Life in a Big Urban City

in the Gilded Age

By: Ms. Susan M. Pojer
Horace Greeley HS

Darrell Duncan
Merrol Hyde Magnet
East Side, West Side, all around the town
The kids sang "ring around rosie", "London Bridge is falling down"
Boys and girls together, me and Mamie O'Rourke
We tripped the light fantastic on the sidewalks of New York

....

East Side, West Side, riding through the parks
We started swinging at Jilly's then we split to P.J. Clark's
On to Chuck's Composite, then a drink at The Stork
We won't get home until morning 'cause we're going to take a walk
On the sidewalks of New York
Jacob Riis’ How the Other Half Lives 1890
Mulberry Street Bend, 1889
5-Cent Lodgings
Men’s Lodgings
Women’s Lodgings
Dumbbell Tenement Plan

Tenement House Act of 1879, NYC
Blind Beggar, 1888
1890s “Morgue” – Basement Saloon
"Black & Tan" Saloon
"Bandits’ Roost"
Mullen’s Alley “Gang”
The Street Was Their Playground
Another Struggling Immigrant Family
Shirtwaist Workers Strike 1909 - 1910
Rosa Schneiderman, Garment Worker
Child Labor
## Average Shirtwaist Worker’s Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours Range</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 hours or less</td>
<td>4,554</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>52–57 hours</td>
<td>65,033</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>58–63 hours</td>
<td>12,211</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Over 63 hours</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>1%</td>
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Total employees, men and women 82,360
Womens’ Trade Union League
Women Voting for a Strike!
The Uprising of the Twenty Thousands

(Dedicated to the Waistmakers of 1909)
In the black of the winter of nineteen nine,
When we froze and bled on the picket line,
We showed the world that women could fight
And we rose and won with women's might.

Chorus:
Hail the waistmakers of nineteen nine,
Making their stand on the picket line,
Breaking the power of those who reign,
Pointing the way, smashing the chain.
And we gave new courage to the men
Who carried on in nineteen ten
And shoulder to shoulder we'll win through,
Led by the I.L.G.W.U.
Local 25 with Socialist Paper, The Call
Social and Political Activists

Clara Lemlich, Labor Organizer

Carola Woerishoffer, Bryn Mawr Graduate
Public Fear of Unions/Anarchists

SAVING SOCIETY

How the Police Are Protecting the Public From the Terrible Shirtwaist Strikers.
Arresting the Girl Strikers for Picketing
The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, March 25, 1911
“The Shirtwaist Kings”
Max Blanck and Isaac Harris
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory
Asch Building, 8th and 10th Floors
Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910
Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910
Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910
Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910
Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910
Typical NYC Sweatshop, 1910
Inside the Building After the Fire
Most Doors Were Locked

24. Sarah Cammestine
Swore doors were all locked
Crumpled Fire Escape, 26 Died
One of the Heroes

25. Joseph Zito
Elevator Boy. Performed heroic work
Dead Bodies on the Sidewalk
One of the “Lucky” Ones?

18. One girl who escaped, lost two sisters in fire
Rose Schneiderman

The Last Survivor
Scene at the Morgue
Relatives Review Bodies
145 Dead
SCENES OF DEATH AND SORROW AT THE GREAT NEW YORK FIRE DISASTER

Page of the New York Journal
One of the Many Funerals
Protestors March to City Hall
Labor Unions March as Mourners
Women Workers March to City Hall
The Investigation

26. Mayor Gaynor
Commissioner Waldo
Chief Croker

It is now up to them for investigation
INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS!

Locale: New York

Record fire: 145 lives lost!!
Building fireproof
Only fire escape collapses.

Oh, Inspector!
Francis Perkins
Future Secretary Of Labor
Alfred E. Smith – Future NYC Mayor and Presidential Candidate
Future Senator Robert Wagner
Out of the Ashes

- ILGWU membership surged.
- NYC created a Bureau of Fire Prevention.
- New strict building codes were passed.
- Tougher fire inspection of sweatshops.
- Growing momentum of support for women’s suffrage.
The Foundations Were Laid for the New Deal Here in 1911

- Al Smith ran unsuccessfully in 1928 on many of the reform programs that would be successful for another New Yorker 4 years later – FDR.

- In the 1930s, the federal government created OSHA [the Occupational Safety & Health Administration].

- The Wagner Act.

- Francis Perkins → first female Cabinet member [Secretary of Labor] in FDR’s administration.
History of the Needlecraft Industry by Ernest Feeney, 1938
Bibliography

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- “Famous Trials: The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Trial - 1911.”
  <www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/triangle/trianglefire.html>

- “The Triangle Fire.”
  <www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/>