

VETERINARY SCIENCE



Fig. 1. Veterinary Science from Linden Drive c. 1972. [series 9/3, Vet Science, jf-80]

Designed to hold the departments of virology, veterinary bacteriology, immunology, and pathology, housed at that time in makeshift facilities around campus, the veterinary science building was opened in January 1965. The building was funded with donations, state and University funds.

In February 1959, dean of Agriculture R. J. Muckenhirn, asked the University administration for support of an application to the National Institute of Health (NIH), for an \$800,000 construction grant for a Veterinary Science Research Building. Strong support was promised by president Elvehjem. The application to the NIH shows that the department of Veterinary Science under professor and chairman Carl Olson had already done a great deal of planning for the new facility. The department, which included the disciplines of virology, veterinary bacteriology, immunology, and pathology, had been housed since 1953 in the old dairy annex, a small two story building behind Hiram Smith Hall. The crowding was severe. Undergraduate work was done in the basement of the stock pavilion. The grant application proposes a site fronting on Linden Drive, to hold a concrete and steel basement and three story building containing almost nothing but laboratories and their support functions. It was scheduled to cost \$2 million and be ready for occupancy by February 1962. Much of this planning was done by Dr. Arlie Todd.¹

Planning and need were not problems, but funding was. The University was having difficulty obtaining enough state support to keep up with classroom demand for its burgeoning enrollment, and the state was not a likely source of funds for the veterinary science building. The planners decided to

try to raise the funds outside the state appropriation route. The NIH grant application was the first step in this campaign. The NIH responded by making a grant of \$694,000 in matching funds.

The next step was to convince the Wisconsin Foundation to run a campaign to solicit donations for the vet science building. President Elvehjem headed this request, and the foundation began its drive in early 1960, with Mr. James Bie in charge. The campaign aimed to raise \$500,000 by June 1961. They solicited from individuals and from corporations with a stake in the animal food industry. The Foundation published a fund-raising brochure and placed articles in the Wisconsin Alumni Magazine. This drive gained a \$50,000 grant from Eli Lilly, \$21,000 from the Schering-American Scientific Laboratories, as well as many smaller donations.²

In May 1961 the regents voted to donate \$100,000 from proceeds of the sale of University Hill Farm land to the construction of the vet science building fund. The regents discussed whether this meant that the University would have a School of veterinary medicine; it did not. Regent De Bardeleben asked why the building could not be placed on the outlying Arlington farm, and opined that it was unfortunate to use campus land for animals when there was need of it for students. In July the state building commission approved the preparation of preliminary plans for the building, using \$25,000 in Hill farms receipts to pay for the plans. Madison architects Ames Torkelson and Nugent were retained for the building in November 1961.³

The funds from the NIH were delayed in early 1962 and the construction schedule was slipped to start in September 1962 and finish in March 1964. The preliminary plans were approved by the regents at their April 1962 meeting. The expected gift fund were not yet available and the regents considered increasing the Hill Farm donation.

At their August meeting the regents approved the final plans for the veterinary science building, noting that a \$475,000 grant had been obtained from WARF, and that the gift drive was now expected to net about \$130,000. More discussion was heard regarding the relatively high cost of research facilities compared to classroom buildings.

Construction contracts were let by the regents on January 11, 1963. The general contractor was Blaser & Kammer Incorporated of Madison for \$590,700. Total costs were \$1.4 million. The sources of funds were: NIH \$694,206; WARF \$475,000; Hill Farms receipts \$140,000; and gifts \$90,794. Construction was now underway.⁴

Two years later on January 25, 1965, the College of Agriculture held an open house dedication of the veterinary science building, with a keystone address by Dr. Willard Eyestone of the NIH. In April 1965 the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented an award to Ames Torkelson and Nugent for the design of the vet science building.⁵

The building is a 60 by 162 foot rectangle, basement and three stories. It is reinforced concrete faced with brick, and precast concrete panels. It sits nearest the corner of Linden and Elm Drives.

1) University directories.

2) *Wisconsin Alumni Magazine*, July 1960, *Regent's Minutes*, February 8, 1963.

3) *Regent's Minutes*, May 12, 1961, June 6, 1961, July 20, 1961, April 6, 1962, August 14, 1962.

4) *Regent's Minutes*, January 11, 1963.

5) Torkelson to Leonard, April 30, 1965, series 4/0/3 box 188.