



Portland Archives, A2001-074.91.

Under the Thompson Elk's Gaze

A Selected History of Protest

1. 06.05.1906 ["Socialist Arrested by Patrolman Wade"](#)- Police arrest Carl Rave, "socialist orator," at 4th & Main for declaring "that God was a myth." Rave would be arrested & tried alongside Margaret Sander a decade later for distributing pamphlets & books related to abortion/birth control in Portland (need to do more research on this)
2. 01.22.1912 ["Jobless Men to Hold Big Parade Sunday"](#)- Open air meeting of the Socialist Party, appointed a committee to demand help from the government.
3. 01.28.1912- ["1500 Exhorted to Organized Revolt: Socialists & 'I.W.W.' Orators Attacks on Society Cheered by Crowd- Funeral Inspires Jests"](#)- IWW & Socialists hold rally with speakers at the Courthouse, crowd assembled/spilled over into Lownsdale Square. See headline in entry above.
4. 04.27.1924 ["Socialists to Meet"](#)- Emil Herman, national organizer & district secretary of the Socialist Party gave two speeches, one at 4th & Main.
5. 05.23.1924 ["Socialists to hear Address"](#) Emil Herman speaks again at Lownsdale Square on "Class Struggle in(?) Capitalistic Production."
6. 10.02.1926 ["Socialist Organizer to Speak"](#)Dorris Morris of Montana, national organizer for the Socialist Party of America gives a speech on "Labor & Politics" at "the Plaza block, 4th & main."
7. 08.21.1927 ["H.H. Stallard to Speak"](#) H.H. Stallard explains why socialist, communist parties, AFL, IWW are protesting the execution of Sacco & Vanzetti
8. 07.22.1928 ["Fascism to be Discussed"](#)- A "mass meeting" was held that featured speakers who sought to "explain the regime of Mussolini and the hardships imposed."

9. 09.4.1930 [“Deportation Face By Leader of Reds”](#)- Portland Communist Party of America leader Lambo Mitseff gave a speech at 4th & Main, was arrested shortly after. Mitseff, faced with deportation back to Macedonia/Greece, chose instead to voluntarily leave the U.S. for Russia two years later. Another 12 of Mitseff’s comrades would be deported or voluntarily leave the country in the wake of his arrest.
10. 09.13.1930 [“Seattle Man Held in Communist Drive”](#)- Allen Andrew was arrested at 1st & Madison on vagrancy charges while in possession of handbills advertising a protest on 4th & Main sponsored by International Labor Defense in support of Lambo Mitseff. The protest took place without incident, around 300 attended.
11. 02.26.1931 [“Mayor Spurns Plea from Communists”](#)- A crowd of 2500 sent a delegation of 8 people (5 men, 2 women & a child) to city hall with a list of demands drawn up by the crowd at the Plaza Blocks on 4th & Main. Included in the list; reduction in the police force, no eviction for non-payment of rent, & abolition of vagrancy laws. The meeting was led by Lambo Mitseff & two other members of the Communist Party facing deportation at the time.
12. 05.1.1931 [“Portland Meeting Small”](#) A May Day rally at 4th & Main attracts about 100 participants.
13. 07.11.1931 [“Mass Meetings Set”](#)- A group called “the American Guardian Minute Men” hold two protests on back-to-back days against the imprisonment of “Mooney & Billings.” HH Stallard speaks during this event. 300 people ultimately attended the protest.
14. 08.22.1931 [“Labor Group to Meet”](#) International Labor Defense, a group that provided legal assistance to workers, held a mass organization meeting at 4th & Main.
15. 09.28.1931 [“Veterans Would Parade”](#)- A group of veterans requested a permit to stage a march that would begin at Lownsdale Square to draw attention to their cause, a request from the federal government to pay bonuses due ahead of schedule because of financial hardships the men were facing as a result of the Great Depression. It’s very likely that this group would later become the Portland wing of the Bonus Expeditionary Force, also known as “the Bonus Army.”
16. 08.01.1932 Communists of Portland hold an anti-war march & demonstration; members of PPBs “Red Squad” photographed the event, giving us some of the few photos of a pre-WWII protest featuring the Thompson Elk. The group marched to the Japanese consulate, possibly in response to a military invasion of Manchuria earlier in the year. The Bonus Army signs in the photo were probably a byproduct of a meeting the previous night (most likely also at Lownsdale Square) allegedly sponsored by the Communist Party; the Portland Bonus Expeditionary Force were attempting to regroup & send a new delegation to protest the violent eviction of the “Bonus-Army” from federal property in Washington D.C. just days before. Portland B.E.F. leader Harry L. Gross immediately denied links between his group & the communist party.



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Portland Archives, A2001-074.92

(Portland City Archive Red Squad Photos A2001-074.90, A2001-074.91, A2001-074.92)

17. 03.22.1975 [“Black Youth Slain: DA to call inquest over shooting”](#)- 100 protestors rallied in Lowndes Square after presenting Police Chief Baker with a list of demands in the wake of the police killing of Rickey Charles Johnson. The 17 year old was shot in the back of the head by PPB officer Kenneth Sanford, who was dressed as a taxi driver delivering food, while the youth was holding a pistol in a vacant house during a hastily

planned sting operation. Sanford would be cleared during an extremely rare & tense public inquest, though the shooting would remain a flashpoint between the city & the Black community. Johnson was the 4th Black person killed by Portland police officers in 12 months.

18. 05.18.1979 [“Court’s housing ruling means withheld rent is defense for non-repairs”](#)
Members of the Portland Tenants Union held a rally celebrating a court case that would allow renters to withhold rent & contest an eviction if the housing in question was “uninhabitable.”
19. 05.01.1980 [“Fighting Erupts at May Day Rally”](#)- About 75 members of the Revolutionary Communist Party were confronted by about 25 counter-protestors at Lowndale Square. Despite a handful of skirmishes & shouting matches, organizers called it a success.
20. 08.09.1980 [“Unions bitter over cancellation of talks”](#)- Around 250 striking Multnomah County employees hold a vigil at Lowndale Square after management cancels a mediation session.
21. 03.29.1983 [“‘Sick-out’ continues at crisis call office”](#)- Volunteers at Metro Crisis Intervention, a hotline providing mental health counseling, hold a press conference & protest calling for the firing of the agency director at Lowndale Square.