



photo by Gordon Johnson

Dr. Owen Sletten

At age 76,

## UNL student pursues number 8

By Gordon Johnson

Spending half days working in a public library may not be the most exciting way of spending the day for one who is listed in Leaders in American Science, but for one 76 year-old UNL student it fills a need.

According to Dr. Owen Sletten, his purpose for being here is to serve others. And serve he has.

Sletten's bushy eyebrows resemble miniature horns centered over eyes that are sometimes blue and sometimes green. His presence is enough to spark the curiosity and wonder of those around him as if by the process of osmosis, his curiosity is transferred to others.

Just because he has seven degrees ranging from a Bachelor's in English and a Ph. D. in theology to civil engineering he said does not make him out of the ordinary.

### No big deal

One would think from talking with Sletten that the eighth degree he is pursuing, a Ph. D. in educational psychology, does not mean a great deal.

"I consider myself and ordinary person, but I want to emphasize that an ordinary person can do things if they plug away," he said.

Sletten started plugging away in 1923 when he taught in

## Soaring fuel costs spurs UNL to reduce gasoline allocations

By Gordon Johnson

The University of Nebraska has already done everything it can to conserve energy without laying out a large sum of money, a check of University officials found.

Vice President of the Administration, William Erskine said that the University is not presently having problems obtaining fuel, but that the major problem was soaring fuel costs.

To help cut these costs the administration has been pushing energy conservation of both buildings and vehicles on university campuses since the Arab Oil Embargo, Erskine said.

Although the University hasn't had a shortage of fuel, the June allocation of gasoline for the UNL Auto Pool was cut by 30 percent, said Mike Cacak, Manager of the Auto Rental Pool.

Cacak said the auto pool has been getting around the problem by cutting the amount of the average fill from 15 to 18 gallons to 12 gallons per day.

The auto rental pool has 154 sedans, 20 station wagons, and 22 12 and 15-passenger vans.

### Regular Prices

If the department renting the vehicle needs more than the 12 gallons of gas in one day, they will be forced to get their gas on the private market and pay regular prices, Cacak said.

a South Dakota one-room school, grades one through eight. Teaching was also his first real chance at serving others in a big way.

Sletten started plugging away in 1923 when he taught in a South Dakota one-room school, grades one through eight. Teaching was also his first real chance to serving others in a big way.

Sletten's curiosity and willingness to serve others led him to earn degrees in micro-biology, public health, civil engineering, epidemiology statistics and theology.

However, Sletten's success can not be said to be only the result of his hard work.

### Wife helped

"I think the reason for my success is attributed to the sweat of my frau," Sletten said with a smile.

Sletten's wife Pearl, a registered nurse, helped him through his years of schooling, he said.

Sletten may also be something of a romantic, as is seen from the dedication of a text book he wrote "To Pearl, my wife, the gem in my life."

The text book is probably the most important contribution Sletten has made.

The book explains some equations which Sletten formulated which cuts the time needed to figure probabilities by as much as one-tenth. Sletten said he figured out the equations in 1974. They can be used, he said, by anyone with a 10th grade understanding of math.

That was his greatest contribution. The largest is probably the 93 volume diary he has written over the past 63 years.

The total number of miles put on by auto pool vehicles in 1978 was 3.9 million. In 1978 57 thousand more miles were driven by the auto pool vehicles with 3 percent less gas being used than the previous year, he said.

This savings has been brought about gradually by cutting down the engine size from v-8s to six cylinder, Cacak said. Minor savings have also been brought about by the use of radial tires on passenger vehicles and the use of electronic ignition which keeps the car tuned up longer.

This has been a gradual change, said Joseph Pospichal, director of support services, because the University can not get rid of the older cars that are still serviceable to replace the newer cars. Most cars are used for five years before they are gotten rid of, he said.

### Suggestions to Roskens

Some suggestions made to NU President Ronald Roskens by support service on how to save fuel included mandatory car pooling for employees and staff members going to the same place. This will primarily affect travel between Lincoln and Omaha.

It was also suggested that the Lincoln/Omaha shuttle bus be better utilized by employees when the time frame is convenient. To make the shuttle bus service more convenient one more run could be added.

Another suggestion involves eliminating department vehicle purchases especially when vehicles are purchased just to utilize funds at the end of the fiscal year.

### Policy statement

These suggestions along with others have been presented to University officials who will write a policy statement on energy which will be accepted or rejected by NU President Ronald Roskens, Erskine said.

This policy statement will also cover the area of heating and cooling buildings.

As with the auto pool, steps have been taken to conserve energy since the 1973 embargo.

Jim Hines, energy conservation officer for the physical plant said the use of computer technology in saving energy is his primary project at the present time.

A computer system presently controls unit heating and cooling in 17 buildings, Hines said. The computer, he explained, is able to monitor and control the temperature of the building as well as the times the equipment is run.

### Computer use

Only 17 buildings are hooked up to the system, Hines said, because the mechanical systems in the other buildings are not designed so they can be used with a computer.

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