

THE 14TH STREET TRIBUNE

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Free Edition

TONY PASTOR STARS LILLIAN RUSSELL IN THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE OR AS TONY PASTOR CALLS IT: THE PIE RATS OF PENN YANN

Dateline: 1893



“Tony Pastor’s New Fourteenth Street Theatre” in the same building as Tammany Hall offers polite variety entertainment for the family. Mr. Pastor, the Father of Vaudeville, does not allow smoking or the sale of liquor in his establishment and offers gifts of coal and ham to his patrons. Mr. Pastor introduces his latest star, giving her the name “Lillian Russell”. Miss Russell sings the role of Mabel and her clear full throated lyric soprano reaches out to all in the audience. Her beautiful voice is matched by her captivating beauty. The actress, Marie Dressler said of Lillian Russell, “I can still recall the rush of pure awe that marked her entrance on the stage. And then the thunderous applause that swept from orchestra to gallery, to the roof.”

CYNTHIA LEONARD THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN FOR MAYOR OF NEW YORK, Mother of Lillian Russell

Dateline: 1888

Cynthia Leonard, mother of the operetta singing star Lillian Russell, made her own history as the first woman to run for mayor of New York City. Mrs. Leonard was an early advocate of the rights of women, one of the first suffragists, and a writer of novels. In Chicago she established a homeless shelter for unfortunate women and pioneered prison reform by advocating the placement of women matrons in Chicago prisons.



LILLIAN RUSSELL SALUTES HER MOTHER

Dateline: May 3, 1914

Lillian Russell in an interview with Dijuna Barnes said about her mother, Cynthia Leonard:

“I was brought up on suffrage milk.” “What have I done that I should be famous—nothing but powdered a bit gently the cheeks that God gave me and smoothed the hair that I was born with, laughed, and proven a faultless set of teeth. Any grinning idol, well painted, can do as well, but the real women, the big women, are those who toil and never write of it, those who labor and never cry of it, those who forfeit all and never seek reward. Begin this article with the name, Lillian Russell, but end it with the name of such as was Cynthia Leonard.”



DINING AT LUCHOW'S

by Madame LuLu LoLo

Who did Madame LuLu LoLo see dining at Luchow's last night? None other than that man about town Diamond Jim Brady with his favorite companion the beautiful Lillian Russell. Diamond Jim was eating his usual first course of twelve dozen oysters to be followed by selections from Luchow's German and Austrian menu: wiener schnitzel, sauerbraten, and wild game, all washed down by good German beer and followed by Austrian tortes. The beautiful restaurant with its carved oak paneling, floor to ceiling mirrors, etched glass and paintings by Goya, Van Dyck, and the painting Mr. Luchow bought at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair by Swedish artist Augusto Hasgborg is the place where the theater and music folk of 14th Street dine and hope to be seen. You are surrounded by two hundred beer steins and mounted animal heads, the hunting trophies of August Luchow. There is even a “Victor Herbert Corner” where the composer eats and composes his music. I can't wait for the next banquet Diamond Jim hosts at Luchow's. He always tucks a piece of diamond jewelry in a napkin as a party favor for his guests. I take my hat off to August Luchow a waiter who borrowed \$1,500 from one of his customers William Steinway of Steinway pianos to open his own restaurant “Luchow's”.

HUBER'S DIME MUSEUM CLOSES

Makes Way For

Luchow's Restaurant

Dateline: July 16, 1910

It was at Huber's Dime Museum where a young Harry Houdini was taught the basics of rope-tie escapes by the Australian Magician George Dexter. Dexter was known as “the inside barker” or what we call today a master of ceremonies. Dexter helped launch Houdini's career as an escape artist.



Photo: Paul Takeuchi

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DELMONICO'S COMES TO 14TH STREET

Dateline: April 9, 1862

Lorenzo Delmonico has opened the most luxurious restaurant in New York on Fifth Avenue and 14th Street. The new uptown Delmonico's Restaurant, with an added café for male patrons only, allows women with escorts into the restaurant. Delmonico's is famous for changes in dining habits, becoming the first restaurant to seat patrons at their own tables, and the first to use tablecloths, and printed menus. Delmonico's French Chef Charles Ranhofer created innovative dishes naming them after celebrities who dined at Delmonico's: Veal Pie à la Dickens, Beet Fritters à la Dickens, and Sarah Potatoes for Sarah Bernhardt. Chef Ranhofer did not invent Baked Alaska as has been reported but made it popular in 1876 when the US acquired Alaska as a territory. He also introduced the "alligator pear" (avocado) to New York in 1895. Chef Ranhofer prepared the dinner for the Prince of Wales at the Academy of Music and the banquet for Samuel Morse when Morse sent the first transatlantic cable from Delmonico's. His cuisine made Delmonico's the finest restaurant in the United States and he published his cookbook the *Epicurean* in 1894.

OBITUARY: DEATH OF THE PATERSON SILK BUILDING

Dateline: March 17, 2005

It was a sad day on 14th Street and University Place today when a wrecking ball smashed the double-height glass-walled tower of the Paterson Silk Building designed in 1949 by architect Morris Lapidus. Mr. Lapidus created the Miami Beach flamboyant hotels "palaces of kitsch": the Fontainebleau and the Eden Roc. Morris Lapidus' motto was, "Too much is never enough". He said that the first time he got an emotional surge about architecture was when he saw Coney Island's Luna Park. "I was standing on the elevated platform just as dusk was falling and the lights went on. To me it was the most beautiful sight I'd seen. Of course, I knew it was hanky-pank, a circus, and showmanship. But to a child of six it was all the wonders of the world. I never outgrew it." Landmarks Preservationists tried to save the building but to no avail.

OBITUARY: CHARLES DELMONICO FOUND DEAD IN SOUTH ORANGE, NJ

Dateline: January 14, 1884

The body of Charles Delmonico, who inherited Delmonico's Restaurant after the sudden death of his uncle Lorenzo Delmonico in 1881, was found in a ravine in South Orange, New Jersey. Mr. Delmonico seemed to have fallen to his death. Mr. Delmonico had disappeared suddenly from his home on 14th Street around noon on January 5th. Why he was in South Orange, New Jersey and how he met his untimely death is a mystery.

SIGHTINGS ON 14TH STREET by Madame LuLu LoLo

Victor Herbert called a meeting at Luchow's with fellow composers John Philip Sousa and Irving Berlin. At this meeting they founded the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) to protect the rights of composers and musicians (February 13, 1914).

Alexander Graham Bell picked the perfect voice to be heard on the first long distance telephone service: None other than Lillian Russell who sang "Sabre Song" to audiences in Boston and Washington, D.C. (May 8, 1890).

So he wasn't just playing Chess! Marcel Duchamp told everyone that he stopped making art and was devoting his life to playing chess. Yesterday he allowed this reporter into his studio at 210 West 14th Street for a sneak peak at what he really was doing. Duchamp has been secretly working on *Etant Donnes* since 1946. I stood on a mat in front of a door and peered into two peepholes (made me think of the early 14th Street Peep Shows) and saw the figure of a naked woman lying on the ground amidst a landscape. Duchamp said the work would not be known to the world until after his death. So dear readers, please keep this a secret (1964).



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dateline: 1876

Dear Editor,

Delmonico's is famous for Lobster Newberg. How did this dish get its name?

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mary Ryan

Dear Mrs. Ryan,

Lobster Newberg was born at Delmonico's Restaurant in 1876. Ben Wenberg a sea captain who always ate at Delmonico's, came into Delmonico's telling Charles Delmonico he had a new way to cook lobster. He asked for a chafing dish and cooked the lobster dish at his table. Delmonico found the dish delicious and put it on the menu, naming it Lobster à la Wenberg. The dish became very popular at the restaurant. Months later Wenberg and Delmonico got into a big argument and Delmonico banished Wenberg from the restaurant and changed the name on the menu from Lobster Wenberg to Lobster Newberg.

The Editor of The 14th Street Tribune

Dateline: 1915

Dear Editor,

How many votes for mayor did Cynthia Leonard receive in 1888?

Miss Priscilla Faulkner

Dear Miss Faulkner,

Cynthia Leonard, the first woman to run for mayor in the City of New York, received only four votes.

The Editor of The 14th Street Tribune

FROM THE POLICE BLOTTER by the 14th Street Tribune Police Reporter

Dateline: 1886



This Week's Police Blotter Salutes Inspector Thomas F. Byrnes, Head of the New York City Detective Bureau.

This week's Police Blotter salutes Inspector Thomas F. Byrnes, head of the New York City Detective Bureau. Inspector Byrnes instituted many innovative procedures into the world of law enforcement. Detective Byrnes created the "Rogues Gallery" a book of photographs of criminals. He also created one of the first line-ups of suspects before detectives calling it "The Mulberry Street Morning Parade". He named his brutal questioning of suspected criminals "The Third Degree".

Dateline: 1895

Theodore Roosevelt, the new President of the New York City Police Commission forced Inspector Thomas F. Byrnes to resign as part of Roosevelt's campaign against corruption on the police force.

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