

K.U. Campus Master Plan Pegs Expansion Vistas

By Gary Murrell

(The Star's K. U. Correspondent)

Lawrence, Kas.—It has been said that a university is solely a community of scholars. But at the University of Kansas the word "scholar", while highly regarded, has developed a binding kinship with growth, expansion and building.

In the last 10 years, more than 30 million dollars in construction projects either have been completed, begun or planned.

R. Keith Lawton, vice-chancellor for operations, pointed out that the master plan for university expansion is the key to the success for the future.

To him the single most significant development has come out of the creation of the west campus, an area where buildings whose function is primarily scientific are being constructed annually.

"WE HAVE SET OUT to coordinate the pursuits of most of the sciences in the west campus area through the establishment of multi-disciplinary facilities," Lawton said.

Specifically, the so-called west campus is on what were once acres of farmland in a 4-block area west of U. S. 59, known as Iowa street in Lawrence.

In the west campus area alone, the university master plan has provided for about 5.5 million dollars in construction projects. By far the biggest single undertaking and one that perhaps best typifies the interdisciplinary principle is the 2.3-million-dollar Space Technology building now under construction.

The facility, largely supported by a 1.8-million-dollar grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, will improve the university's ability to conduct space research.

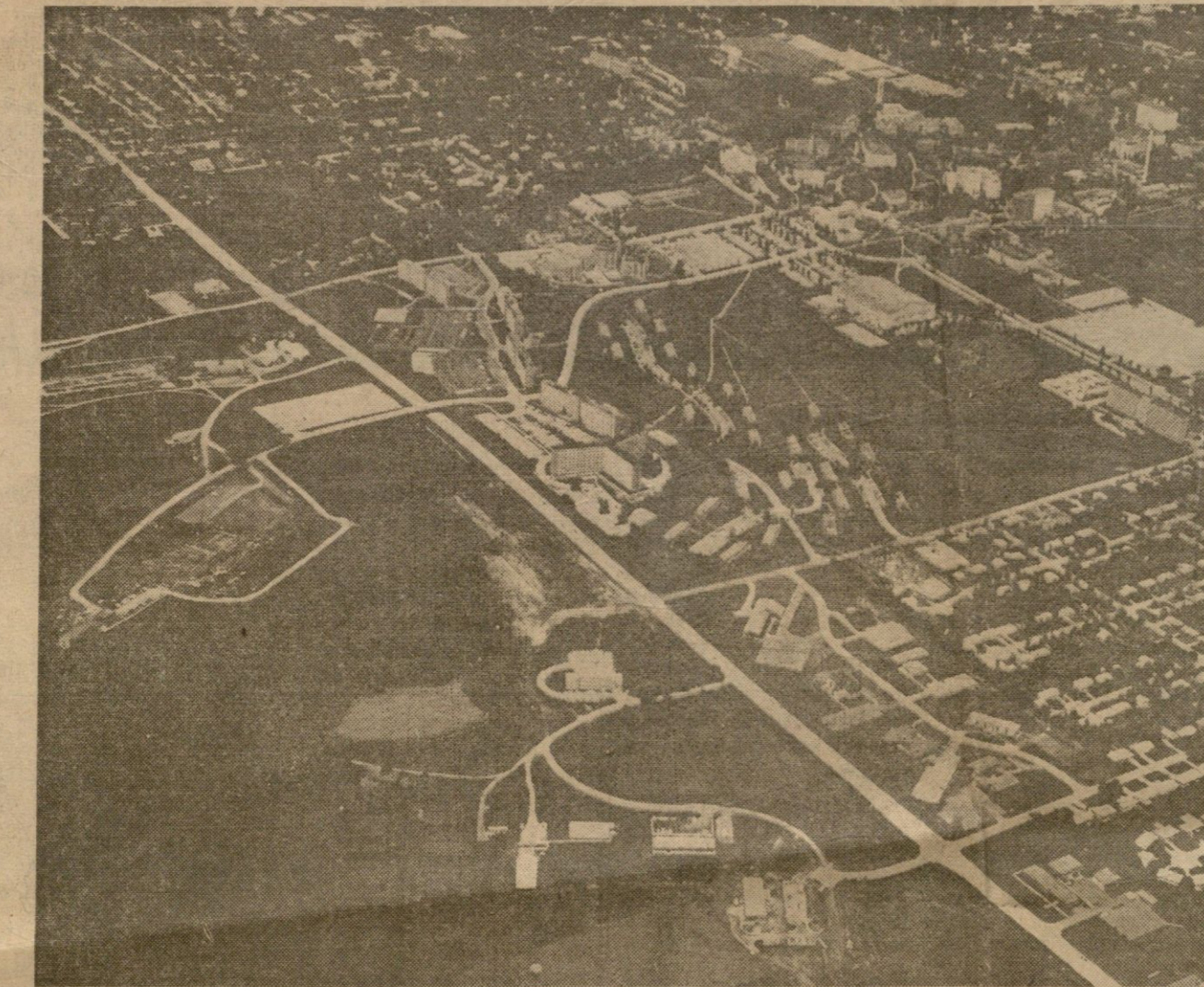
IN FACT, university officials have boasted that the research unit will push K. U. into space leadership in the Mid-West.

The 70,000-square-foot structure will house research and technological facilities in remote sensing, geology, geography, botany, chemistry, physics, environmental health and many other fields.

It also will become part of the facilities to provide a new graduate degree in engineering which will focus on the application of engineering and science to the identification and solution of technical problems.

The program, offering degrees of master of engineering to be followed by doctor of engineering, is partially supported by NASA.

LAWTON SAID the interdisciplinary aspect of the space building would be its most significant aspect. Engineers



MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS CAMPUS in Lawrence is on a new area west of Iowa street (U. S. 59, the 4-lane thoroughfare in the foreground). In the center foreground are new laboratory, greenhouse, and U. S. and state geological survey facilities. At left foreground are to be centers for research in engineering science and space technology. Memorial stadium is at extreme top center, and Allen fieldhouse at center right. The Y-shaped structure along Iowa street and adjacent structures are residential quarters—(Kansas City Star photograph by Sol Studna).

must design remote sensing apparatus, but geologists and geographers must help interpret data the machines feed back. Knowledge of soil structures is useful in building the machine initially, if reliable information is to be gathered about the surface of another planet, he said.

"The new building, the new graduate program in engineering, and the continuing institutional NASA grant will contribute to a substantial enlargement of these value scientific efforts," Lawton said.

The project is expected to be completed in September, 1971, and will be constructed not far from the Center for Research in Engineering Science built with private funds in 1962 at a cost of \$225,000.

The C. R. E. S. unit is primarily concerned with remote sensing—the study of distant surfaces such as the "fly-by" moon, Mars, and Venus rockets have done. Although there is a dearth of information about the surfaces of these planets, it is believed some may be so hostile to man that all study must be conducted from above the atmosphere.

ONE FEATURE OF the new space unit will be a large, cen-

trally-located seminar room and lounge equipped with blackboards which the planners hope will turn casual encounters between researchers into highly productive interchanges, Lawton said.

The space center was designed by Hollis & Miller, Overland Park architects, under the supervision of the state architect for Kansas.

The ALZA corporation of Palo Alto, Calif., is financing the construction of a \$600,000 basic research laboratory in pharmaceutical chemistry on land leased by the University of Kansas Endowment association.

To be fully operational by September, the unit is part of a 2-campus Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry organized by ALZA. The other is to be at Stanford university.

Dr. Takeri Higuchi, regents professor of pharmacy and chemistry, will become director of the Lawrence laboratory.

THE LABORATORY, being constructed on a 4-acre site in the rapidly-developing west campus area, will provide space for 25 professional persons. It will permit fundamental research on basic problems

related to drug transport, release and absorption during therapy.

Dr. Higuchi is believed to be the only scientist in K. U.'s 103-year history to have a laboratory built primarily for the use of a single man.

He was contracted in 1967 by the university and his appointment was precipitated by the construction of the Pharmaceutical Chemistry laboratory, adjacent to the ALZA site.

A one-story, steel frame and concrete block structure of 8,000 square feet, the pharmacy laboratory cost \$350,000 to build. It was financed by the endowment association through private support, and was opened two years ago.

DR. HIGUCHI, often called "the father of physical pharmacy," came to K. U. from the University of Wisconsin, where he had served 21 years.

The first phase of the research development was consummated with the building of the Great Plains Botanical Research center. It cost about \$150,000.

The concrete block facility has nearly 6,000 square feet of work space in the form of 14 research rooms situated around the perimeter of a central library-museum area.

houses the U. S. Geological Survey, was dedicated. The \$400,000 unit, on a hilltop, is a buff brick-exterior building.

Funds amounting to \$750,000 have been appropriated for the state geological survey, still in the planning stages. The architectural firm of Thomas, Johnson & Isley, Topeka, is working with the state architect on building design.

ALTHOUGH NO definite timetable for construction has been revealed, Lawton said the building should be operational by 1971.

Among the older university-owned facilities in the west campus development are the Residence Hall System warehouse and the tower and transmitter station for KANU radio. The two buildings, constructed separately, cost \$50,000 and \$35,000 respectively.

One would think that problems of accessibility might dampen the effectiveness of the development of westward expansion. When the new research area is separated from the main campus by a major highway, it would seem that students and faculty might have difficulty going back and forth.

But Lawton and the planners have prepared a system of trafficways, zoned according to disciplines, for the new campus.

A series of numerically-designated thoroughfares running from Fifteenth to Twenty-first streets, eventually will join the main campus with the

research area west of the highway, Lawton said.

THE PRINCIPAL ROUTE for students and faculty to the new development from the campus will be Irving Hill drive, on which most of the university's residence halls are located.

A bridge, already in use, connects what is known as the "Daisy Hill" residence hall area with the west campus.

"When complete, the trafficway system will provide quick access to the new area for persons also studying on the main campus," Lawton said.

This traffic network will be finished possibly by 1973.

Lawton emphasized that the university master plan has made it possible to supplant some of the research facilities on the main campus with classroom buildings, thereby concentrating undergraduate and graduate instruction in the heart of the campus.

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