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## **MSU Regional Science Center Paul Feder Observatory (1994)**

Moorhead State University

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**MSU Regional Science Center  
Paul Feder Observatory**

Moorhead State University Regional Science Center

**Dedication Wednesday June 15, 1994**

In Memory of Paul P. Feder, businessman, activist,  
philanthropist, and supporter of education.

**"His support in the early stages of the  
Science Center was crucial to its subsequent  
success. Early on he saw the educational value of this land."**

— Roland Dille, President of Moorhead State University

# **MSU Regional Science Center Paul Feder Observatory Dedication**

**2 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, 1994**

**Welcome** ..... John McCune, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

**Remarks** ..... Roland Dille, President

**Remarks** ..... Betty Feder

**Educational demonstrations inside the building**

**Reception**

**Optional tour led by George Davis, Director of Regional Science Center**



## **About Paul P. Feder**

Paul Feder was born in Chicago in 1919. He graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in accounting. It was at Northwestern where he met and married Betty Goldberg from Fargo, ND.

### **A local, national, and international businessman**

Paul was very involved in the area's business and civic life. He was comptroller of Moorhead Seed and Grain, Northland Grain, and Goldena Mills. He owned and operated the Brownee Bakeries as well as the Viking Lefse Company. He was president and managing partner of Feder Properties and Feder Farms and was a former president and chairman of the board of Union State Bank.

His business interests were national and international as well. He was executive vice president of the Hotel Corporation of Israel, which built and operated the first overseas hotel for the Sheraton company. Paul was also managing partner of Niva Plantations in Israel and a member of the board of Ero Industries in Chicago.



### **A civic-minded man who loved a challenge**

Paul was a charter member and treasurer of the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre; treasurer of KFME radio; treasurer and president of the Fargo-Moorhead Civic Opera Company; chairman of the North Dakota chapter of the American field service and a member of the board for St. John's Hospital. His wife Betty says, "I can't possibly name all the committees on which he served. The year that he passed away he was still serving on the United Way major gifts campaign. He just wouldn't stop!" Much of what Paul did was done anonymously.

### **A strong supporter of Moorhead State University**

Both Betty and Paul have been strong MSU supporters. The Telescope and Observatory are, of course, very important results of Paul Feder's long-time support of MSU. He also played many different roles here. He was chairman of the MSU Parents' Association, a member of the Moorhead State University Foundation Board (as is Betty currently), as well as a member of the acquisition committee for the MSU Regional Science Center.

### **A tireless worker for the Regional Science Center at a crucial time**

The property on which the Science Center is located, the Ponderosa Golf Club, was a gift from the Elks Club in 1977. Feder was a key figure on a special committee set up to negotiate with the Elks, to transfer the property to MSU, and the subsequent land use studies to assess the educational value of the land. Feder, an MSU Foundation Board Member since 1971, personally negotiated an agreement with the Elks to add a \$5,000 annual contribution for student scholarships for the term of the contract for deed.

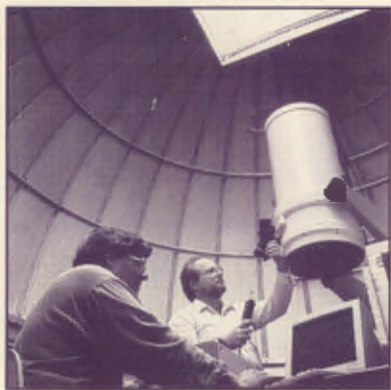




**President Dille remembers the hard work involved:**

"Paul, Dennis Troff, [president of the MSU Foundation at the time of the Ponderosa acquisition], Tom Collins [biology professor] and Gerry Haukebo [MSU vice president of public affairs], all saw what it could become — an outdoor laboratory for the teaching and learning of science. But that end was dozens of meetings and hundreds of hours, weeks, away. Paul's help and commitment was invaluable to us during that time. Betty's help came later, in the late 80s, during the controversy over the use of part of the land as a golf course. "

Early on, the Physics department saw the potential for placing an Observatory on the property with its clear skies and minimal light pollution, so that astronomy could be added to the growing list of educational uses. The expense of a telescope and observatory is such that they were both put far down the list of needs. A few years ago, during the fund-raising campaign for the Telescope and Observatory, Betty Feder gave the Science Center a gift in Paul's name. The gift arrived at a crucial time, and assured the successful completion of the Observatory.



## **The Telescope and Observatory**

If you drive up to the Science Center building at the Buffalo River site, your attention is quickly drawn to the bright Observatory dome at the east end of the building. The Observatory houses a 16-inch telescope, one of the most powerful in Minnesota, which became operational last fall. Images from the telescope can be projected into the auditorium in the main building. A small video camera attached to the eye piece of the telescope puts images into a microcomputer, allowing students to manipulate or enhance the images.

The Observatory is used in introductory astronomy classes, by physics professors and students engaged in research projects, by area teachers in workshops, and by hundreds of observers on Family Astronomy Nights.

It is a splendid addition to the education of thousands of people in the area, and a fitting tribute to Paul Feder, whose time, energy, and imagination helped the Science Center come into being.

Thank you, Paul Feder.

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