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# RAHWAY News Record

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**FACELIFT . . .** The former Rahway Theatre on Rahway's Irving St. undergoes a dramatic transformation with the addition of its brand new marquee. The 60-year-old former vaudeville theatre was officially renamed Union County Arts Center in 1985.

## New marquee completes transformation of Rahway Theatre

### Gala dedication planned

The Union County Arts Center, Main and Irving Streets, Rahway, invites everyone to a historic event: The dedication and lighting of its spectacular new marquee — on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Officials, dignitaries, and media will be present as the master switch is thrown by Rahway Mayor Daniel Martin and four of the Arts

Center's past presidents, sequencing the lighting of the marquee's nine different circuits.

The new marquee replaces a 60-year-old unit that had been badly ravaged by time. The new unit, designed by architect Charles Gifford of Mejer, Yowell and Gifford, of New York City, and a committee from the arts center, includes a 1920's style "chaser" light circuit

around the perimeter as a part of the nine lighting circuits.

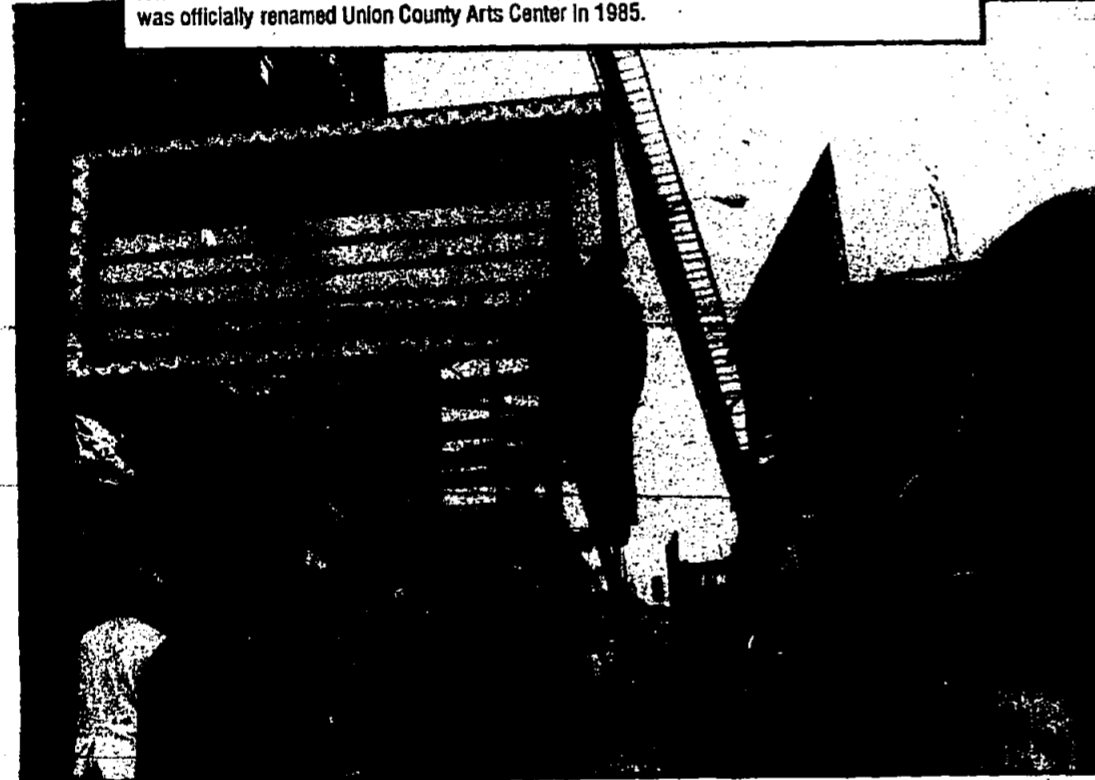
The new marquee is larger and more elaborate than the original unit, which had over 2,500 light bulbs. The new one was custom-built by Lafayette Sign Co. of Jersey City, one of the nation's foremost sign manufacturers. Funding was made possible by a grant from the City of Rahway.

The arts center was originally the Rahway Theatre, which opened in October, 1928, as a combined vaudeville and motion picture showcase. It was built by Rahway businessman Bernard "Barney" Engelman, with the help of his brother, New York City architect and theatre-builder David Otárah. A bronze plaque honoring Engelman is permanently installed in the theatre's inner lobby.

The Rahway Theatre

remained in continuous operation, primarily as a first-run movie theatre until November, 1981, when the city forced its closure on a technicality. It had been running triple-X adult films in its last days.

In September, 1984, it was purchased by Rahway Landmarks, a nonprofit corporation established for the purpose of preserving the elegant old theatre as a county arts center.



## Police to auction abandoned vehicles

**by Pat DiMaggio**  
Rahway's Police Department will hold an auction to dispose of abandoned vehicles early next month. The city's Municipal Council approved a resolution at Monday's meeting, setting the date of the sale.

A state statute allows the Police Department to auction the vehicles, with proceeds from the sale to be used to cover storage costs of vehicles recovered by the department's towing representatives. Any monies remaining will be turned over to the City's treasury.

The sale will be held on April 3 at 10 a.m. at Ryans

Garage, 1062 Westfield Avenue, and at 11 a.m. at Rahway Auto-Body, 41 West Inman Avenue.

The council also approved a resolution accepting a bid from Cid Construction Corporation, Millington, for the "Irving Street Mall" project.

**Other Developments**  
Sidewalks from Coach Street to the intersection of Main Street and Central Avenue, in front of the Union County Arts Center, will be paved.

Anthony D. Deige, Health Officer for the City, was appointed as representative to

the Union County Environmental Health Commission for a one-year term, and Janice Buchanan, City Sanitary Inspector, was appointed as an alternate.

The council also appointed Police Captain Edward Tilton as the Safe Neighborhood Program Municipal Coordinator and Thomas Schimmel was appointed as the Clean Neighborhood Program Municipal Coordinator. Fire Director James T. Heller was designated as the coordinator for the Fire Services Program.

## Environmental Health Commission elects Rahway's Deige treasurer

The Union County Regional Environmental Health Commission has elected the following officers: Angelo J. Bonanno, health administrator for the Hillside Board of Health — chairman; Eugene Gatens, president of Fanwood Board of Health — vice chairman; Anthony Deige, City of Rahway health officer — treasurer; and Kevin Schurman, Commission program coordinator — executive secretary.

The commission was created to meet County Environmental Health Act re-

quirements which seek to provide environmental services on a regional basis. All of the commission's operating funds are derived from the State Department of Environmental Protection and it presently conducts certified air pollution and noise control services for 16 member municipalities, including Rahway and Clark.

At present, the commission is actively involved with Freeholder Neil Cohen and County Counsel Jeremiah O'Dwyer in implementing final plans for a county wide anti-dumping program.

## Hardwick seeks toll hike veto

Assembly Speaker Chuck Hardwick has urged Governor Kean to veto the minutes of the March 2 meeting of the N.J. Highway Authority, an action that would effectively negate the authority's vote to hike tolls on the Garden state Parkway and create a new barrier toll plaza in the South Jersey Shore area.

"A toll hike at this time would be disastrous," Hardwick said. "The Parkway already experiences traffic delays and an increase in accidents pollution around toll plazas. By forcing motorists to come up with two coins instead of one, the problems will be compounded. . . We're headed for massive traffic jams."

The Highway Authority recently approved a 10-cent increase in tolls on the Parkway from 25 cents to 35 cents and agreed to peruse plans to construct a barrier toll plaza somewhere between mileposts 40 and 45.

Hardwick noted that emissions from motor vehicles are higher and more concentrated at the barrier tolls. He added that an effective marketing scheme should be developed to convince motorists to buy tokens, and serious consideration must be given to

alternatives to the existing toll booths, including automated identification and billing systems.

## City to distribute commodities

The City of Rahway will be distributing commodities on Wednesday March 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the City Hall Complex at Main Street. Persons qualified may register weekdays, at the Welfare Department, City Hall, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Proof of eligibility will be required. Those eligible will be those receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC); Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Medicaid; and Women, Infants & Children (WIC).

Pre Registration is mandatory. No commodity will be given to anyone who is not pre-registered.

## Many pets await adoption!

With the cold weather, pet adoption at the Pet Adoption Waiting Station (PAWS) in Linden has slowed down to none. Many animals are waiting for a good home.

Call PAWS at 499-9300 for more information.



Heather Hersey

## Rahway's Hersey is 'Queen' finalist

Miss Heather Hersey, daughter of Dorothy and Albert Hersey of Rahway, has been selected as a finalist for New Jersey's 9th annual Homecoming Queen selection to be held May 6 and 7 at the Mt. Laurel Hilton in Mount Laurel. Hersey is the Rahway High School Homecoming Queen.

New Jersey's Homecoming Queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense paid trip to compete

with queens from the other states for America's Homecoming Queen in July in Honolulu. The new queen will receive a cash scholarship plus an expense paid educational trip to Europe.

America's Homecoming Queen, Inc. is a non-profit organization promoting education and educational travel for high school homecoming queens in all 50 states.

## Rahway's Tappan completes training

Navy Seaman Recruit Travis B. Tappan, son of Rodney W. and Cortell Y. Tappan of Fulton St., Rahway, has completed recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During his eight-week training cycle, Tappan studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic fields. His studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history and first aid.

A long standing goal was realized on March 13 as Rahway Hospital opened a child care center for the children of staff members. Known as "KIDS 1st," it is located in the facilities of the Frederick Fairclough Education Building of Zion Lutheran Church about a mile from the hospital.

KIDS 1st will be open for 12 hours daily and enrolls children beginning at age 2 months. The education-based program is state-certified.

The center is unique in its flexible schedule designed to accommodate the special needs of healthcare workers who may not work a straight 40-hour week. Also, provisions have been made for staff who wish to use the center on a drop-in basis, a feature particularly attractive to those who work the night shift and need the child care service to allow them to sleep.

The KIDS 1st concept was developed by an ad hoc hospital committee com-

prised of Nancy Jackson, Director of Community Relations, Chairman, Ernestine Rogers, Assistant V.P. Human Resources, and Arlene Tomchik, Assistant V.P. Ambulatory Services. Future Generation of Elizabeth, child care consultants, developed the curriculum.

Alba Botnick has been appointed Director of Early Childhood Services for the hospital and will be responsible for the daily operation of the center.

Commenting on this new service, John L. Yoder, hospital president, states, "We are pleased to be able to provide this outstanding service and to assist our staff with safe, educationally based child care arrangements. In addition, we hope that child care will attract healthcare workers to Rahway Hospital. . . We thank the congregation at Zion Lutheran for their cooperation."



**KIDS 1ST . . .** Upon completion of the plans for KIDS 1st, Rahway Hospital's child care center for hospital employees, John L. Yoder, president of Rahway Hospital, welcomes Alba Botnick, center, Director of Early Childhood Services, to the hospital staff. Standing at right is Pam Zarr, Regional Director of Future Generation, child care consultants to business and industry.

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**AIR GRAD** — Airman Ann M. Hladinec, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hladinec of Mayfair Drive, Rahway, has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations. In addition, airman who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the community college of the Air Force. Hladinec is a 1985 graduate of Rahway High School.

## BULLETIN

As we prepare to go to press, we have received information that the \$21.3 million Rahway Hospital expansion project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. This project will include a 27 room addition to the hospital.