

DAIRY CATTLE CENTER



Fig. 1. The Dairy Center November 1954, a two story brick and steel center section 25 by 80 feet, with two 140 foot wings projecting to the east and west. The camera is looking east. The silos in the foreground and background show the extent of the wings. [Series 7/7 folder #1, jf-69]

When dean of agriculture Rudolph Froker told the state legislative committee in 1951 that "our present buildings are old, outmoded and totally inadequate" he was not exaggerating for effect.¹ The old dairy barn had been built in 1897 when the idea that agriculture could benefit from research was a quaint new idea. The facilities for instruction and research in the dairy field had barely been altered in the fifty years since the old barn was built. One senator said "It is a rat trap; it is a fire trap; and if it belonged to a private farmer the state fire inspector would condemn it." On May 21, 1951 the appropriation for \$400,000 to build a new dairy building was passed by the legislature.²

Froker and his staff wasted no time. In December 1951 the college of agriculture selected Law, Law, Potter and Nystrom architects for the new building. During the spring of 1952, a site was selected, just to the east of the old dairy barn. On May 16, 1952 the regents approved the preliminary plans. Bids were sought in November 1952. These bids were opened February 4, 1953, and were all over budget and rejected. Changes were made by the agricultural staff; the major changes being leaving the second floor unfinished and eliminating two silos. The second round of bids were opened April 28, 1953, and were under budget. On May 9, 1953 the regents awarded contracts for the construction of the Dairy Cattle Instruction and Research Center. The general contractor was the Vogel Brothers Building Company of Madison for \$174,266.

Groundbreaking took place in the first week of June 1953. Final inspection was done on March 8, 1954. The second floor areas were finished in 1955 at a cost of about \$37,000.

The wings are one story metal shed construction and are the main cattle barns; each has a 60 foot projection to the south to hold hay and bedding material. The center section has a milking parlor on the first floor, with a public viewing window. The upstairs of the center section holds classrooms offices, and an apartment for student operators of the dairy.

1) *The Daily Cardinal*, April 12, 1951

2) *The Daily Cardinal*, May 17, 1951, May 22, 1951. *Wisconsin Alumni Magazine*, July 1951 p. 19. *Regent's Minutes*, December 11, 1954, July 11, 1953. May 9, 1953.