

# University Expands, Builds And Plans For Future

## Education Building Ready In 1963 Residences, Library Being Planned

By Bill Samis

At least four major buildings will be erected on the University of Alberta's Edmonton campus during the next few years, if current plans are followed.

Construction will begin in the fall on a nine-storey Education Building. Undergraduate residences, a new library, and an infirmary may be built at about the same time.



**THE MURAL ON THE ENGINEERING ADDITION.** The only attempt so far to beautify the new buildings, this five storey mosaic depicts the various types of engineering in abstract designs. An oil-well, a power-pylon, airplanes and rockets are among the more recognizable objects.

The University is in the midst of a \$63,000,000 expansion program, the second largest among Canadian colleges. According to Edward F. Sheffield of the Canadian Universities Foundation, U of A's capital expenditure during the period 1955-1965 will be second only to the University of Toronto's \$79,000,000 building budget.

"The urgency of new accommodation for the faculty of education, the library, and especially for resident students is now most acute," stated Dr. W. H. Johns, University president, earlier this year.

### BIGGEST YET

When it is built, the proposed Education Building will be the largest single structure on the Edmonton campus. Tentative completion date is the fall of 1963. Estimated cost is \$3,000,000.

The building will be situated on 87th Avenue, directly south of the Medical Building. It will be composed of a central nine-storey tower, housing faculty offices; two classroom wings, running east and west from the tower; and a library and gymnasium, one at each end of the building, and projecting northward from it.

The office section will be reached by elevators. Classroom wings must be restricted to four floors because the heavy traffic between classes makes elevators impractical. The gymnasium and education library wings will each be one storey high, due to the prohibitive cost of wide

roof spans over tall buildings.

The present infirmary and one of the staff residences on 87th Avenue will be removed to make way for the new building. Eventually, all the staff residences in this area will be demolished.

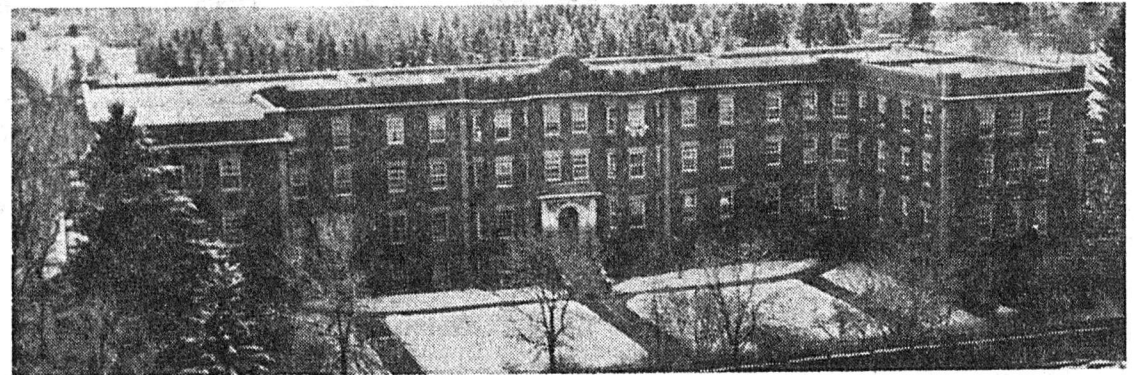
The present Education Building, erected during the 1930's, was planned to accommodate 350 students. There are presently 1,480 education undergraduates on the Edmonton campus, as well as several graduate students, making education U of A's largest faculty.

### AMBITIOUS

The University's most ambitious project in the immediate future will be undergraduate residences, it has been indicated. U of A officials toured several North American campuses to collect information and a noted student housing authority, Fred A. Schwendiman of Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah, visited the University of Alberta this month to disseminate ideas on residences.

During the last three weeks, several meetings have been held by administration officials to work out details of design and finance. There is, however, considerable speculation as to when actual construction will begin.

The new residences will be located west of the Northern Alberta Jubilee auditorium. They will be arranged in two complexes, one to be built now, the other later. Maximum playing field area will be accommodated around the buildings.



**ALBERTA'S VINTAGE RESIDENCES.** Residences space houses about 10 per cent of the student population. Plans for new residences are underway.

The first group will most likely be composed of three, eight- to ten-storey residences, and a central two-storey cafeteria and recreation building. Several designs, including Y-shaped and rectangular housing units, are being considered.

No student housing has been built at the University of Alberta since 1915, although registration has increased more than 1,000 per cent since that time.

"Campus construction often leads to a jumble of buildings rising from a sea of used cars," Dr. L. A. DeMonte, University of California architect, warned during his recent visit to the campus.

### 1,000,000 BOOKS

The necessity to preserve green areas is one of the reasons "high rise" residences are favored, Prof. A. A. Ryan, assistant to the president, said a few weeks ago. "We are going cautiously in making plans for residences because we don't want to do anything we can't undo," he stated. Once built, U of A's new residences are to last "at least 100 years."

Alberta's new library will be located behind the Arts Building, and between the North and South Laboratory Buildings, according to present plans. When it becomes necessary to expand it—in about 20 years, when the University will have over 1,000,000 volumes—one or both of the labs could be torn down. (In 1919, the North Lab was opened as a "temporary building.")

The new building, possibly five storeys high, would be low-ceilinged, sound-insulated, air-conditioned, and equipped with

study carrels for its users. It would be of open-shelf design: all books are thus immediately available for reference, rather than in closed stacks, as they are in Rutherford.

The University's proposed library could not be ready before December 1963. Not yet approved by the provincial government, it comes before the current session of the Legislature. Construction would take about 18 months, Bruce Peel, University librarian, said.

Many North American campuses have two libraries, Mr. Peel noted, but the undergraduate library is usually the new building. Because of the necessity of large study areas in an undergraduate library, and a more extensive book collection but less study space in the graduate library, it was felt Rutherford would make a better undergraduate institution.

### FOR THE SICK

A new infirmary is under consideration. A so-called Student Health Centre, it would stress preventive medicine.

The centre would be a one-storey structure, costing about \$150,000. Possible location is on 114th Street, south of the Alberta Research Council. This area, however, does not belong to the University, and if it cannot be obtained, a new site will have to be found.

Space for clerical work and for records is limited in the present building, as is examining room and waiting room accommodation. The SHC will offer more bed space, and will provide living quarters for the resident staff.

### FUTURE PLANS

Some dreams at the University of Alberta are not yet plans. The school of household economics is talking about a new building. So is dairy science. One proposal is to construct one building for both of them, housing both food processing and its preparation and use.

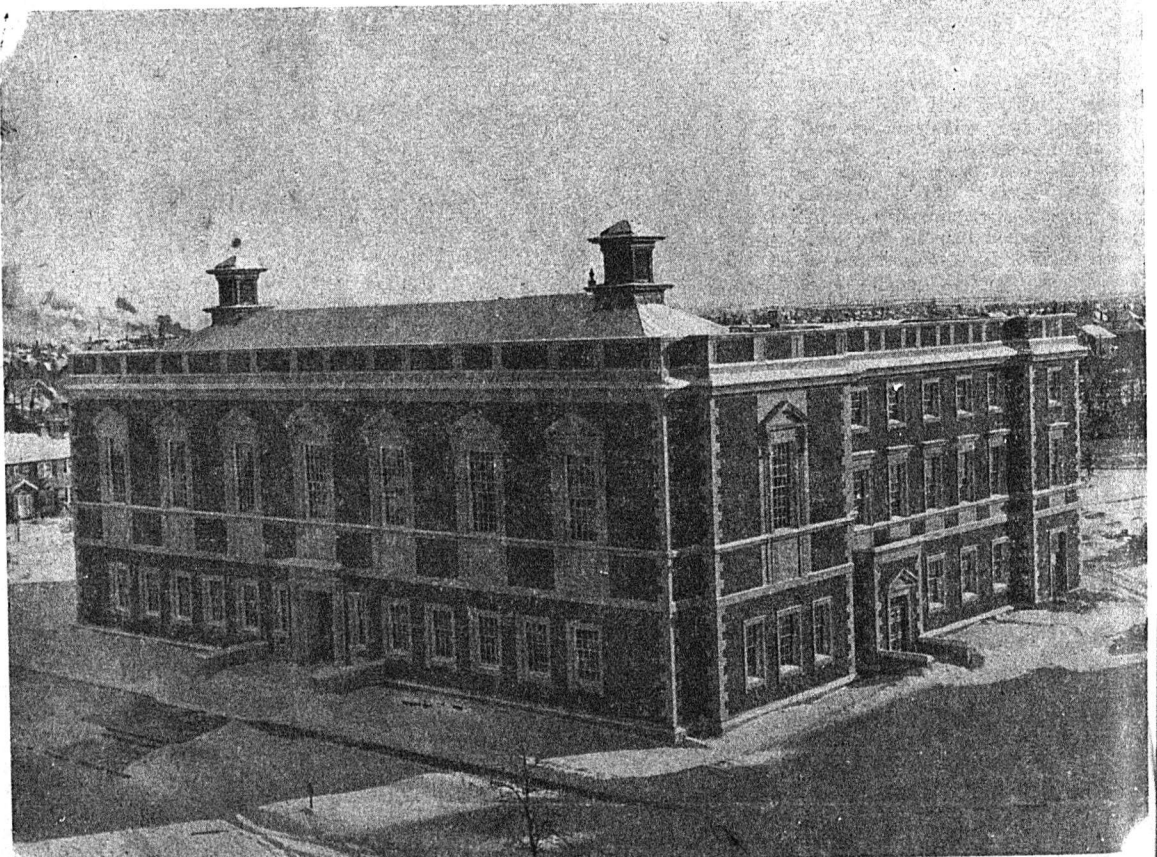
A fine arts building, including facilities for instruction in music, art, and drama, an art gallery, and a little theatre, has been advocated for several years by the department of fine arts.

The Students' Union Building is overcrowded, Union officials have stated, and should be expanded. Such renovations would include greater office space for the Union, and for its publications, as well as more lounges and a larger cafeteria.

The faculties of law and commerce are talking about individual buildings. The biological sciences and agriculture are cramped for space, as are the humanities.

U of A's growth rate is slightly greater than that of most Canadian Universities, noted Dr. Johns. Although most of the recent construction in Edmonton has been for the physical sciences, he said, moving these faculties and departments from their former premises, frees space for expansion of the humanities.

Financial and land problems, compounded by a rapidly expanding enrolment, are making it increasingly difficult for the University to provide accommodation as quickly as it is needed administration officials conceded recently. A long-range planning committee has been established to study U of A's problems, and recommend practical solutions.



**THE RUTHERFORD LIBRARY.** This present structure will be the undergraduate library when plans to build a new five-storey library materialize. The new building will be a graduate study and research library.