

ANIMAL SCIENCE



Fig. 1. The animal science building at the right, veterinary science at the left, 1975. The electron microscope is housed in the low section in the foreground. [series 9/3, Animal Science, jf-93]

Erected in 1970 to replace undersized and outmoded research space of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Animal Science Building was financed by the state with taxes on the newly legalized oleomargarine.

Planning for an animal science research facility began as early as 1961, when Assistant Agricultural director R. J. Muckenhirn asked the University for \$2000 in planning money for a future animal science building. At this early date the idea was fixed to combine the research programs of animal husbandry, poultry husbandry, dairy husbandry, and some veterinary science facilities, in a single building. This idea was dropped at that time due to lack of funding.¹

The 1967 legislature passed Assembly Bill 359 which repealed the ban on the sale of colored oleomargarine, instituted a 5.25 cent per pound tax on oleomargarine, and appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$5 million for the construction of an animal sciences building. This legislation was the end product of a long struggle to repeal Wisconsin's 1895 ban on the sale of colored oleomargarine. This fight had been led by state legislators Norbert Nuttleman, and William KasaKaitas, with the support of dean of Agriculture Glen Pound.²

In May 1968, the regents were formally notified that the state had passed a \$5 million appropriation for an animal science building to be funded from a new state tax on oleomargarine. The regents voted to approve a site adjacent to and north of the veterinary science building. It was explained that the building would house the departments of Dairy Science, Meat and Animal Science, Poultry Science, teaching space for Veterinary Science, and teaching space for the new Biology Core Curriculum. In March 1969, the budget for Animal Science was increased by \$275,000 in gift funds to provide for a one million volt electron microscope.³

The facilities intended for the Biology Core Curriculum were deleted from the concept by the regents in July 1969, due to escalating building costs. The regents were told that the new animal science building would not provide research space for veterinary science, but that the building pro-

vided an additional argument for locating the future Veterinary School on the Madison campus. The \$275,000 for the electron microscope would come from a grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH). The facility for the microscope had to be provided by the recipient institution. Originally the grant required these facilities to be ready by the end of 1971. The disruption of the building schedule required to meet this deadline led the University to have the grant deadline extended. Another difficulty with the microscope award arose when Dr. Robert Bock of the graduate school asked the University to request matching funds from the state for housing the microscope, when the previous requests to the state had expressly stated that part of the facility would be funded entirely from gift and grant funds.⁴

The revised preliminary plans for animal science were approved by the regents in January 1970. It would be a ten story building of concrete and brick with an underground connection to the nearby veterinary science building. Considerable discussion followed regarding the microscope grant. Vice president Clodius explained that the NIH was paying for the equipment and for the operating costs into the indefinite future. It was stated that this would be one of only two or three such microscopes in the country, and that it would be made available to all departments of the University. The final plans were approved by the regents without significant change in June 1970.⁵

Construction contracts were let on in August 1970. The general contractor was Vogel Brothers of Madison for \$2.1 million. The total costs were \$5.075 million, with funds coming from the state (\$4.8 million), and gift and grant funds (\$265,000).⁶

Ground-breaking took place on August 24, 1970, the day of the Sterling Hall bombing, an ironic juxtaposition not lost on the day's speakers. No unusual difficulties were encountered in construction and the formal dedication of the building took place on November 3, 1972.⁷

The building is a 248 foot by 178 foot two story base, and a nine story tower section rising to 213 feet. The exterior is sheathed with face brick and exposed concrete. The ground floor houses animal rooms, mechanical systems, the tunnel to veterinary science, offices, and the 25 by 45 foot electron microscope room (which has a special anti-vibration foundation). The 90 by 90 foot tower contains labs and offices.⁸

The animal science building was dedicated on November 3, 1972, with 300 visitors hearing an address by Glenn Pound, the dean of the college of Agriculture in the stock pavilion. Pound especially praised state representative Norbert Nuttleman, and farm bureau director William KasaKaitas for shepherding the legislation that made the building possible.⁹

1) Muckenhern to Peterson, November 22, 1961, Animal Science Building Preliminary Outline Specification, series 24/9/2 box 13.

2) *Laws of Wisconsin*, 1967, chapter 359; The Animal Science Building, Glenn Pound, October 1979, Pound to Boche, October 11, 1968, series 90/80 box 14.

3) *Regent's Minutes*, May 17, 1968, March 14, 1969.

4) *Regent's Minutes*, July 25, 1969; Bock to Clodius, December 19, 1969, Lemon to Bock, December 23, 1969, Sites to Bock, November 11, 1969, Bock to Bray and Sites, November 4, 1969, Bock to Young, November 4, 1969, series 24/9/2-1 box 12. *Wisconsin Alumni Magazine*, November 1972, p. 21.

5) *Regent's Minutes*, January 16, 1970, June 12, 1970; Animal Science Building ... Building Program and Space Needs, January 5, 1970, series 24/9/2-1 box 12.

6) *Regent's Minutes*, August 5, 1970 schedule III.

7) Groundbreaking: Memo to Glenn Pound, August 19, 1970, series 90/80 box 14; *Wisconsin State Journal*, August 26, 1970; *Capital Times*, August 25, 1970; *Milwaukee Journal*, August 25, 1970; Dedication: Animal Sciences Dedication Pamphlet, November 3, 1972, series 80/90 box 14.

8) Animal Sciences Dedication Pamphlet, November 3, 1972, series 80/90 box 14; Plans in the physical plant plans room. *Regent's Minutes*, February 11, 1972.

9) *Wisconsin State Journal*, October 14, 1972, November 4, 1972; Comments by KasaKaitas, November 3, 1972, The Animal Science Building, Glenn Pound, October 1979, series 80/90 box 14.