

Building projects behind schedule

By Chuck Beck

Lincoln's shortage of construction workers has caused the Love Library addition and new fieldhouse to fall behind scheduled construction, according to Harley Schrader, UNL physical plant director.

"There isn't an adequate number of skilled construction workers to support all construction in Lincoln," Schrader said.

The Love Library project was scheduled to be finished about November, 1974, but the \$4 million addition is now expected to be completed by Feb. 1, 1975, Schrader said. The bid for construction was taken in October, 1972, he said.

The fieldhouse is behind its construction schedule because of a legislative bill and resolution ordering the plans to be altered, Schrader said. The fieldhouse was originally scheduled to be completed in December but now plans are to have it done in time for the Nebraska State Fair in August 1975.

Construction problems

Removing concrete from a power plant in the old Stout Hall site caused problems for construction workers excavating it for another construction project, the Life Sciences building, Schrader said. Excavation for the building was to

have been completed by October.

Schrader said contracts to begin construction by electrical, mechanical, general and exterior wall contractors have not been let, pending Governor J. James Exon's approval of the project.

Other construction projects on both East and City Campuses are on schedule, Schrader said.

The \$1,391,000 Barkley Center on East Campus, which will house teaching, research and clinical facilities for people with hearing and speech defects and other general services for handicapped people, was started in mid-September and is projected to be done in December 1975, he said. Construction for it is on schedule, Schrader said.

Construction 'on schedule'

Construction on the East Campus Recreational facility is scheduled to be done in November, Schrader said. The facility will contain basketball and tennis courts and other recreational facilities. It is funded by student fees.

Another building on East Campus, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) is on schedule and could be done at the end of 1975, Schrader said. He said the VDL is one of three veterinary science buildings to provide research facilities for animal health

research.

Schrader said \$1.2 million has been allocated for the building of the VDL this year, and \$8 million has been allocated for all three animal health research facilities through 1977.

'Delayed' projects

Besides building construction, the Physical Plant Administration (PPA) continues to complete "delayed construction" projects such as "rectifying fire safety regulations," Schrader said. He said the PPA knew about fire safety deficiencies around UNL before the State Fire Marshal ordered fire regulations to be met, but lack of funds delayed construction which would have upgraded fire safety projects in campus buildings.

Schrader said \$1.1 million has been requested for next year, specifically to meet fire safety regulations under delayed construction projects.

Schrader said he could not determine the yearly amount of money allocated to the Physical Plant office for construction. He said the University Administration makes six-year capital construction requests for UNL, UNO and the Medical Center, which are submitted to the Legislature. Funds are received in terms of a project's priority, Schrader said.

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