Health Center expansion begins

By Judi Nygren

Last week's ground breaking for the University Health Center addition turned 20 years of planning into reality, the center's administrator said.

"We have been cramped for space for many years," Steve Blom said. "We're very pleased with what we're

getting."

Space became limited at the center a few years after the building's completion in 1958 and expansion plans began, Blom said. When the center was built, he said, UNL administrators expected the campus to reach a maximum population of 10,000 students. But by 1965, campus population had reached 15,000.

Today, more than 24,000 students attend UNL. This is more than triple the number of students the center was designed to serve. But \$3 million in bonds and center reserves will enable the center to meet UNL's needs by 1986, Blom said.

"We are designing a building that is right for the

times," Blom said.

The new design includes an addition, renovations to the existing building and updated equipment.

The addition, which is being built by Lincoln's Olson Construction Company, will increase the center's space by about 20,000 square feet. The existing building is about 25,000 square feet. The addition should be finished by May 11, 1985.

Once construction ends, Blom said, the center will be moved into the addition and renovations will begin on the existing building.

The basement will house physical therapy, community health, laundry, kitchen and central service facilities.

First floor renovations will include creating space for an x-ray room and designing the interior to blend with the addition. The mental health care clinic, presently on first floor, will move to second floor to give patients more privacy, Blom said.

Room for the mental health care center comes from the elimination of eight of the 14 existing hospital beds, redesigning the offices and the laboratory.

The entire renovation project is designed to meet today's health care trends, Blom said. For instance, when the center was built it housed 30 hospital beds and an average of 20 beds were used every week, he said. Today's trend toward out-patient treatment means that two to four beds are used weekly so less hospital space is needed, he said.

Administrators also hope the renovations better enable them to educate patients by allowing more space for educational programs, Blom said.

"Our mission has changed," he said, "and we're more concerned with educating patients."

The entire project should be completed in Janu-

Athletic project tears up turf

By George Davis

Where's the turf?

Until recently, the Astroturf was at UNL's Memorial Stadium. But not any more.

The UNL athletic department has just completed the first stage of replacing the old Astroturf at the stadium. All the turf was removed after high school football camps ended.

Gary Fouraker, business and concessions manager for the athletic department, said the next step is to scrape off the asphalt base.

The All Pro Turf Company of Oklahoma City is in charge \$380,000 project and plans to finish the

resurfacing by the end of July. There have been many advances in the safety of Astroturf, since 1977, when the old turf was installed, Fouraker said. He said the present Astroturf was "laid down" when wet and became very slippery. Fouraker also said compression readings were taken

and 8 to 10 percent of the field was found to be dangerous.

"We're basically very concerned with the safety of the athletes," Fouraker said. The new field will be very similar to the turf used by professional football teams and is also like the turf at Oklahoma University and Kansas State University, he said.

As far as the old turf goes, Fouraker said the university will use it to replace spots in Schultz Field House. The Office of Campus Recreation will also use it to resurface some indoor weight rooms. Many high schools and state agencies have shown an interest in using the old turf, Fouraker said. Many people even want to recover their patios with UNL Astroturf, he said.

Besides the resurfacing project, Fouraker said, the athletic department is also preparing the space under the west stadium for the new athletic training table and study area.



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