Construction has begun on University of Montana biological station

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CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN
ON UM BIOLOGICAL STATION

The first step was taken this month in a phased building program at the University of Montana's Biological Station on Flathead Lake as construction began on a new research laboratory.

The $133,000 structure, which is expected to be ready for use June 1, 1967, is on Yellow Bay, site of the station since it's founding 67 years ago.

The new building will provide laboratories and office space for researchers, teachers and students of biology. It replaces the first permanent station structure, finished in 1912, which was removed last year to make room for the new facility.

The 160 by 50 foot building is financed principally by a grant of $115,000 from the Special Facilities Department of the National Science Foundation. The balance is provided by local funds.

Station director Dr. Richard A. Solberg said future building on the site will include a dining room for 200 and another laboratory. The latter facility will replace two "temporary" buildings which the University obtained from the army after the Second World War.

Plans also call for construction of several year-round dormitories. At the present time only two houses, both moved from the Hungry Horse Dam construction site, can be occupied during the winter.

In addition to the 67 acres on Yellow Bay, the biological station owns 40 acres on Bull Island, 40 acres on Polson Bay and two Bird Islands in Flathead Lake.

Past research at the station has resulted in findings that are of world-wide significance. During the past summer Dr. Ben Foote conducted research dealing with snail fever,
classed by the U.S. Public Health Service as the world's number one health problem.

Dr. Foote, a professor of biological sciences at Kent State University in Ohio, spent his second summer at Yellow Bay studying the life cycle of a group of flies which kill snails.

Three other scientists lead by Dr. Arden R. Gaufin, zoology professor at the University of Utah and assistant director of the station, spent the summer of 1966 gathering baseline data on pollution and the results of their work may be of great value to the future of lakes and streams throughout the western United States.

The station was also base for a lake bottom mapping project headed by Dr. Arnold Silverman of the UM geology department. He explained that the profile will enable scientists to make historical judgements about the changes in the lake floor during the past. It will also be valuable for fisherman and boaters on Flathead Lake.

The National Science Foundation Institute, at the station for an eight week summer session, attracted 75 high school biology teachers from all over the United States. The program provided an opportunity for the teachers to further work toward their master's degrees and to study under some of the nation's most noted biologists.