

*Here's News from*

# **Kalamazoo College**

## **Kalamazoo, Michigan**

*Home of the Kalamazoo Plan  
for the 12-month college*

NEWS BUREAU

by

Wono Lee  
Fireside 3-1551

7/1/51  
f

Release Date:

**IMMEDIATE**

KALAMAZOO, MICH. -- Kalamazoo College will receive a \$586,000 federal grant toward the construction of a new \$1.8 million library, College officials were informed today.

Awarded under the Higher Education Facilities Act, the grant will enable the College, which has already raised the remaining cost of the new library, to begin construction soon.

When completed, the three-story structure on the northwest corner of Thompson and Academy Streets, will include a 250,000 volume capacity and study space for 700 students.

Among the special features of the 53,000-square-foot library will be a modern audio-visual aid center, departmental and faculty suites, rare book room, College history room, carpeted study areas, and outside terrace with benches. The building will be Georgian in style to match the existing structures on campus and will be air-conditioned.

The College is now experimenting with IBM computer programming to explore the possibility of performing certain library operations, such as bibliography compilation, automatically.

The new library will replace the College's Mandelle Library, erected in 1931 to accommodate 130 students and house 65,000 books. It now contains more than 110,000 volumes.

-more-

In planning for the new facility, a series of studies of similar structures at various colleges and universities and of the future library growth at Kalamazoo College have been made by College officials, including Dr. Richard U. Light, chairman of the College Board of Trustees; Dr. Weimer K. Hicks, College president; and Dr. Wen C. Chen, College librarian.

According to Dr. Chen, some 900 students and faculty members currently use the library facilities each quarter, or about 3,600 persons a year. By 1970, he said, more than 5,200 persons a year are expected to be served.

Some 500 transactions a year in inter-library and off-campus loans now take place, but the number is expected to triple in five years. The use of instructional aids service and television and movie projection will become extensive by 1970, Dr. Chen noted. The library now acquires some 7,500 books a year, but the number will reach 15,000 a year by 1970.

Contracts for the construction of the new library will be awarded as soon as details are worked out. The facility is expected to be completed within 15 months after construction has begun.