

Construction starts on deck; should be open by fall 1978

by Barbara Janesh

Construction of YSU's new parking deck officially began last Friday morning with groundbreaking ceremonies at the facility's proposed site on Wick Avenue.

The deck, according to William J. Lyden, chairman of the YSU Board of Trustees, will serve a three-fold purpose; the first being to provide more parking spaces for University students.

The parking deck is also "the first phase in the construction of the all-sports complex," said Lyden, explaining that construc-

tion of the sports facility, to be located behind Beeghly Physical Education Center, will follow.

"It goes beyond being just a parking deck," Lyden added, saying that he views the deck's construction as a positive step, symbolizing faith in Youngstown as a growing community, despite the city's current economic problems.

University President John J. Coffelt announced that the deck should be open at the beginning of fall quarter 1978. It will provide 2,150 parking staces at a general construction cost of approximately \$5.5 million. The facility will be six levels high, with each level served by passenger elevators. Major entrances and exits will be on Wick Avenue and Walnut Street.

The groundbreaking ceremonies were originally scheduled for Friday, Jan. 27, but were postponed because of poor weather. Approximately 60 people attended last Friday's ceremonies on the sunny, but cold, day.

Governor James A. Rhodes was scheduled to speak at the ceremonies, but was unable to attend because of Ohio's snow

and coal crises, reported Lyden.

Mayor Phillip Richley, also unable to attend, was represented by Kenneth Gran, Youngstown water commissioner.

Other speakers at the ceremonies were Michael Del Bane and Thomas J. Carney, state representatives; George J. Bindas, chairman, Mahoning County Commissioners; Richard Hughey, first ward councilman; John J. Carano, president, Student Council; Fred Carlton, representative at Dalton, van Dijk, Johnson and Partners, architect; Daniel O'Horo, president, A.P. O'Horo Company, general contractors; and Robert Dolittle, chairman, Ohio Board of Regents.

Lyden thanked area legislators saying, "all the construction at the University has been made possible through the hard work of our area legislators and through their untiring efforts this University has become a growing, vital force in the economic, cultural and educational growth of our community."

Reverend John Alexandrou, pastor of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church, gave the invocation and benediction.