

Calvin T. Ryan Library

The first library building on the Kearney State College campus was opened in 1963. In October, 1961, Governor Frank Morrison gave approval for the appropriation of \$700,000. Bids were opened June 18, 1962 and ground was broken on July 23, 1962. The cornerstone was laid in ceremonies on November 5, 1962; the main speaker was Carl Spelts. The building was completed and materials and staff moved occupied it in August 1963. The Library was dedicated at ceremonies on October 31, 1963; the main speaker was Robert B. Downs.

The building's architects were Helleberg & Helleberg, of Kearney. The building was designed to house 200,000 volumes, and to seat 900. The building had three floors, but was engineered to allow the addition of a fourth floor if one were needed and funded.

The new library was named the Calvin T. Ryan Library in honor of retired professor of English Calvin T. Ryan. Calvin T. Ryan (January 1, 1888 – February 4, 1971) was a native of Bishopville, Maryland, and joined the English faculty of the Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney in 1928. He was instrumental in developing courses in Children's Literature, Biblical Literature, Advanced Writing and Radio. Professor Ryan was serving as the Chairman of the Division of Language and Literature when he retired in 1958. In 1963 he was presented the Distinguished Service Award by Kearney State College, and on October 31, 1963, the new library was named in his honor. His name was added to the exterior east wall of the Library in 1965.

The spaces in the Administration Building formerly occupied by the Library were remodeled and occupied by the offices of the College's President, the Registrar, and the Deans.

In 1983, a \$4,000,000 expansion and renovation was completed; architects were Wilscom-Mullins-Birge, Inc., of Omaha. It was dedicated in ceremonies on September 16, 1983; the speakers included President William R. Nester, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges Keith Kemper, Library Director John K. Mayeski, and former State Senator Ron J. Cope. Calvin T. Ryan's daughter, Zelda Jeanne Ryan Rouillard, participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The addition provided space for the Athena and Charles Mitchell Telecommunications Center, radio and TV studios, new offices and classrooms, and the Learning Materials Center.

In 1986, the Memorial Carillon Bell Tower was erected just east of the Library; until 2006, controls for the carillon's bells were located in the Library.

On May 20, 1986, a large classroom on the Library's second floor was dedicated as the Anna V. Jennings Room, in honor of Anna V. Jennings, the first librarian of the college, who served from 1905 through 1939. There have reports of ghosts being seen in the Library; the story goes that the spirit of Miss Jennings is haunting the building because it was named for someone else.

On October 2, 1986, the Alice E. Paine Room on the Library's second floor was dedicated; Library Director John K. Mayeski was the main speaker. The Paine Room houses the UNK Archives and the Library's Special Collection of Western Americana.

A satellite dish was installed on the Library's roof for use in distance learning classes in 1988; it was later removed and mounted on the ground just to the west of the building, where it is now (2009).

The Writing Center, operated by the Department of English, moved to the building in June, 1989.

In 2005 "Café Calvin," a small lounge where drinks and snacks could be purchased and/or consumed, was completed on the first floor of the Library. It was opened at ribbon-cutting ceremonies on November 27, 2005; the main speaker was Chancellor Doug Kristensen.

In addition to extensive library collections, offices, and services, the Calvin T. Ryan Library now (2009) also houses the Department of Communication, a radio studio, the offices of The Antelope, UNK's student newspaper, the Writing Center, three computer laboratories, classrooms, a conference room, and a tornado shelter.



**Breaking ground for Calvin T. Ryan Library, July 1962
Carl Spelts, President Milton Hassel, Alice Paine**



Laying the cornerstone of Calvin T. Ryan Library
Carl Spelts speaking at ceremony, November 5, 1962



**All-College Choir singing at the cornerstone laying for the new library
November 5, 1962**

Photo appeared in the 1963 Blue and Gold



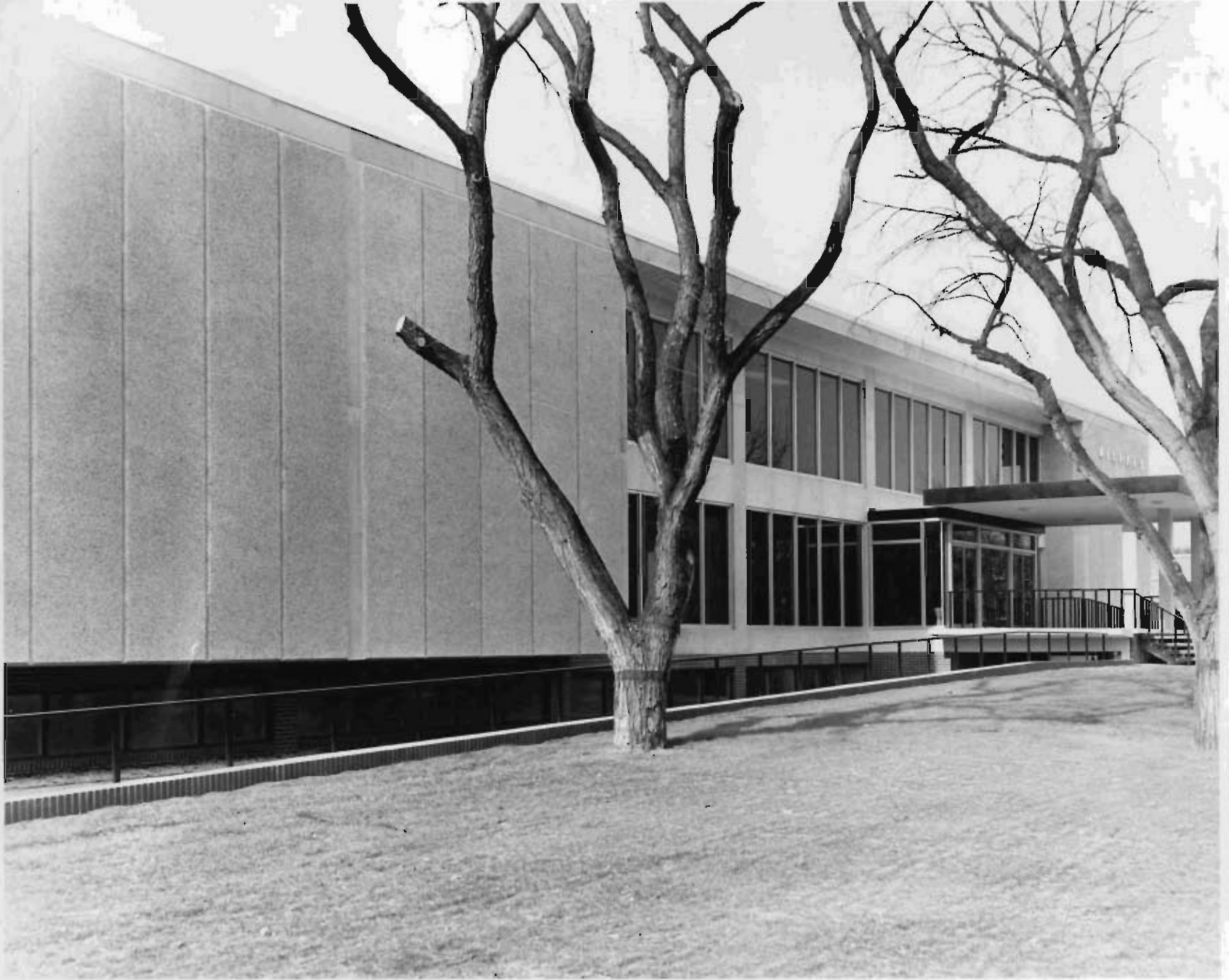
Calvin T. Ryan Library under construction, 1963



Calvin T. Ryan Library under construction, 1963
Administration Building visible in background
View looks to the east



**Calvin T. Ryan Library under construction, 1963
Administration Building visible in background
View looks to the southeast**



Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1963
Seen from the southeast
Before the addition of "Calvin T. Ryan" to the name on the wall



Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1963
Seen from the northeast
Before the addition of "Calvin T. Ryan" to the name on the wall

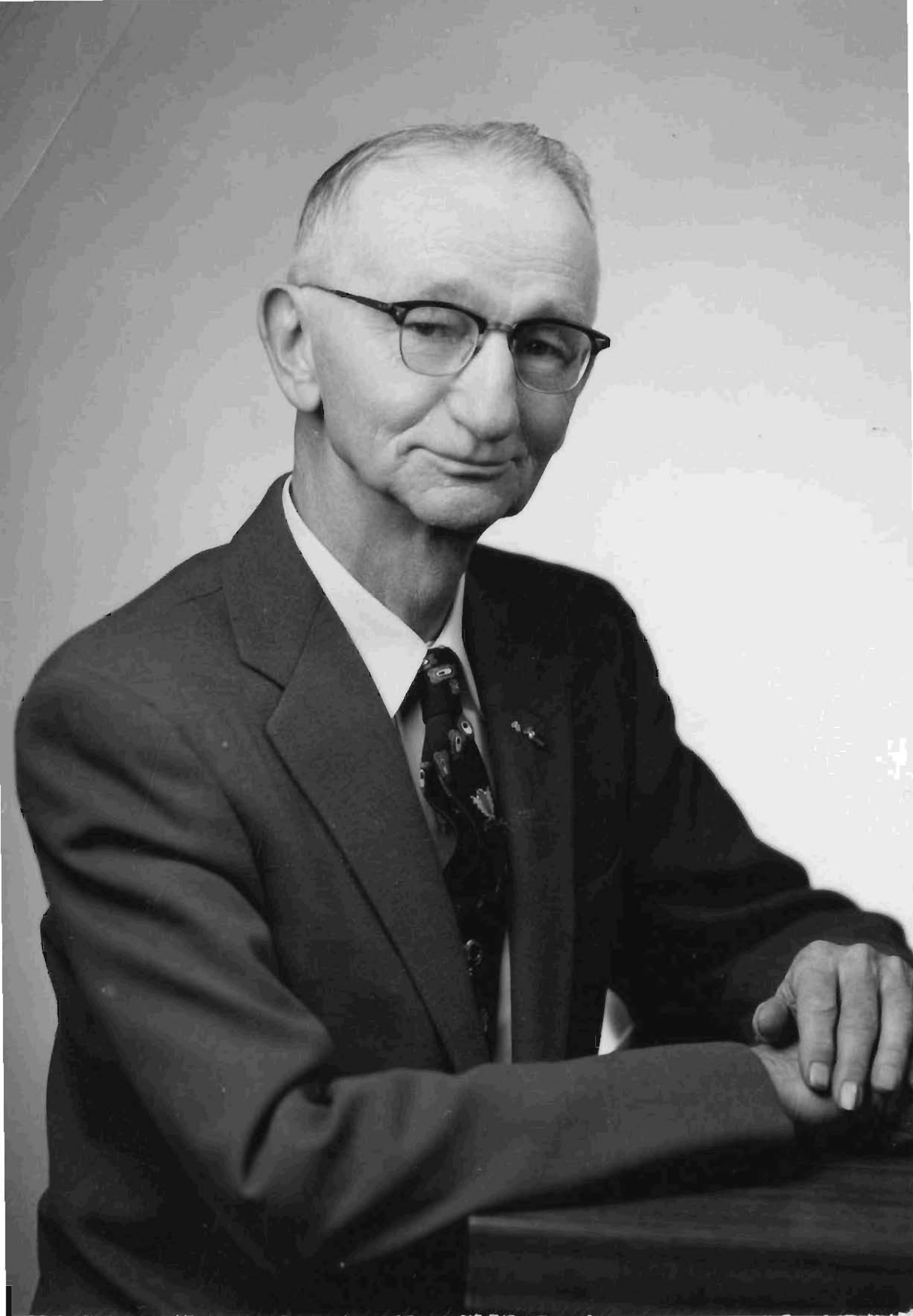


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Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1963
Night view of the main (east) entrance



Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1963



Calvin T. Ryan



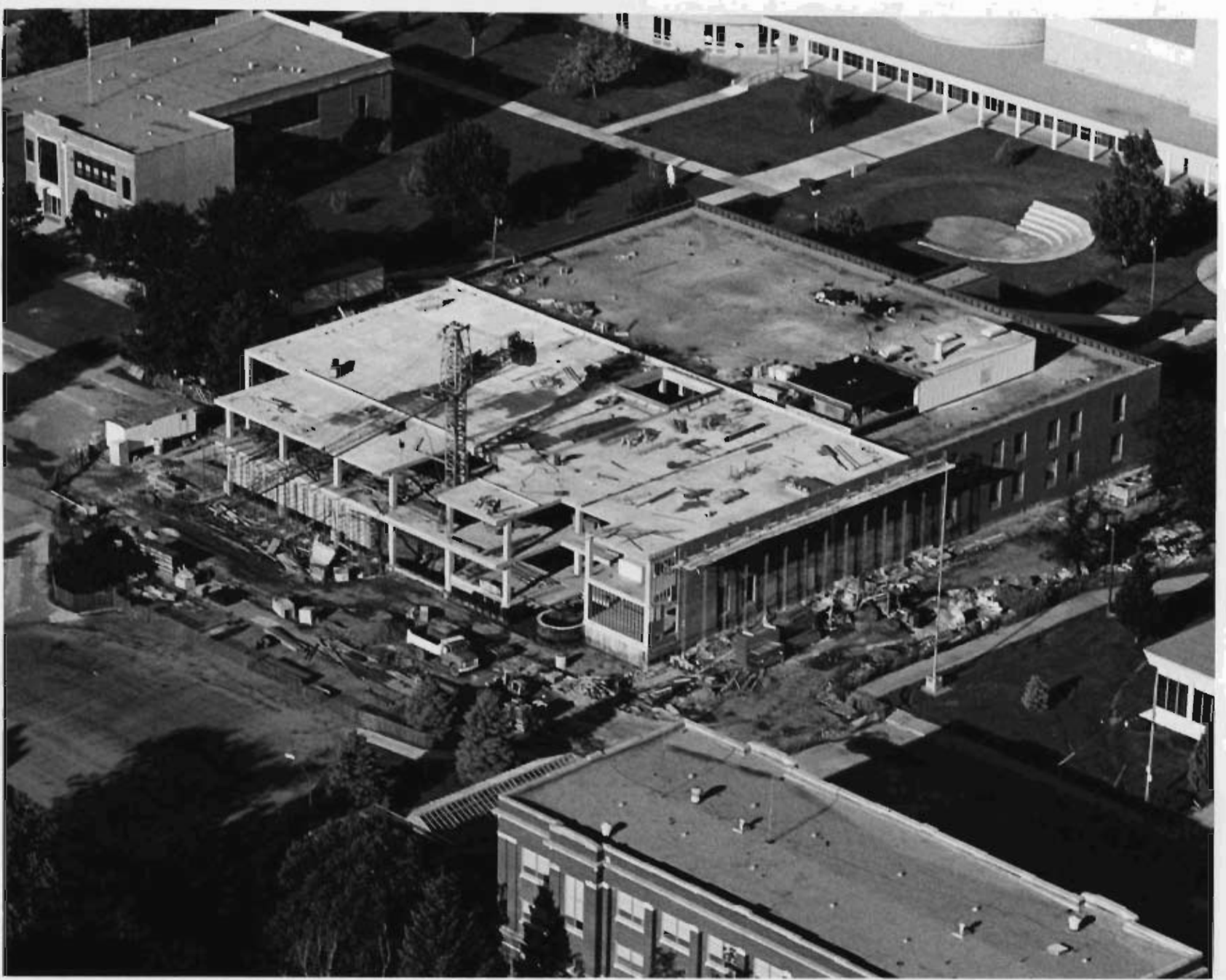
**Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1965
Adding Calvin T. Ryan's
name to the east wall**



Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1965
Seen from the northeast



Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1970
Taken from top of Administration Building
View looks to the west



**Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1982
Aerial view from the northeast
1983 addition is under construction**



**Addition to Calvin T. Ryan Library
In final stages of construction, 1983
Seen from the southwest**



Eastern elevation of Calvin T. Ryan Library at night, 1983



**Skylight in Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1983
Seen from the lower floor**



**Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1983
Seen from the southeast**



View from second floor of Calvin T. Ryan Library, 1983



“Café Calvin” in Calvin T. Ryan Library, dedicated November 27, 2005



**One of the original tables
in the Nebraska Normal School Library, 1905**



Calvin T. Ryan Library, east elevation, 2009



Calvin T. Ryan Library from the northeast, 2009



Circulation Desk, First Floor, Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009



**Art on display in the coffee shop, First Floor,
Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009**



Reference Desk, First Floor, Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009



Study tables, Second Floor, Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009



Study area, Second Floor, Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009



Stacks and study tables, Second Floor, Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009



**Part of Curriculum Collection, Lower Level,
Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009**



**Current periodicals, Lower Level,
Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009**



**Periodicals back issue, Lower Level,
Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2009**