



staff photo by Bill Graf

A camel at Pioneer Park displays a striking profile.

## Changes in park's zoo reduce animal risks

BY CHARLES FLOWERDAY

In a time of lowered expectations and diminishing budgets, the Pioneers Park Zoo has received improvements to remedy problems which, in recent summers, have endangered animals' lives.

Capitol Humane Society Director Mike Koger said recently that a number of the problems plaguing the zoo have been remedied.

The problems he cited were these:

— The white-tailed deer had developed a gum disease which could not be treated until the deer were run down and captured. Because the disease affected their ability to feed themselves, capturing them sometimes endangered their health further as deer ran from those trying to help them.

— Deer and other wild animals had to be chased through three successive pens up to the barn. Sometimes they tried to hurdle the fence and caught themselves on the wire.

— People occasionally fed the animals food that was dangerous to their health: everything from too much bread to a light bulb which killed an ostrich.

— One male camel had killed his calf because he was not kept separated from it.

Mike Calvert, a city budget officer, said that during the fiscal year 1979-80, capital improvements at the zoo amounted to \$14,210. The money came mostly from federal revenue-sharing funds, he explained.

Superintendent of City Parks and Recreation Ted Novack pointed to a new barn, in which deer are cared for; a double fence affording better protection for the camels and ostriches; automatic waterers in all pens, to keep animals watered even in a drought; and portable fencing, with which workers can approach and capture roaming animals if any need the attention of a veterinarian.

He also said that the total budget for city capital improvements in fiscal 1980-81 was \$276,500. This compares to more than \$600,000 three years ago. All city services have been hard hit recently, he said.

Novack added that he would like to see some broader discussion in the community of "what direction the zoo should take."

"Somebody's got to make some decisions," Novack said.

Some of the problems have been solved, he said, but added that he would like to see more fencing, particularly double fencing, which allows visitors to watch from six feet away while an inner fence protects the animals.

"We are trying to do the best we can with a declining budget," Novack said.

When asked how the zoo will be able to maintain its standards in the future, Novack called attention to the recently created Parks and Recreation Department Trust Fund.

"We are most happy to accept donations," he said.

## Voyager missions topic of lecture

The Fourth Annual Frank England Sorenson Summer Lecture will be given by Dr. Bevan M. French of NASA at 10:30 a.m. on June 18 at the Nebraska Union Ballroom. The title of his talk is "Land of the Giants: Voyager at Jupiter and Saturn." This lecture is open to the general public and is sponsored by the Frank E. Sorenson Summer Lecture Fund and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Summer Sessions.

French has been NASA's Discipline Scientist for Plantety Materials Research since 1975.

Beginning in 1969, Dr. French studied the lunar rocks returned from the Apollo 11, 12 and 14 missions. He was also selected as one of a small group of scientists to study material returned by the Russian Luna-16 unmanned probe. In 1971 and 72, he participated in astronaut training trips with the Apollo 16 and 17 crews.

French has published several books and more than 35 technical papers on chemical reactions in rocks, terrestrial meteorite craters and lunar samples. He has also written extensively about space science discoveries for the nonscientist.

## UNL to receive 12,000 acres for use in ranching research

BY DEBBIE KOLLARS

Work is currently underway to turn a 12,000 acre cattle ranch into a complete research center for studying practices of cattle ranching in the sandhills.

The ranch, valued at \$1.7 million, was donated to the University of Nebraska Foundation by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Gudmundsen of Sun City, Ariz., said Herb Potter, vice president of the Foundation. Mr. and Mrs. Gudmundsen both graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1922. They moved to western Nebraska where Gudmundsen worked in business and his wife taught school, Potter said.

After a short time, they started ranching and have been in the ranching business ever since. Over the years they acquired a total of 11,377 acres of land, Potter said.

Ten years ago the Gudmundsens decided to maintain a winter home in Sun City, but continued to live on the ranch during the summer months.

Because the sandhills had been their home for so many years, and since they had no family of their own, the Gudmundsens decided eight years ago to set up a scholarship fund at the University of Nebraska for students from the Sandhills area.

"It is a unique scholarship fund," Potter said, "because the sandhills comprise such a huge area. Most scholarships are designated for a student from just a certain town or county." He said five or six scholarships, averaging \$350, are given each year.

### Letters of thanks

Potter said the letters of thanks written by the scholarship recipients to the Gudmundsens have played a large part in the couple's continued interest in supporting the University.

"Having no children of their own, they really enjoyed getting the thank you letters. It meant a lot to them, and it kept them in touch with the University," Potter said.

In the late 1970s, the couple, in their early 80s, began planning the disposition of their estate. Since they have no family, Potter said, they thought of their alma mater and decided to make a gift of their ranch in the sandhills to the University of Nebraska.

The University received 12,817 acres, including three parcels of school land,

totaling 1,440 acres. The school lands are owned by the state of Nebraska and are leased to the owner of the ranch.

As of May 1, the University of Nebraska's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources began leasing the ranch from the Foundation, Potter said.

The lease payment of \$163,000 will be paid over three years, said Dr. Lavon Sumption, director of the IANR's North Platte Station. After the three year lease is ended, the land will be leased indefinitely to the University.

The Gudmundsens will receive the net income from their ranch during their lifetime. After that, Potter said, the income will go to the University's agricultural research stations.

### Moving from Tryon

The University plans to transfer a substantial amount of current research going on at the Sandhills Agricultural Laboratory at Tryon, Neb., to the newly acquired ranch, Sumption said. The ranch is located near Whitman, Neb., and lies in the counties of Grant, Hooker and Cherry.

The 3,500-acre operation at Tryon will be vacated with the exception of 143 acres, which will be maintained for extensive studies of irrigation on sandy soils, Sumption said.

All other research will be moved to the new ranch, which will be called the Sandhills Research Center, he said.

Howard Ottosen, interim vice chancellor of the IANR, said the research conducted will encompass all of the practices of cattle ranchers in the sandhills. This includes research into grazing practices, grass mixtures, fertilizing practices, cattle management, and supplementary feeding practices.

Systems of grazing will be studied to determine how to best graze large numbers of cattle over many years without weakening root reserves, he said.

"What is so nice about this ranch," Ottosen said, "is that it is large enough to have lots of cattle. With more cattle, we will have greater statistical validity in our research."

The new Sandhills Research Center has 750 Angus-Hereford crossbred heifers and 15 Angus bulls, Sumption said. The heifers were purchased in March and April of this year in the sandhills area; the bulls are the "by-products of research," he said.

Ottosen said the new ranch will serve a number of educational needs. Specific research projects by both undergraduate and graduate students will be conducted there, with housing provided. There will be organized study tours, seminars, and short teaching programs on range management. There will also be numerous extension activities, he said.

"It is an ideal location for teaching," said Sumption. "We have always wanted to develop a facility for students and adults to be on site for one-to-seven-day workshops and field study groups. Here they can be brought together in dormitory fashion and do classroom work, and then move right on to the land for field study close by."

Sumption said there is a great deal of building to be done yet. Fencing and watering equipment must be built for many small groups of cattle. A cattle handling facility, including a veterinary area, calving shed, and weighing and restraining areas, must also be built.

In addition, he said, two houses must be remodeled for permanent employees. And much equipment for handling feed and putting up hay must be bought.

The fencing and water development will extend over three years, Sumption said. The rest should be completed this fall. The Sandhills Research Center will be in full operation in terms of ranching by this fall, he said. By next spring, Sumption added, detailed research should be in full operation.

The manager at the Tryon station and three other employees there are transferring to the new station, Sumption said. The staff may enlarge in the future, he said, depending on the amount of work and budget success.

"This is a tremendous asset for the University," said Ottosen. "It has the potential for becoming one of the finest research facilities of its kind in the country devoted to the problem of range cattle management."

Sumption added, "This is the most significant addition to our research teaching and extension program in the field of agriculture since the addition of the Mead Station and the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center."

There will be a dedication ceremony commemorating the transfer of the Gudmundsen ranch to the University on June 26 at the ranch. Ottosen said it will be attended by University Regents and administrators and other local persons.