

THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

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Volume One, Issue 2

New York, October 10, 2009

Free Edition

CATASTROPHE AT GRAND BALL HONORING THE PRINCE OF WALES

A MIRACLE ONLY TWO PEOPLE ARE SLIGHTLY INJURED

Dateline: October 13 1860



The Prince of Wales' visit to the United States has been cause for great excitement. Everywhere he went crowds packed the streets. In Detroit he had to be smuggled into his hotel to avoid the many admirers who gathered to see him.

In New York City he was greeted by half a million people as he drove through the streets to the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Madison Square. So eager was New York society to dance with the Prince—that the Academy of Music was filled to overflowing. Three thousand invitations were issued and every belle of New York yearned to dance with the Prince of Wales. A temporary dance floor was installed because the Prince of Wales loves to dance. Much to the horror of all and to the chagrin of the organizers, the temporary dance floor collapsed under the weight of the crowd of five hundred dancers. The dance floor gave way in front of the Prince and if I may quote Edmund Clarence Stedman who attended the ball and wrote this account in *Vanity Fair*:

“The staging before him fell in with a clash,
And fifty young ladies, as quick as a flash,
Sank down in a kind of ethereal hash”

It was a miracle that only two people were slightly injured. This accident did not mar the Prince's visit to New York. The Prince and the invited guests feasted on a luxurious supper of French food prepared



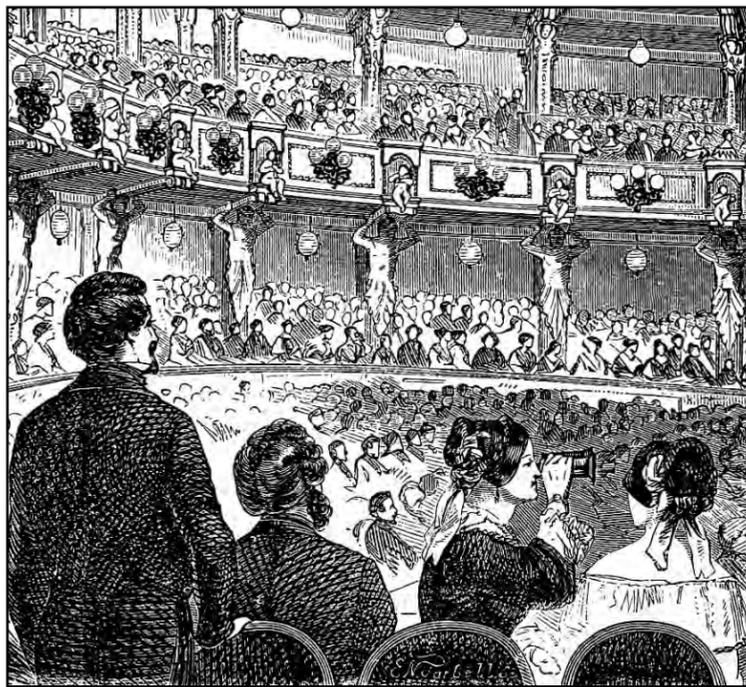
by Delmonico's especially for the Grand Ball. Confectionary centerpieces depicting Queen Victoria,

Prince Albert, and the Great Eastern Sailing ship adorned the banquet table.

FIRE DESTROYS THE FORMER HOME OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Dateline: 1918

All of 14th Street was saddened to lose one of its familiar landmarks yesterday. The old Douglas Mansion at 128 West 14th Street with its double winding staircase was destroyed by fire last night. The mansion had housed the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Currently it was home to The Salvation Army Training School.



THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC Seats to the Opera Are Inherited

Everyone who is anyone in New York City goes to The Academy of Music at Irving Place. Built in 1854 to seat 1,500 people, it is the center for culture, theater, opera, and fabulous balls. One of the most famous balls is the Annual Masked Ball given by the Academy's stockholders. Only the finest of families are allowed seats at the opera and they are handed down from father to son. There are rumors of discontent from some of the wealthy newcomers that they are being denied access to the opera but they must learn to understand the rules of society at The Academy of Music.

Seems that the newer members of society—the Vanderbilts, Astors, and Morgans—shut out of the of the Academy of Music opera as they weren't born into those seats, are going uptown to Broadway and 39th Street to the new Metropolitan Opera House where they will enjoy opera in style (1883).

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



AIOP SPECIAL LIMITED FOUR ISSUE EDITION

THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

ALL OF 14TH STREET'S A STAGE

Everyone Flocks to 14th Street For Opera, Theater, Vaudeville, Movies

In the immortal lyrics of the song "Hello Dolly"
"I went away from the lights of Fourteenth Street
And into my personal haze
But now that I'm back in the lights of 14th Street
Tomorrow will be brighter than the good old days"
-Music & lyrics by Jerry Herman (1964)

UNION SQUARE THEATER

Dateline: 1893
58 East 14th Street

Union Square Theater is famous for its theatrical productions, and so many actors looking for jobs would line 14th Street in front of the Morton House and Union Square Theater—that the street is called the "Slave Market". Was it the disastrous premiere of Oscar Wilde's *Vera* (See Sightings column) that turned the Union Square Theater into a vaudeville theater? The Four Cohans made their debut in 1893 at the Union Square Theater which had been bought by B.F. Keith. Keith needed acts to fill the bill so he separated the family into different acts. A teenage George M. Cohan upset at not being able to perform with his family "The



FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER

by the 14th Street Tribune Police Reporter

Dateline: March 30, 1903
DRINKING TO GET EVIDENCE
Two Detectives Are Forced to Listen to Music and Imbibe Whiskey and Beer
100 Third Avenue, The Sans Souci Concert Hall

Detectives Lemon and Seimerlein of Inspector Schmittberger's staff were in search of violators of the Sunday performance and drinking laws. They went into the Sans Souci Concert Hall where a sacred music concert was going on. The Detectives were forced to drink whiskey and beer to make sure they would have evidence that would stand up in court. Two men were on stage singing "A Hot Time in The Old-Town Tonight". The Detectives felt this song did not appear to be a sacred song. They promptly arrested the owner Morris Weinstock and the waiter Abraham Silverman who served them six bears and two whiskies.

SIGHTINGS ON 14TH STREET

by Madame LuLu LoLo

Early this morning I spoke with Mr. W. Perzel, the husband of Marie Prescott who plays the title role in Oscar Wilde's play *Vera* which premiered at the Union Square Theater last night. Mr. Perzel, the major producer of this production, was considering closing the play before the evening's performance due to the disastrous reviews by all of the New York theater critics. Mr. Perzel's friends all told him that *Vera* was a great play but maybe a little too long. Mr. Perzel has taken steps to shorten the play. He is also weighing his financial concerns and an artistic proposition that Mr. Wilde would either act in the play or lecture between acts. Mr. Perzel was waiting to speak with Mr. Wilde who I am told is at Coney Island. Mr. Perzel thought the play would go on for a week. We all await Mr. Wilde's



This lithograph of "Union Square in Midsummer" was drawn by Maerz and was a supplement to the New York Mirror, August 12, 1882. Note the pictures of the actors and actresses around the border.

Four Cohans" made a big fuss which angered Keith. George almost got fired. To punish him Keith gave George the opening spot on the bill—where the performer usually is ignored. George's sister Josie with her dance act became the star of the run and went on to get other bookings. George couldn't get many jobs so instead he wrote and sold his songs and started writing skits for other acts. His father, realizing George's talent, put him in charge of the family act and "The Four Cohans" were reunited in 1895.

AUTOMATIC VAUDEVILLE

Dateline: 1903
46 East 14th Street

If you can't go to Vaudeville—go to Electric Vaudeville for their Penny Arcade Entertainment Machines. Automatic Vaudeville was opened by Adolph Zucker who went on to start Paramount Pictures and Marcus Loew also of movie theater fame.



Oscar Wilde - photo by Napoleon Sarony

return from Coney Island to learn the fate of this production (1883).

All binoculars were on President elect Lincoln at the Academy of Music as he attended his first opera, Verdi's *Masked Ball* (1870). Opera lovers later learned that that was the only opera he ever attended.

The photographer Napoleon Sarony and his lovely wife Louie are a visual delight as they stroll through Union Square in one of their elaborate costumes. It has been rumored that Louie rents these costumes for a day just for these strolls.

Sitting on the stoop of 148 West 14th Street was Woody Guthrie. He had put down his guitar and had pen and paper in hand—telling this reporter he was working on his book, *Bound for Glory* (1942).

The Lumière Brothers, famous for their showing of Cinematographe at the Union Square Theater, were forced to leave America in the dead of night. They were accused by American customs authorities of importing their movie apparatus and films illegally (1896).

Automatic Vaudeville is the place to go for entertainment—the action park of 1903. For a penny you can see movies in a peep show machine, listen to phonographs, ride stationary bikes, get in shape with punching bags and go down into the basement to a shooting gallery.

Dateline: 1914

MOVIES COME TO AUTOMATIC VAUDEVILLE

CRYSTAL HALL SHOWS ONLY CHARLIE CHAPLIN MOVIES FROM 1914-1923

In true showmanship fashion Adolph Zucker and Marcus Loew have added movies to Automatic Vaudeville by creating Crystal Hall where patrons reach the movie theater via a glass staircase containing a waterfall and colored lights. Knowing their patrons taste in film they are showing only Charlie Chaplin movies from 1914-1923. They experimented one week by not showing Charlie Chaplin and business was so bad they went back to showing the "Little Tramp" continuously.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dateline: 1920

Dear Editor,

I must bring to your attention an error in your first issue of October 2, 2009, about the shooting death of Monk Eastman. Please note that the Bluebird Café is located at 62 East 14th Street. Monk Eastman was shot outside of the Bluebird Café and not as he entered the 14th Street subway which was stated in your "Police Blotter".

Max Schmidt of West 14th Street

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

Thank you for bringing this correction to the attention of our readers. It seems that both the 14th Street Tribune Police Reporter and the 14th Street Proof Reader were asleep on the job. They have been reassigned to other departments. We regret this error. It is faithful and historically accurate readers like yourself that make this newspaper what it is.

The Editor of The 14th Street Tribune

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