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.

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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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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.

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 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 Galiennne gave a brilliant performance as Masha. Miss La Galiennne 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

It is our pleasure. You are truly a Yankee Doodle Dandy!
The Editor of The 14th Street Tribune

FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER

by the 14th Street Tribune Police Reporter

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 four days 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. Brynes, head of the Detective’s Bureau commented, “Oscar Wilde has lost 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.”

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