

Airport Traffic Skyrocketing

Passenger traffic at Smith Reynolds Airport is growing at an almost unbelievable rate, Louis E. McConnell, airport manager, told the Forsyth County Airport Commission today.

There was an increase of 3,502 passengers, or 17.1 per cent, during the final quarter of 1967, McConnell said.

This was an increase of 11 per cent over the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

General aviation also showed an increase of 10 per cent above the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This was due partly to liberalized provisions of the GI bill with regard to flight training, McConnell said.

A project to strengthen one of the airport runways is 98 per cent complete, McConnell reported. Minor grading work should be finished in a few days if the weather is good. New taxiway lighting is to be installed as soon as the runway work is finished.

A jet blast fence enclosure in front of the terminal is in the bid stage. Construction should begin soon so it will be finished by the time Piedmont Airlines receives its new jetliners in late spring.

New terminal facilities include a telephone counter offering direct line service to hotels and motels and an insurance counter which Mutual of Omaha plans to open March 1.