

Attention Now on North Edwards as Hub of 'Upper Valley' Growth

Attention is now focusing on North Edwards as the hub area in the North Antelope Valley growth pattern. A central location and an abundance of pure water, combined with a close proximity to the \$700,000,000 industrial complex at Edwards has served to spur this new community to the verge of a building boom.

Rated the fastest growing community in Southeast Kern by the Kern County Planning Commission, it is located on U.S. Highway 466. Just a five minute drive south is the Edwards Test and Research Center with its 12,000 workers and annual economic impact of \$83,000,000. Boron, location of the world's largest borate ore mine, lies to the east.

Solid Growth Base

This new community is well prepared for growth. Where a few years ago there were scarcely fifty homes and no shopping center, North Edwards now boasts a modern \$250,000 bowling alley with restaurant and cocktail bar, a large ultra-modern chain super market, several service stores and three tracts of homes. Two major apartment projects totalling 45 units are now completed and one of two trailer parks nearing completion has a swimming pool, play area and carports.

The first phase of the community's development is centered around the multi-million dollar shopping center which now has a bowling alley, super market and service stores already completed. There are tracts with high restrictions now ready for building; all have utilities including paved streets, water, natural gas and electricity.

Bowl Completed

One of the first units to be completed in the new shopping center was the Jet Bowl. It is operated by Joe Fortin who owned a bowling alley in Palmdale prior to his move to North Edwards.

"North Edwards," according to Fortin, "has a number of important factors in favor of its growth." He points to its location, the coming expansion of Edwards and just as important, he says, is the cost of commuting now facing some 8,000 Edwards employees who journey 70 miles round trip a day from the Lancaster-Palmdale area.

There are some persuasive arguments in favor of these commuters moving to North Edwards. The main ones center on very substantial savings on money and time.

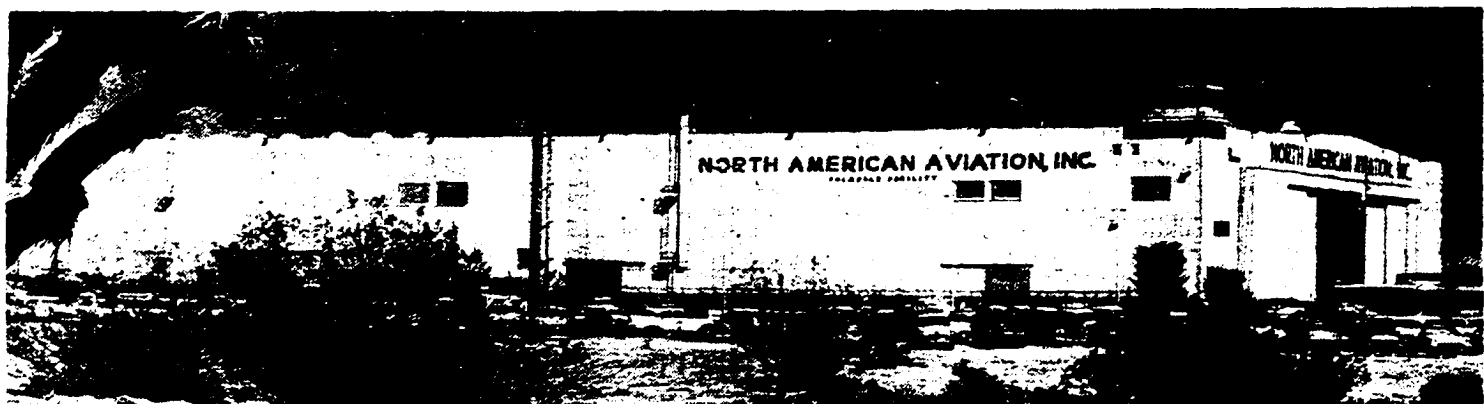
The monthly cost to 8,000 employees traveling 70 miles a day is estimated at \$250,000. This is based on conservative

who moves to North Edwards can be sure of saving upwards of \$12 per month on property taxes over L. A. county, such is the low tax structure in Kern County. Then there is the loss of two hour a day driving time. This spokesman also pointed out that if all base

workers were to move to North Edwards it would mean a city of 50,000. "From now on," he stated, "each additional service in the community will make more and more residents out of commuters." Central location was the

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NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION, Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, is the assembly site of the B-70 triple sonic jet aircraft.

North Edwards Seen as Upper Valley Hub

Continued from Ninth Page prime reason given by the bowling alley and super market operators for starting business in North Edwards rather than adjacent communities. The feeling is that North Edwards is a logical location for industrial development and regional type retail outlets which

wish to serve southeast Kern communities. Also, it is closest to the Edwards Test and Research Center and its employees. The central location was also a primary factor in North Edwards getting favorable consideration in a recent state survey of college sites.

The Santa Fe Railroad

serves the community and highway 466 will be converted to a four lane expressway in three to four years. This will link it with a state and national freeway network while at the same time drawing Southeast Kern Cities into a more integrated economic network.

Mojave, Boron, California City and Edwards will be placed within 15 minutes driving time from North Edwards. In addition to a train depot and bus service, there is ample flat land for

establishment of an airport on the north side of the community where private planes are presently using a dry lakebed.

Reliable estimates indicate that existing water sources could supply a city of 200,000. One public utility well, at 126 feet, was tested officially by the Winthrop Pump Co. at 2450 gallons per minute; 3,500,000 gallons per day. A lab test by the Smith Amory Co. showed this water to be extremely pure and soft, approximately two

times softer than most water in the San Fernando Valley systems.

Water Significant

According to Harry M. Levy, a resident of North Edwards and president of Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency, this fine supply of water gives North Edwards a significant lead, in terms of development, over those communities looking towards the Feather River Project for ample water.

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EDWARDS

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Water from this project is several years away.

A U. S. Geological survey of the Edwards area, released in 1961, reported a large supply of ground water. The Angelillo Report reveals the discovery of an underground lake covering 30 square miles north of Edwards Research and Development Center. This water, according to Angelillo, comes from the eastern High Sierra runoff.

Angelillo reported "more than 1 million acre feet per annum is a reasonably conservative estimate of the volume of water flowing along this fault." This is three times as much water as the Los Angeles Municipal Department of Water and Power takes annually out of the

Owens River and the Mono Gorge.

The enormous diversification of projects at the Edwards Test and Research Center provides a remarkably high and stable level of employment. A huge industrial complex, with a recent valuation of \$700 million, its basic mission is the testing and development of missiles, space vehicles and all types of aircraft.

It houses facilities for many of the nation's largest corporations; General Electric, North American, Boeing, Bendix, Hughes and Douglas to name a few of the more prominent ones.

The recent report that Edwards is to be designated the first land space recovery center in the northern hemisphere will give powerful impetus to large scale expansion at Edwards Air Force Base and consequently bring a building boom to North Edwards.