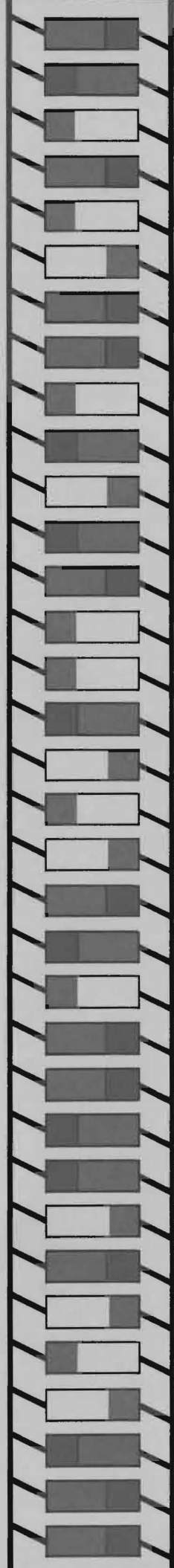


**Annual Report of the Biology Division**

**1966**

**Southwest Center for Advanced Studies**

(Formerly Graduate Research Center of the Southwest)



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## History of the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies

The pioneer society of the Southwest played an important role in the developmental history of the United States. Emergence of the region into the highly technological culture of the twentieth century, however, has not been uniform, and in some respects the Southwest still lags behind other regions. It is clear that rapid cultural, economic, and industrial development is essential to the future health of the region, which in turn is bound up with the future of the entire nation. In the last analysis, such development springs from the educational foundation that the region provides. Undergraduate education in the Southwest is relatively good, but there is a need for more modern and extensive education at the graduate and postdoctoral levels. Regional universities have recognized this problem, but have encountered serious difficulties in attempting to solve it.

A new approach was provided by a group of Dallas citizens, headed by J. Erik Jonsson (the present mayor of Dallas), Cecil H. Green, and Eugene McDermott. They established the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies (originally chartered under the name Graduate Research Center of the Southwest) on 14 February 1961. By providing for the recruitment of many workers in related areas within a short period of time, and by permitting them to devote a major part of their time to research, it was hoped that a large number of scientists, active in modern research, could be assembled in one institution, which would then provide a nucleus for the activation of superior and extensive regional programs in higher education.

This experiment appears to have succeeded in its initial phase. The Center's objective in the first five years was to assemble a faculty of quality and to provide it with the opportunity to launch a variety of

