CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY of the Construction Of This Building!

100 YEARS!

CYO

920 South Broad Street

1920-2020
Centennial Anniversary of 920 S. Broad St.

Opening in 1920, Trenton’s second largest movie house, the RKO Broad Theater, has always been a focal point for this section of the capital city. Originally providing a stage for vaudeville acts, the theatre would evolve to screening moving pictures.

In 1962, the Diocese of Trenton purchased the theater, an idea of Rev. Leonard Toomey, in hopes of converting it to a recreation hall.

Throughout the years, it would continue to feature memorable entertainment such as ECW and NWA wrestling matches with visits from Sgt. Slaughter as well as semi-pro basketball games.

Now at 100 years old, the building has never seen more activity than it does today by serving as a home to a Pre-School, After-School Program, and Summer Camp. With a focus on childcare, the building has never been more important to the community.

We have put together this virtual open house to allow you to get a better understanding of the history of this building that we love so much. Be sure to take the time to read the occasional articles that follow as they contain additional details of stories you may have heard.

And now, on with the show!
The South Broad Street Theatre
The New Amusement Palace for the People of the Old Borough Is Daily Taking Shape.

The South Broad Will Provide the Best of Entertainment at the Smallest Fee for the Largest Centre of People in the City.

Watch It Grow

The Biggest Theatre In Trenton

36% On Your Investment
When you put your money in First Mortgage Bonds of The South Broad St. Theatre

South Broad Below Beatty

These Bonds Pay:
Interest on $100 Bond  ---  $ 6
Free admission per year to the value of  ---  $30
(as long as you hold the bond)

Total  ------------------  $36
### CITY OF TRENTON, N. J.  
**TAX ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**STREET** 920-922 S. Broad St.  
**OWNER** Trenton Theatre Bldg. Co.  
**PAGE** 167  
**LOT** 96  
**SIZE** 175 x 100

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#### BUILDING DESCRIPTION

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#### Rooms

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#### ASSESSMENT & APPEAL DATA

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The document contains a map of the building, indicating the dimensions and layout, with labels for various sections such as Lobby, Rest Rooms, and a note indicating the sale on Nov 26-62. The assessment data includes land, building, and total values for different years.
THEATRE TO SEAT 2,100 PEOPLE PLANNED FOR SOUTH BROAD; ADDISON TRUST PROMOTERS

The SOUTH BROAD Theatre
Broad Street Below Beatty
Will be the Largest and Most Up-to-Date Amusement House in Trenton When Completed Next Spring.
The Stage Alone Will Cost $75,000, and with Its Equipment, Unrivalled in the State, Will Permit the Presentation of BIG SPECTACULAR ACTS
The Best of Vaudeville and the Biggest Motion Picture Features in a Magnificence of Manner Unknown in Trenton, With the Accompaniment of Recitals by a Wonderful $25,000 Organ

NEW THEATRE WILL HAVE MANY EXITS
Proposed South Broad Street Playhouse Eliminates Danger from Panic
GRAND OPENING
NOV. 1, 1920
THE GREAT
SOUTH BROAD ST. THEATRE
(SOUTH BROAD, NEAR BEATTY)
with
THE BIGGEST SHOW IN TOWN

POPULAR PRICES
Continuous Shows from 1 to 11 P. M.
Under Direction of the St. Regis Management.

2.300 2.300 2.300 2.300
As Cool as an Autumn Breeze
AT RKO THEATRES

CAREFULLY COOLED
LINCOLN

NOW
Dancing, Singing, Swinging

noted TAYLOR POWELL
BROADWAY MELODY
of 1938

AUG. 27—BOBBY BEKEN 'MAKE A WISH'

CAPITOL
CAREFULLY COOLED

NOW thru Mon.
FRED MACMURRAY
FRANCES FARMER
CHARLIE RUGGLES

"EXCLUSIVE"
Tues.—Joe E. Brown's hit wrencher 'Riding on Air'

TRENT
NOW—MON.
JACK OAKIE, CARY GRANT, EDWARD ARNOLD,
FRANCES FARMER in 'THE TOAST OF NEW YORK'

STATE
—Now—
GEORGE O'BRIEN
in 2-gan. 2-listed action picture "WINDJAMMER"
& tense 'Valley of Wanted Men'—Frankie Darro

BROAD
TODAY
Jack Oakie, Ann Sothern in
mirthquake thriller 'Super Sleuth'
Eric Linden, Cecilia Parker 'Sweetheart of the Navy'
Mat. 'Painted Stallion'
Sun., Mon.—Richard Cromwell, Slim Summerville,
Andy Devine, Louise Fazenda, Barbara Read,
John King in tense 'The Road Back'

THE GREAT
SOUTH BROAD
ST. THEATRE
S. Broad, Near Heatty
Trenton's Finest Playhouse

--- MATINEE TODAY ---
Last Times Today of
Under Crimson Skies
with
ERMO LINCOLN
Comedies, Pathé News
"THE GILDED DREAM"
Starring Carmel Myers

The only picture house with
an orchestra
Prices 10c, 20c, 30c.
<table>
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RKO THEATRE
Trenton, New Jersey
LINCOLN, CAPITOL,
STATE, BROAD,
PALACE and TRENT

Good clean
amusement
is a necessary
requisite of
every day
American life.

ALWAYS HAS
AND ALWAYS
WILL BE!
Lively time in front of Broad Theater in 1941 as Junior 4 students celebrated.

Broad Closes Doors As Theater
Sale Or Lease Last Billing As Colorful History Ends
A spectacular wedding, 2,300 pedal-operated trash baskets, 300 WACs, boxing and junior high school marching and no, this strange collection isn't something dreamed up by F. T. arnum. They're all a part of the history of the RKO Broad Theater on South Broad Street near ferry.

The occasion for recalling them was the recent removal of all projectors, seats and scenery from renton's second largest movie house. The days of the double feature and free dishes are no more.

The owners of the building, the renton theater building company, have put it on the block with one condition — the new owner or the person who leases it must agree not to use it for theatrical purposes.

For many, the final passing of the Broad as a movie theater is like the passing of an old friend. Built in 1919 by William J. Veron and W. Henry Elfreth, the theater was operated by them until 1924. In 1924, however, it was placed in receivership following a long legal battle in which Veron and Elfreth were charged with mismanagement.

In the same year, a lease was granted to George B. Ten Eyck by Richard Stockton III of Princeton, who was acting as receiver. The theater was renamed 'Ten Eyck's Broad.'

The Broad changed hands again in 1938 when Frank V. Slowe of New York, majority stockholder of the Trenton theater building company, bought the building from Stockton. The building is now owned by that company.

Reflections By Conklin

James Conklin, manager of the Broad from 1930 to 1944 and again from 1950 to 1951 before becoming manager of the Lincoln in 1955, recalled some of the high points in the theater's history.

"Back in the 30s," he said, "we were always coming up with some kind of gimmick. A lot of people were out of work, you know, and for many of them the only thing they had to look forward to for a little entertainment was an occasional movie.

Bargain Price

"Well, during the depression the downtown theaters were getting 40 cents for a show. We charged a quarter and did a booming business."

Referring to the 2,200 pedal-operated trash baskets, Conklin explained that they followed the old giveaway standard—dishes.

"We made people come to three shows in order to get crack at those cans," he said. "I bet many homes here are still using some of the things we gave out at the Broad.'"

Another stunt that Conklin used to boost attendance was setting up a wedding in the theater on the stage. The idea almost backfired, however, when Conklin, in an attempt to stir up interest in the event, sent an unsigned letter to the newspapers criticizing the whole thing as a publicity stunt. Everything turned out all right, though, with some 2,000 people jamming the theater to see the ceremony.

Horses got into the act by drawing the kiddies. Carney Rose brought his whole troupe on stage, and at least one lucky boy won himself a pony.

School Anniversary

One of the biggest events in the theater's history was the parade held to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the opening of Junior High School 4. Hundreds of people turned out to watch the high school band perform and listen to speeches by the city commissioners commemorating the event.

And of those who saw them, who could ever forget the Golden Gloves fights?

"When we started the bouts," Conklin said, "the audience was almost all men. But when the women heard that it was just like going out to see a show, the whole thing changed. After the first few fights, half our audience were women," he said.

With the coming of World War II, the Army came to Broad and Beatty Street — the women's army that is. A recruiting booth was set up at the Broad and glamour was added to the opening by the presence of 300 WACs.

The war effort also got a big boost in 1943 when the theater offered a free two-hour motion picture show to youngsters who brought in wrapped waste fats.

One boy, Conklin said, almost got into trouble when two cons heard him admit he had "lifted" a pound of butter from home and dropped it in with the rest of the fats "for the cause."

On May 17, 1960 the theater was officially closed. The last two movies to be shown were "Feather in Pink Tights" and "This Rebel Breed."
RKO Broad Still Serves The Community

by Frank Richardson

On South Broad Street near Beatty, a large 61-year-old building currently houses a cultural and athletic center for the Catholic Youth Organization. The familiar yellow school buses appear frequently in front of the entrance on weekdays after 3 p.m. But if one looks on the north side of the building, the painted bricks, which have faded over the past two decades, read "RKO Broad Theater."

The spacious Broad Theater, seating over 2,000, is one of the oldest in the city when constructed by William Vernon and W. Henry Elfreth in 1919, was an integral part of the Chambersburg shopping district for forty years. Purchased by R.K.O., which also operated the Capitol, Lincoln, Palace and State in downtown and later the Brunswick and Hamilton in the neighborhoods, the theater was the scene for Golden Gloves boxing, a wedding, a parade, and other audience attracting events. Theater policy also called for promotional efforts such as prizes, dishes and pedal-operated trash basket giveaways.

In the theater's early years, the Broad featured vaudeville since it had an adequate size stage, orchestra pit, flies, and a high stage loft. The large seating capacity, approximately 1,400 in the orchestra and 600 in the balcony, also made it attractive to the vaudeville circuit.

The depression of the 1930s did not hurt movie business as most people needed the cheap form of entertainment that motion pictures provided.

Admission was only a quarter then compared to the forty cents admission in downtown theaters.

During the patriotic era of World War II, the Broad management aided the Army by permitting a recruiting booth to operate in the building. This was just part of what the operators of the theater did for the war effort. According to Harold Stout of Hamilton Township, children "...were urged to bring milkweed pods which were used in manufacturing parachutes. This way we would get in for nothing." In 1943, a free two-hour show was awarded to youngsters who brought in wrapped waste fats which would be transformed by private industry into soap and glycerine.

"The Broad used to show a popular serial, cartoons, shorts like Joe McDoakes' "Buy Behind the Eight Ball," Movietone News, and the feature film," Stout said smiling while reminiscing about his youth. "I saw many movies there starring Gene Autry, Tom Mix, and Roy Rogers." He added that he "...used to go to Sanders Ice Cream Parlor after the show."

Captain Roy Hasty, of Ladder Company No. 2 at Clinton and Beatty Street, remembers the Broad in a different way. "I used to inspect the Broad for fire violations," Hasty recalled before adding that "...I sometimes got free tickets and take the family to the movies."

When R.K.O. decided to shutter the old film house in 1960, its future remained uncertain since the owners wanted its prospective buyer to agree not to reopen the building as a theater. The Broad bowed out with "Heller in Pink Tights" and "This Rebel Breed" on May 17, 1960.

After the seats, scenery, curtains, and projectors were removed in September, 1961, the building was purchased by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Trenton for the Catholic Youth Organization at the insistence of Monsignor Michael J. McCormistin in 1963 for $65,000. Monsignor Leonard Toomey, director of the CYO for 19 years, supervised the renovation of the theater into a recreation hall.

Monsignor McCormistin, presently the pastor at St. Anthony's Church, said that "the building inspector said it was worth at least $500 thousand." Referring to the purchase price of $65,000, he said, "That was a very special price they gave us." Most of the renovation work inside the building was done by volunteers.

The theater was ideal for the goals of the CYO according to Monsignor Toomey of Sacred Heart Parish. "The auditorium is just the right side for regulation high school basketball. The old vaudeville dressing rooms on both sides of the stage were converted into arts and crafts rooms, manual training centers, and locker rooms. The stage was set up for physical training, upstairs for girls and downstairs for boys."

The tiered balcony was leveled and converted into rooms for games, meetings, and recreation. "The lobby is still very much the same except for the small kitchen and snack bar," the monsignor said. "The foyer outside the theater was shortened to make room for offices although the original panel in the ticket booth and the coming attractions sign still exist today."

In reference to the old marquee which adorns the building he said that "...it is still the original sign put up by the Hutchinson Sign Company." If one looks closely at the marquee, "RKO Broad" is visible under the black coats of paint.

Unlike the many other movie theaters in the city, the Broad, re-dedicated as the CYO in June, 1964, has found a niche and is still viable to the local parochial schools and the Chambersburg community.
A mason completes work on the entranceway of the new Catholic Youth Organization headquarters in what formerly was the old RKO Broad Theater on S. Broad St. The renovated structure will house three basketball courts, offices and meeting rooms.
Now Playing At Old Broad Theater...‘CYO’
Movie House Becomes Youth Center

By Lee Patterson

CYO will open room for a permanent run at the old RKO Broad Theater.

“CYO” is not a new movie or stage show. It is the Catholic Youth Organization of the Trenton Diocese which purchased the old theater on South Broad Street near Beauty, a year and a half ago.

In that passing time, the sprawling building has been converted inside into what looks like a brand new center.

It will be officially dedicated next Saturday afternoon at 5. Then it will swing into a full-time Summer program on Monday, June 18.

The old marquee of the theater is still there, but now it has CYO in large letters affixed on either side.

The entrance has been shortened and the space gained is now two small offices that will be used by the Rev. Leonard R. Toohey, diocesan CYO director; Alice Callery, secretary, and Robert Malloy, the new program director. Michael Webber and Carl Tisch of the physical department may use the offices on occasion.

Father Toohey proudly guided a couple of visitors from the basement to the lobby and the theater the very top of the building the other day. Most everywhere he went he remarked about what a relief it was that there were now windows in a number of places which once were blank and darkened theater walls.

New Kitchen In the Lobby

The kitchen has been retained but it now contains a big snack bar and a new kitchen area where there was once a ramp leading to an exit. The two rest rooms also have been removed.

The biggest change, the old auditorium, is now a vast gymnasium. It has a three-way basketball court. The main court is regulation high school size. Crossing it from side to side are two smaller courts, one for grammar school ages and the other for ‘holly’ and ‘jolly.’

Father Toohey explained that volunteer workers helped remove the old theater seats. The old masts were of no value and were destroyed, but he added that the metal was salvaged and sold for around $800.

The old bachelor’s space is now an exercise room, and shower and locker rooms for men and boys. Nearby are similar rooms for women and girls. Similar, that is, except in one very noticeable respect. The locker and shower rooms are in green tile, but the upper feminine section is done up in pink.

Arts And Crafts, Sewing, Room

Still higher, in what were old vaudeville dressing rooms, are now being constructed arts and crafts and sewing rooms for girls. Above these are still more dressing rooms that have not yet been converted.

“We’re really glad to see what we do with them,” said Father Toohey. He also mentioned that Mrs. Harry F. Farley is in charge of arts and crafts, and Mrs. Charles Smith and Mrs. George Hennig head the sewing department.

What was the balcony is partially separated from the gym with a large panel of frosted glass.

Father Toohey was asked if the glass is safe from flying basketballs. He said it is unbreakable, he added.

“Of course, I’m not challenging any of the boys to try it.”

Behind the glass panels, where the balcony was, is a large lounge and meeting room, with game rooms on either side of it.

There is some space that hasn’t yet been used, but plans are already in mind. For instance, there is space among the old dressing rooms that may one day become a squash and handball court. And the small basement beneath the lobby may one day be used for a rifle range.

Having completed the tour, continually pointing out were windows had been cut into the walls of the once dark building, Father Toohey led his visitors back to the lobby.

Then he pointed to the little door that had once led into the last office of the old theater. The door doesn’t lead to anywhere now. It just hangs outside the wall of what is now part of Father Toohey’s office.

They just left it there for the fun of it, he said.

One of these days, he said, he’ll have a “booth” sign made and hang it on the door that leads to nowhere and doesn’t even open.

Robert Malloy, CYO program director, sees one of the power saws in the CYO manual training room.
HISTORY OF THE MERCER COUNTY CYO

In September 1952, the Catholic Youth Organization of the Diocese of Trenton was established in all eight Counties of the Diocese, under the supervision of Father Leonard R. Toomey, Diocesan CYO Director.

Like its counterparts, the Mercer County CYO functioned in 26 parishes offering a four-fold program of spiritual, athletic, cultural and social activities to boys and girls of both grammar school and high school age, as well as to young adults out of school and working. The latter group was known as CYAC’s - Catholic Young Adult Club. With 3,000 youth in these three divisions participating weekly in the CYO program, the Mercer County CYO was one of the largest youth service agencies in the area.

On February 3, 1958, the Mercer County CYO opened its first official headquarters at 1 Centre Street, Trenton adjacent to Sacred Heart Church. The building was well known City-wide as the home of the former Men’s Catholic Club and its gymnasium, game activity and meeting rooms became alive again.

The CYO Day Camp began on July 7, 1958, on a 20 acre tract site of the old Springdale Park, on Allentown Road in Yardville, next to St. Vincent DePaul Church; it featured an Olympic size swimming pool, sports, arts and crafts and acres of woods. The Day Camp was an immediate success, with a daily attendance of 300 grammar school age girls and boys in that first Summer of ‘58 and a daily attendance of 500 in the Summer of ’59. The Day Camp still flourishes and now features an Evening Family Swim Club and a weekend picnic spot for private parties.

With an ever increasing number of young people participating, the facility at Centre Street became inadequate. On June 13, 1984, the late Bishop George V. Ahn blessed and opened the present CYO Center at 920 South Broad Street. After 32 years, it is still home to thousands of youth and adults who participate in the variety of programs and activities sponsored by the Mercer County CYO.

Today it’s hard to imagine that the building was originally the RKO Broad Theater. After extensive renovations, the auditorium and stage were transformed into a gymnasium featuring a regulation size basketball court and bleachers. The balcony became game and meeting rooms, and the backstage changed into exercise and locker rooms. Second floor backstage dressing rooms reappeared as the arts and crafts area.

No account of the CYO of Mercer County would be complete without acknowledging the assistance and interest of the Diocese of Trenton and the dedication and work of the late Monsignor Michael P. McCrorristin. Monsignor, with a group of volunteers, undertook the renovations at 1 Centre Street and 920 South Broad Street, as well as building the swimming pool and facilities at the Day Camp.

Likewise, the CYO will always be grateful to the legions of men and women, priests and religious who in the past as well as in the present, so generously volunteer their time and talents serving the youth of CYO in its 44 year history (the 35th anniversary acknowledges the official incorporation of the organization) here in Mercer County and throughout the Diocese of Trenton. Last but far from least is Miss Alice V. Calley, long time secretary in the CYO Office. For her it was not a job, but a labor of love.

Written by Monsignor Leonard R. Toomey - August 1996
Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas

NWA Championship WRESTLING
CYO Building — So. Broad St., Trenton

Wed. May 1 8 pm

National Title Match
Ron Garvin vs. Tully Blanchard
with Baby Doll
tag team match
Ole & Arne Anderson
vs.
Raging Bull Manny Fernandez
&
Thunderbolt Patterson

Pistol Pez Whatley vs. Bob Roop
Krusher Kruschev vs. Buzz Tyler
Stony Burke vs.
Hollywood Johnny Tatum
Denny Brown vs. RPM-LP

Tickets $9 & $7
available at CYO, Pep’s Steak House, and Antinoro’s Pizza

May 1, 1985 - Trenton, New Jersey

E.C.W. Pro Wrestling
The EXTREME is back!
Saturday May 3
8:00 PM
At the C.Y.O. Building
on Broad Street

Tickets: $25 Front & 2nd Row
$20 Ring Side
$15 General Admission

For More Info. Or Advanced Sales Call:
NJ: 609-396-1019
PA: 215-799-5290
Trenton C.Y.O.: 609-396-8100
Doors Open At 6:30 PM

The Star
WRESTLING
C.Y.O.
Main Event

LARRY CESNO vs. PAT PATTERSON

TAG TEAM TITLE MATCH
Don Dunlavey

THE LEE SAMOANS vs. RICK MCGRAW &

TRENTON C.Y.O.: 609-396-8100
Doors Open at 6:30 PM

Program Subject to Change
Hoops players hold court at CYO All Star games

Andrew Kusmirk, left, presents the CYO Boys All Star Game MVP Award to Myles Mitchell-White from Lawrence High.

Steinert High School senior Morgan Comfort, left, receives the Renee Keister Award from Renee Keister.

Lawrence's Amira Brown, right, battles for a rebound against Paddie's Madison Skerrit, left, during Friday's CYC All Stars game.

Samantha Widmann from Notre Dame puts up a shot at the CYO of Mercer County's 17th Annual High School Basketball All-Star Game.

Brianna Danner from Steinert drives to the basket during the CYO of Mercer County 17th Annual High School Basketball All-Star Game on Saturday.
All-Stars rack up points during annual CYO showcase.
Although the CYO has evolved over time, its mission has not changed, according to Tom Mladenetz, CYO executive director.

Times of Trenton file photo

Decades of service: For 67 years, the organization has made a lasting impression
With the new bus are, back row from left, John Soss, CYO Broad Street center program director; Nancy Podeszwa, CYO grant proposal writer, and Tom Mladenetz, CYO executive director. Courtesy Photo

TRENTON

Donors keep wheels turning at CYO of Mercer
CYO of Mercer receives grant from Trenton Thunder

Children at the CYO Mercer’s Broad Street Center got a special visit from Trenton Thunder representatives, who gifted the center with a $2,500 grant. In back row, from left, are Jeff Hurley, Thunder general manager; CYO executive director Tom Mladenetz, with mascot Boomer; Thunder community affairs director Vince Marcucci; CYO grant proposal writer Nancy Podeszwa; CYO tutoring coordinator Andrea Sirak and CYO tutor Lar Sirak. Courtesy photo.

CYO tutoring program gets boost from TD Bank grant

Educational Opportunities — Stacey Romano (back row, at right), TD Bank market manager for Mercer County, and Jacquelyn R. Sheridan, TD Bank Trenton store manager, present a check to Mercer CYO executive director Thomas G. Mladenetz. They are joined by children from the CYO’s summer recreational/educational day camp. Courtesy photo.

The Mercer County CYO will continue its tutoring program, which includes融化在数学
That concludes this trip through the past.

But we hope this is not the end of the story.

If you happen to have any additional pictures, articles, or any other historical content featuring the RKO Broad Theatre or the CYO, please send them along to jsoss@cyomercer.org.

Thank you for taking an interest in this small piece of history. Stay tuned to see what will be playing next at the CYO!