CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1994

A HERSTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8, 1957 - Women in the Garment and Textile Industry in New York staged a demonstration protesting low wages, the 12 hour work day and general conditions of work. Also demanded were equal pay and the right to vote. Police dispersed the march, arresting some protesters. In 1860 these women formed a union to reiterate their demands.

1907 - In Germany, there were 120,000 women in trade unions, as all over Europe women entered trade unions in growing numbers.

September 1909 - Thirty thousand women, members of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union began a strike at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York. In the first month of the dispute, 723 women were arrested and 19 were sent to the workhouse.

February 10, 1910 - The strike was settled when management agreed to improve working conditions. The ILGWU was not granted formal recognition.

In Germany, Labour leader Clara Zetkin proposed that March 8 be proclaimed International Women's Day in memory of those women who struggled for equality.

1911 - A fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company destroyed the top three floors of a ten-floor building, killing 175 workers, mainly women and children. Charges were laid but the Company was not found negligent.

March 8, 1917 - Women textile workers in Petrograd, Russia stormed the streets, instigating food riots and political strikes, helping to launch the Russian revolution of 1917.

1921 - The International Women's Secretariat of the Communist International, chaired by Zetkin, resolved to celebrate **International Women's Day on March 8**.