

building was given to the manager's office, with a vault and waiting room; a publicity and advertising room; a drawing room for advertising preparation and a poster storage room.

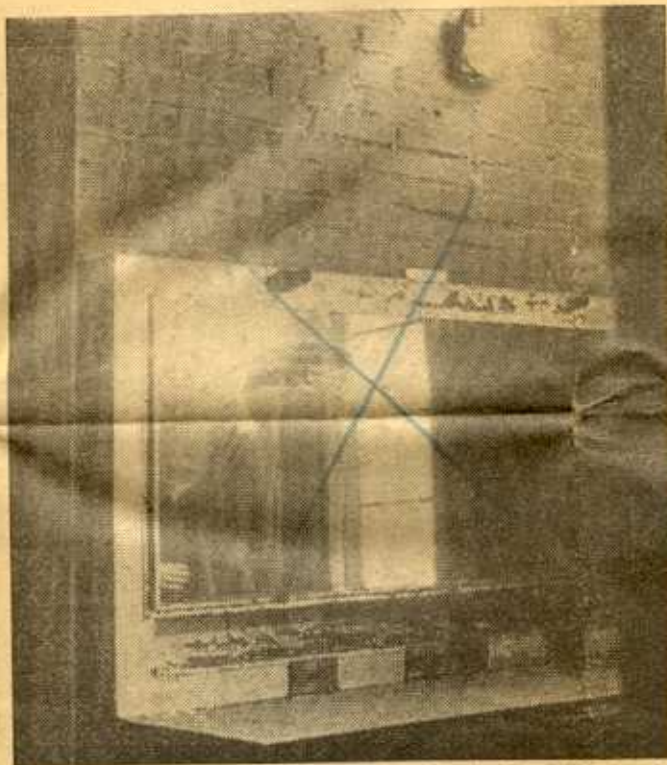
The major construction project called for the closing of the theater from May 1, 1925 until the fall of the year. The ultra-plush theater held a grand opening in time for the 1925-26 theater season.

In 1935, the Shea's Theater Corp. bought out the old Roosevelt Theater in Brooklyn Square and operated that theater briefly before closing the building.

The Shea's Theater again made headlines in 1946 when the clang of drilling tools and the smell of water, mud, hardpan and clay emanated from the building. That year, a well driller was hired, sinking a 90-100 foot shaft in the theater to obtain water to enable the theater to install an air conditioning system. The well, in mid-downtown Jamestown, was sunk because city water in quantities cost enough to make the overall cost of the system prohibitive.

Television equipment was installed at Sheas in 1951, bringing in an exclusive wire system to provide programs not available elsewhere.

Southwestern New York Theaters Co. of Batavia purchased Shea's in July, 1961



Maude Adams, Thelma Ritter, Boris Karloff, Ralph Bellamy and many others sat in front of the dressing tables in the old theater on East Second Street.

and closed the theater the same evening final papers were signed. The big marquee flickered out and crews dismantled the building, stripping it to the bare walls.

The playhouse had been

gathering cobwebs and deteriorating until Little Theater of Jamestown purchased the property in March, 1968, and undertook still another major facelift, in keeping with modern theater taste.