

**COORDINATOR** for the series is Richard F. Logan, professor of geography at UCLA. He will give the introductory, overview lecture on "The California Scene" at the initial 7:30-10 p.m. session on Feb. 6. The series of lectures is sponsored by the University of California Extension.

At subsequent Tuesday evening sessions in Room 228 of the high school, lectures are scheduled by anthropologist Clement W. Meigham; zoologist Kenneth S. Norris; geographers Charles F. Bennet Jr., Herbert M. Eder, John F. Gaines, and Richard F. Logan; soil scientist and engineer Arthur F. Pillsbury and P. W. Furst, co-producer, researcher and writer for "Expedition," a documentary series.

**THE TORRANCE** lectures are part of a long term sequence of lecture courses planned to explore all natural aspects of California and will extend through May 8 when Dr. Logan gives the concluding

lecture on "Modern Man in Southern California." Desert areas, mountain regions, modern cities and other areas will be covered in future University Extension courses.

Torrance residents, curious about the world around them, filled a similar University Extension course to overflowing last fall, so that early registration is recommended, says Dr. Robert Haas whose UCLA Extension department of Arts and Humanities planned the series. Of special interest to teachers, the lectures are open to and intended for the interested public, may be taken for credit or non-credit.

Detailed program brochures are available on request to UCLA, University Extension, (BR 2-6161, station 721).

**Airman Third Class Theodore R. Clayton**, son of Lewis R. Clayton, 18418 Doty Ave., is being assigned to Malmstrom AFB, Mont., for training as an air policeman. He recently completed United States Air Force basic military training at Lackland AFB, Tex.

Airman Clayton was graduated from South High School.

**Herbert S. Wright Jr.**, chief boilerman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Wright of 1250 E. Renton St., is serving aboard the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, currently undergoing a "shakedown" cruise in the Caribbean.

## Garden Checklist

1. In pruning roses, don't leave any of the old foliage on the plant.
2. Cabbage, cauliflower, brussell sprouts, beets, chard, onions, and carrots may all be planted now.
3. Snails and slugs are active in the rainy season, but their control is easy with bait and pellets. Just toss it generously around the garden.
4. Lilies may be planted now. Be sure the drainage is good. They will not do well with too much water.
5. Cyclamen can fill the same colorful role in winter that begonias do in summer. Grow them in pots or in the ground.



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