

Groundbreaking set for Central University Library

June 25, 1968

One of the most important steps in the growth of the San Diego campus of the University of California will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, July 1, with the groundbreaking for the \$4 million Central University Library.

The library is designed to serve as the major graduate research center for the campus and San Diego County, the largest metropolitan area in the United States without a major research library.

The library, located at the functional center of the completed campus, will be the first structure in the University's Administrative Center which will consist of the library, a theater, an art gallery, a museum and administrative offices. The library will serve as the focal point for the center.

It was designed by William L. Pereira and Associates of Los Angeles. When viewed from the ground, the multi-level structure gives the appearance of a giant flying saucer. Major contractor for the project is the Nielsen Construction Company of San Diego. Completion is scheduled for February, 1970.

San Diego City and County officials, representatives from the construction and architectural firms and the public have been invited to take part in the ceremony. Heading the list of University officials will be Dr. John S. Galbraith, outgoing UCSD Chancellor who has been instrumental in the establishment of the research library on the San Diego campus, and Dr. William J. McGill, professor of psychology who will succeed Galbraith as Chancellor on August 1.

Melvin J. Voigt, UCSD Librarian, will serve as master of ceremonies. Members of the UCSD Library staff, armed with shovels, will be stationed on the 856-foot perimeter of the building site. On a signal, they will simultaneously turn the first shovelful of dirt to initiate construction.

The building, to be constructed of reinforced concrete and glass, will consist of eight levels, with the basement and main levels partially underground. All technical and administrative offices will be housed on the basement and main levels with the general library on levels four through eight allowing for easy access to students in the open stack concept.

The basement and main levels will be separated from those above by the third (forum) level, an open walk-through area slightly above the surrounding ground level. The building will be 135 feet high from the basement to the top of the eighth level and 214 feet square at its widest point at the sixth level.

The completed structure will provide 1,244 seats and will house 700,000 volumes. Future steps will house 1,300,000 additional volumes.