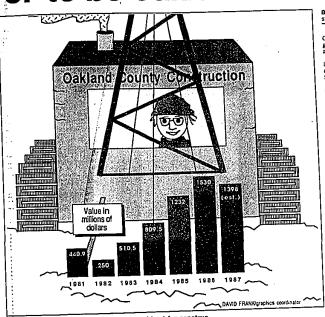
## '87 to be Oakland's 2nd best building year



This year will be Oakland County's second best for construc-tion, according to an estimate by the office of community and

## OCRC, Fessler laud road bills

"THE NEXT GOAL," said Sen. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, "will be reaching a compromise that addresses the needs of both chamber."

bers."
Fessler, as chairman of the Senate
Transportation Committee, and Rep.
Curits Hertel, D-Detroit, his House
counterpart, worked in their committees and as floor managers of the
\$110 million package.

Because of differences in the two chambers' versions, the bills must go to a House-Senate conference com-mittee. "The prognosis for success is excellent," said Fessler. "It is my hope that we can begin negotiations this week with the expectation of

palities under an elaborate formula.

Efforts to give counties power to
levy voter-authorized local taxes
have been unsuccessful. A key loss,
for example, was House defeat of a
bill to allow local units to levy "lim-nect fees" on industrial and com-mercial developers — a variation of
the special assessment for street

paving.

Nor has Gov. James. J. Blanchard softened his position against increasing the state gasoline tax.

NEVERTHELESS, Houghten was

NEVERTHELES, Houghten was upbeat to his review of many efforts to increase road funding.

He citizes will be made to the many of the many

## Santa to visit Children's Village

Santa Claus will make three trips to Oakland County's Children Village this year.

"Group gifts," toys and clothing are being collected for Children's Village, a residential care facility for 213 neglected and shused boys and girls.

"The youngsters in Children's Village are in need of our generosity this bolidsy season," said county Exceptive Daniel T. Murphy, He outlined how civic groups and corporations are helping Santa.

UNDER GROUP

UNDER GROUP gifts, groups
"adopt a building," giving things all
residents of a building, giving things all
residents of a building can use.
These include appliances, sports
equipment, household items and
time to share with children. Greg
Alessi, recreation specialist, coordinates the program by collecting
with lists" from the kids. He can be

Men. if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.



For the construction industry in Oakland County, 1987 won't be as good as a year ago. But it will still be ahead of 1985.

An estimated \$1.4 billion in building permits will be Issued this year,

An estimated \$1.4 billion in building permits will be issued this year, a 9-percent decline from the record ... 3.5 billion of 1985.

"We need a little breather. We're not prepared to handle that kind of growth," said Joseph D. Joachim, theretor of the county's department of community and economic development.

ment.

In 1985 local units across the county issued \$1.23 billion in permits, so this year is the second biggest on record.

"HIGH TECH is more recession proof than manufacturing," said Joachim, explaining Oakland's con-tinued strength.

"Just-in-time" delivery to auto plants means there should be fewer ups and downs for suppliers, he add-ed.

Jack Driker, Oakland's marketing and research coordinator, under-scored those ideas in his 1988 fore-cast.

"If the national economy does well," Driker said, "we look for good performance in Oakland County, Forecasts for the national economy range from flat to strong growth.

"Motor vehicle manufacturing continues to be the beliwether of the area's economy, but the sharp reduc-tion in manufacturing operations

employment since 1980 and dramat-ic growth in technical and other ser-vice sectors have resulted in a stronger, more diversified econo-my."

ON THE BASIS of nine-month re-ports, Driker has made these projec-tions for each segment of the con-struction industry for 1987:

Commercial (retail) — the hot spot at \$53 million, up 5.4 percent from a year ago.

Residential — \$528 million, down less than \$1 million and 0.2 percent from the 1985 level, indicating people are still moving into Oaktland to live.
Industrial — \$74 million, down 38 percent from last year's \$119 million.

Other — \$287 million for the first hine months, up nearly 15 percent from the same period of 1986. This segment includes botels, churches, institutions, amusements places and schools. Many are non-taxable by local government but the still mean jobs for the construction industry and people who work there.

AMONG THE companies building Oakland currently, high technolo-dominates, Driker said.

gy dominates, Driker said.
Under way in 1987 were the
Chrysler Technology Center, BASFLamont, Tachi-S. Engineering U.S.A.
Inc., Starboard Industries, Trevarro
Inc., Mitsubishi Turbo Inc., GKN Automotive Components Inc., Compu-

GE Plastics.
Also Akezo Coatings, Lear Siegler Technical Center, Harvard Industries, American Climfier Corp. Budd Co. Technical Center, Alps Electric Co. (USA) Inc., FEV of America, Stemen's Technical Service Center, Borg Warner Automotive Inc., ITT Automotive Inc., Pentair Corp. and GMF Robotics.

BUT IF THE construction industry is strong, the overall state picture may be waker, according to R. Stephen Nicholson, chancellor of casiand Community College.

"There is a possible executive offer reduction of 3 percent" in state and the warned the board of trustees

so percent from last year's \$224 million.

Office — \$129 million, down 42
percent from last year's \$224 million.

Other — \$287 million for the

in COC's case, state aid makes up
a bit less than one-third of the colamounts to an overall 1-percent cut
amounts to an overall 1-pe

"It will be prudent," Nicholson said, "If we reduce expenditures the next couple of months."

The Michigan Constitution requires the governor to reduce ar-penditures during the fiscal year when it appears revenues are drop-ing. Local units and colleges de-pendent on state aid received a se-ries of executive order cuts in mid-stream during the 1980-83 recession.

Nevertheless, said Nicholson.

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"There's evidence the governor is concerned about higher education," particularly as community college contribute to retraining workers in Michigan's economic recovery.

