

THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

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Volume One, Issue 3

New York, October 18, 2009

Free Edition

LARGEST CROWD IN NATION'S HISTORY AT UNION SQUARE

BIRTH OF UNION SQUARE'S TRADITION AS FORUM FOR LABOR RALLIES, PARADES, SOAP BOX SPEAKERS

Dateline: April 20, 1861

100,000 people gathered in Union Square for a rally in support of the Union army. They cheered when the Fort Sumter Civil War flag was flown from the statue of George Washington. This was the largest gathering in the nation's history.

10,000 WORKERS MARCH IN UNION SQUARE AMERICA'S FIRST LABOR DAY PARADE

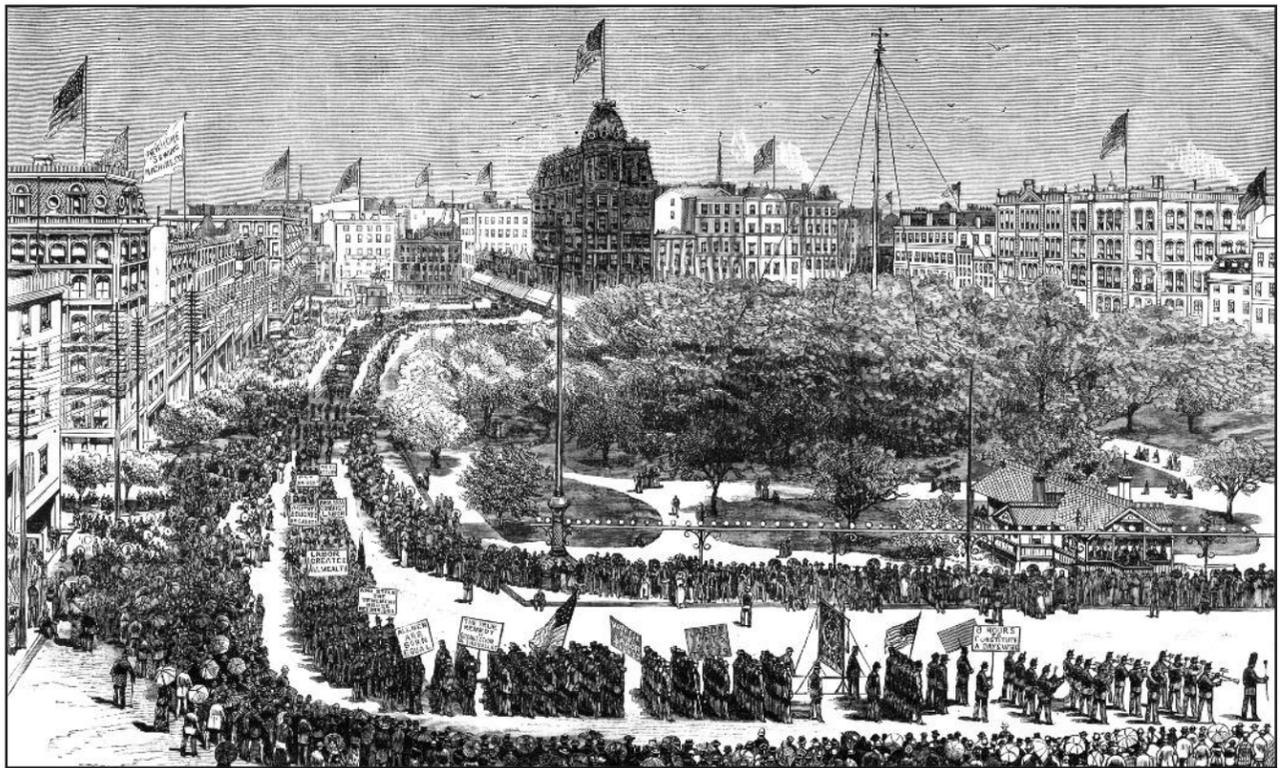
Dateline: September 5, 1882

10,000 workers marched in Union Square on September 5, 1882, carrying signs that declared: "8 Hours Constitute A Day's Work", "Agitate, Educate, Organize", "Who Stole the Tenement House Reform Bill?", and "All Men Are Born Equal". The workers had to give up a day's pay to march.

DECORATION DAY COMES TO UNION SQUARE

Dateline: May 1882

New Yorkers gathered in Union Square to lay a wreath by the statue of George Washington in honor of the Union soldiers who died in the Civil War. Street orators always gather around the statue of Washington espousing on the various topics of the day for all to hear.



MEMORIAL PROCESSION FOR VICTIMS OF TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE

Dateline: April 5, 1911

200,000 people marched through Union Square in a memorial procession mourning the 146 workers, mostly young Jewish and Italian immigrant women who died in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. These young workers were trapped in the fire behind locked doors with no way to escape. Some of the victims jumped to their death as the fire ladders were not able to reach the eighth and ninth floors of the Asch building near Washington Square Park. The owners locked the factory doors to prevent union leaders from organizing the workers and also to make certain that factory workers did not steal garments. The procession formed one of the largest women's protests in American history.



EMMA GOLDMAN ARRESTED AFTER SPEECH IN UNION SQUARE

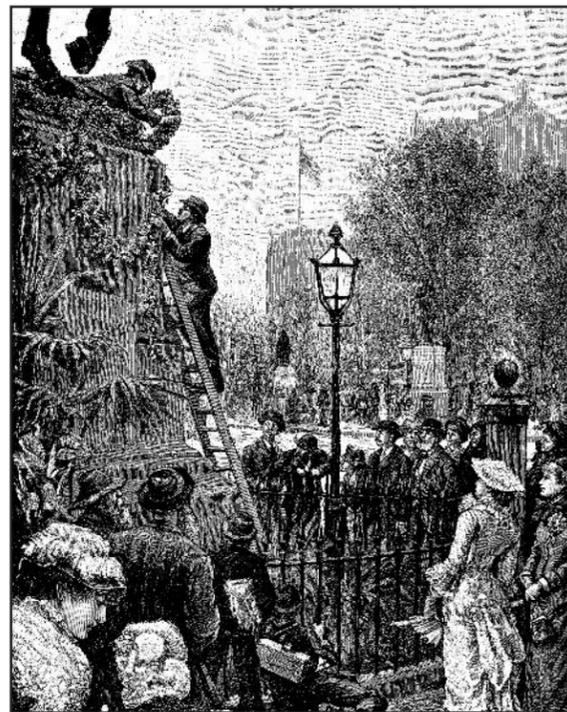
Dateline: August 21 1893

After telling a group of 4,000 unemployed men in Union Square, "If they do not give you work, demand bread. If they deny both, take bread. It is your sacred right." Emma Goldman was arrested for inciting a riot.

EMMA GOLDMAN ARRESTED FOR ADVOCATING BIRTH CONTROL

Dateline: May 20, 1916

Emma Goldman spoke to a crowd of garment workers about birth control in Union Square. She was arrested for violating the Comstock Law which prohibits the distribution of birth control literature.



Look for the Union Square NewsBoy on Union Square to get your free copy of The 14th Street Tribune on the following days:

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Photo: Paul Takeuchi



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THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

R.H. MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE OPENS ON 14TH STREET

Dateline: October 28, 1858
58 East 14th Street

All of 14th Street is abuzz with the opening of R.H. Macy's "Grand Mercantile Establishment" covering the entire block of Sixth Avenue between 13th and 14th Street. Rowland H. Macy's slogan is "Goods suitable for the millionaire at prices in reach of the millions."

Dateline from Macy's:

1867 Macy's becomes the first store to stay open until midnight on Christmas Eve

1874 Macy's first Christmas windows display elegantly costumed dolls



1896 Macy's presents its first Christmas window display of toys moved by hidden machinery. It becomes an annual tradition for New Yorkers to view the Christmas windows at Macy's.

A CROWD OF 20,000 WATCH AS AUTOMATIC VAUDEVILLE GOES UP IN SMOKE

Fire broke out in the Shooting Gallery of the Crystal Hall

Dateline: March 4, 1923

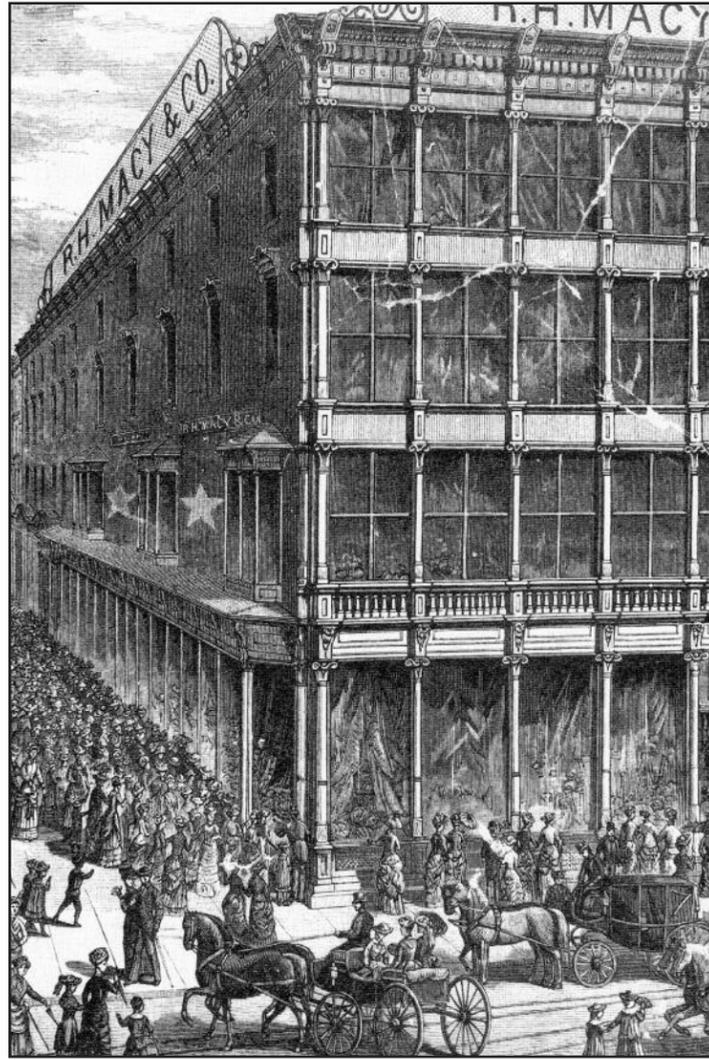
Around 8pm a fire started in the shooting gallery of the Crystal Hall. Smoke started filling the theater where the audience was watching Charlie Chaplin in "Triple Trouble". Even though it was a full house patrons exited the theater in an orderly fashion. Thirty firemen were overcome by smoke.



FORMER HOME OF AUTOMATIC VAUDEVILLE BECOMES A CLOTHING STORE

Ohrbach's Department Store Opens
Dateline: October 4, 1923

Ohrbach's opens on 14th Street in the former home of Automatic Vaudeville. Nathan M. Ohrbach believes in low prices for his customers. His policy is a bare amount of services: cash and carry, no alterations, small sales staff, and no special sale days. Mr. Ohrbach prices all of his goods in even numbers which differs from his competitors who price their items in odd numbers. Ohrbach's has a special "Oval Room" with the latest French fashions at prices guaranteed to be the lowest in town.



SIGHTINGS ON 14TH STREET

by **Madame LuLu LoLo**

Last night I had the privilege to see the American debut of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at The Civic Repertory Theater, 105 West 14th Street. Eva La Gallienne gave a brilliant performance as Masha. Miss La Gallienne should also be applauded for her commitment in presenting classical plays for theater patrons and for encouraging actors to develop their craft at the Civic Repertory Theater (1926).

I struck up a conversation with Mark Twain sitting on a bench in Union Square Park. Mark Twain told me that "Louis Stevenson and I would sit on this very bench and talk of many things. We both decided that the fame you receive from the people who read your books and become admirers of your work whom you never meet is the greatest fame of all" (1907).

Just spoke to my fellow reporter Miss Nellie Bly about her jailhouse interview at the Tombs with Emma Goldman which was published on the front pages of our rival newspaper *New York World*. In the interview Nellie Bly calls Emma Goldman "a modern Joan of Arc" (1893).

Walking on 14th Street I met the painter Franz Kline as he was leaving his studio on the second floor of 242 West 14th Street. He was headed to the Cedar Street Tavern on University Place to meet his friend the painter Willem de Kooning (1957-1962).

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dateline: 1895

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to see our family's photograph and the mention of our performances at the Union Square Theater in the second issue of "The 14th Street Tribune". My mother thanks you, my father thanks you, my sister thanks you, and I thank you.

Sincerely,
George M. Cohan

Dear Mr. Cohan,

It is our pleasure. You are truly a Yankee Doodle Dandy!

The Editor of The 14th Street Tribune

RIOT AT HEARN'S DEPARTMENT STORE

Thousands Wait All Night on 14th Street for Hearn's Annual Washington Day Sale

Police Officer injured as restless crowd surges into store with pennies in hand for 1 cent sale

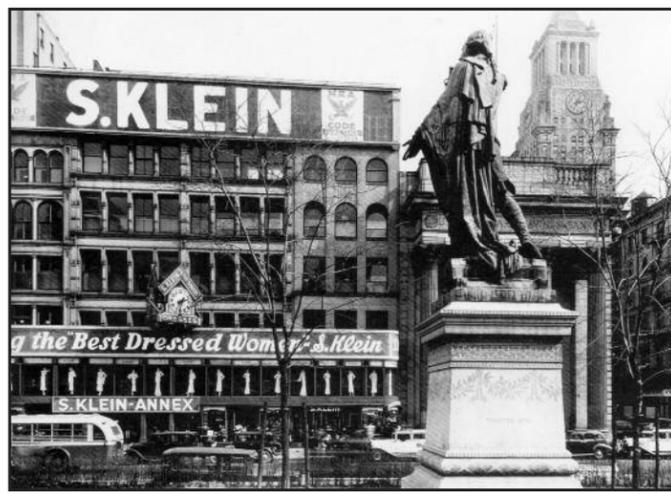
Police Officer Patrick O'Malley's hat was knocked off his head and he suffered minor cuts and bruises when he was trampled to the ground as eager shoppers surged into Hearn's Department Store on 14th Street. Officer O'Malley was trying to hold back the Washington Birthday sale crowds as they stormed into the store shattering glass windows and the front doors. Bargain hunters had been standing in line all night in the cold as temperatures in February plummeted to a new low. Bonfires were set up and down 14th Street to keep everyone warm as they waited for the store to open. What was the urgency? Who could blame them for their excitement! Where else could you purchase a washing machine or any other major appliance for only one cent! James A. Hearn who opened the store in 1879 at 34-40 West 14th Street often entered in competition with his bitter rival R.H. Macy.

S. KLEIN'S ON THE SQUARE

A Mecca For the Bargain Hunter

Dateline: 1951

Crowded Klein's with its bargain counters, sloping floors, and the pretzel lady at the entrance handles 250,000 customers on a Saturday. There are no sales clerks, deliveries, alterations, charge accounts, and it's all cash and carry. Offering big name designers at bargain prices. Klein's once sold twenty-nine mink pieces in twenty minutes. Last year the store bought up 9% of the world's supply of expensive Chinese cashmere. Everybody shops at Klein's.



FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER

by the 14th Street Tribune Police Reporter

Dateline: 1882

KING OF THE BUNCO MEN TAKES OSCAR WILDE FOR \$5,000



Joseph "Hungry Joe" Lewis, one of the country's top confidence men, was arrested for swindling Oscar Wilde in a bunco game. Lewis had been dining with Wilde for a week at the Hotel Brunswick when he persuaded Wilde to play a game of bunco. In no time

Oscar Wilde lost \$5,000 to Lewis and gave him a check. Afterwards when Wilde realized he had been swindled he stopped payment on the check, but still Lewis had managed to get \$1,500 in cash from Wilde. Police Detective Thomas F. Byrnes, head of the Detective's Bureau commented, "Oscar Wilde has reaped a harvest of American dollars with his curls, sun flowers and knee-britches, he was no less a swindler than Lewis just not quite so sharp."

The 14th Street Tribune

Founded in 2009

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aiop art in odd places

Printed by P&W Press,

212.929.1366 • www.pwpress.com

Special Thanks: Art In Odd Places 2009: Sign, Ed Wooham, Erin Donnelly, Radhika Subramaniam, Raymond Khan of the NY Public Library Picture Collection,

Keith Foxman of P&W Press, Dan Evans, Vince Evans and Paul Takeuchi www.paultakeuchi.com

NewsBoy Attire by Ramona Ponce

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