

ZOOLOGY RESEARCH



Fig. 1. Zoology Research c. 1965.
[series 9/5, Zoology Research, ns-3148]

In a September 1959 grant application to the National Institute of Health (NIH), department of zoology professor and chairman Lemuel Fraser explains the need for new research facilities. The zoology department was housed in Birge Hall, sharing that building with the department of Botany. Birge was built in 1911 with a large wing added on the west side in 1957. Both departments were severely crowded. There was some discussion of an east wing, but the terrain precluded this option. The proposed building would house all the researchers in Zoology, since that option would free up a great deal of space in Birge Hall. Undergraduate work would remain at Birge. The proposed building would cost about \$1.5 million, and be funded from the \$750,000 being requested from the NIH and an equal amount from WARF. The result of this proposal was the eventual award of \$381,500 from the NIH. In January 1960, the regents voted that the new zoology Research Facility would be located in the block bounded by North Charter, West Johnson, North Mills Streets, and the railroad. They understood that the building would be entirely financed by gift funds. In June 1961 the regents approved the authority to prepare preliminary plans.¹

Planning by Fraser and the architects Kloppenberg & Kloppenberg proceeded through early 1962. In May 1962 the University began to buy land on the site for Zoology Research. The final plans for the building were approved by the regents on October 5, 1962. The regents and the architect commented on the expense and mechanical complexity resulting from the need to house large numbers of animals in the building.²

Construction contracts were let on January 11, 1963, with the general contract going to Anthony Grignano of Madison for \$529,000. Total cost was \$1.5 million, with funding coming from WARF \$750,000, NIH \$381,500, and the NSF \$368,500. Construction took until mid 1964. The department stayed in Birge Hall for only eight years, when the Noland Zoology building was constructed next to the research building.³

1) *Regent's Minutes*, January 9, 1960; Application for Research Grant, September 28, 1959, series 24/9/2 box 13.

2) *Regent's Minutes*, June 6, 1961; *Daily Cardinal*, October 6, 1962.

3) *Regent's Minutes*, May 4, 1962, July 13, 1962, October 5, 1962, January 11, 1963.