

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATE

Mailed September 10, 1987

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Ward Beecher Hall on the campus of Youngstown State University will be rededicated to the advancement of science and education on Monday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. in the Planetarium.

In addition to an address by Dr. Bernard J. Yozwiak, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, participating in the rededication ceremonies will be YSU President Neil D. Humphrey; Dr. Thomas Dobbelstein, chairman of the YSU Chemistry Department; Dr. Warren Young, chairman, Physics and Astronomy; Dr. Paul Van Zandt, chairman, biological sciences; K. Anthony Hayek, president of Hayek and Associates, the architects; William J. Lyden, member of the Building and Property Committee, YSU Board of Trustees; Dr. Earnest Perry, chairman, YSU Board of Trustees; Mrs. Ward Beecher; Eleanor Beecher Flad; and Rev. David C. Kaminsky, pastor, First Presbyterian Church.

The building, which now houses the Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics and Astronomy Departments of the College of Arts and Sciences, has undergone a \$12.7 million renovation program which has modernized both the interior and the exterior of the building.

Begun in the fall 1984 and completed this spring, the project added nearly 18,000 square feet, giving Ward Beecher Hall a total of 150,187 square feet of floor space. It now includes 40 teaching laboratories, 25 research labs, 15 classrooms, 45 offices, and a student lounge, plus a modernized Planetarium and rooftop Observatory with a roll-back roof.

MORE

ADD ONE

The exterior of the building has been redesigned, the dome restructured, roof rebuilt, and the entire electrical and mechanical systems renovated. Also, Ward Beecher Hall is now connected to the University's Central Utility Plant for improved heating and cooling.

Landscaping around the hall is being redesigned and a final \$1.3 million project starting this fall will add a new 6,000-square-foot greenhouse at ground level facing Lincoln Avenue. The former rooftop greenhouse will become a research area.

The work merged the original 1957, four-story building on the north with the six-story, \$1.75 million south section, which was completed in 1967, into a modern, attractive and functional science facility.

Dedication ceremonies on Dec. 20, 1967 honored the vision and substantial financial assistance of the late Ward Beecher of Youngstown, former Vice President-Finance of Commercial Shearing and Stamping Co. for whom it was named.

Beecher attended Elm Street School, graduated from The Rayen School in 1907 and studied metallurgy at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. After graduation, he became a traveling auditor for Republic Rubber Co. He later was secretary and treasurer of Lau Iron Works and helped organize Powell Pressed Steel Co., where he was treasurer.

He was a director of Mahoning National Bank, and served many community organizations, including the Salvation Army and its Advisory Board.

At the ceremony in '67, Dr. Howard W. Jones, president emeritus of YSU, hailed Beecher's ideals and vision that "will help benefit thousands of young people interested in the sciences..." The renovation carries on that tradition.

MORE

ADD TWO

Free, public use of the Planetarium since 1967 has provided some 600,000 people with myriad voyages through the realms of the Universe. This improvement program included installation of new electronics systems and control interfaces, plus refurbishing of the 150-seat theatre, opening even more exciting areas of solar discovery, education and entertainment to thousands more in the future.

Funds appropriated by the Ohio General Assembly made renovation of this facility possible. Particular attention is given to the following area legislators: Robert L. Burch, State Senator, 30th District; Thomas E. Carney, State Senator, 32nd District; Harry Meshef, State Senator, 33rd District; State Representatives Ronald V. Gerberry, 71st District; Robert F. Hagan, 53rd; John D. Shivers, Jr., 3rd; Michael G. Verich, 59th; Joseph J. Vukovich, III, 52nd; and June H. Lucas 58th.

The architect for the Ward Beecher Hall renovation was K. Anthony Hayek & Associates of Youngstown. The general contractor was Casey Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., and the electrical contractor Dickey Electric Co., North Lima. Plumbing was done by the Conti Plumbing & Heating Co., Lowellville, and the heating, ventilating and air conditioning was installed by Aerotech Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Boardman.

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Wade and Rosemary Raridon of the voice faculty at Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music will present a public recital at 8 p.m. Sept. 28 in Bliss Recital Hall, Wick Avenue.

There is no admission to this event, which is part of the 1987-88 Dana Concert Series.

Soprano-tenor duets from C.H. Graun's passion setting, "Der Tod Jesu," and Joseph Haydn's opera, "Il Mondo della Luna," will open the concert.

Dr. Raridon will perform songs from Franz Schubert's song cycle, "Die Schone Mullerin," and Mrs. Raridon will present five songs "Cinque Canti Popolari Toscani" by 20th century Italian composer Vincenzo Davico.

A duet from Act 3 of Jules Massenet's opera, "Manon," will conclude the program.

The Dana School of Music is part of the YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts.

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