Protests in Humboldt County

A survey of protests held in Humboldt County
Two things:
This is not an exhaustive list nor an advanced analysis of the protests.
I encourage you to look more into these protests if you have strong reactions to any of them. If you want to learn more, check out some of the resources noted at the end.

(A digital version of this presentation will be available after this broadcast with usable links)
The Circumstances

- Great Depression
- Decline in timber demand due to economic decline
- Harsh working conditions, low wages
- Recurring union striking in adjacent industries like the Longshoremen in 1934

**Goals of Protest:**
- Raise minimum wage
- Lower number of hours in a workweek
- Union recognition
ONE KILLED IN LABOR RIOT AT EUREKA LUMBER PLANT

EUREKA—(WNU)—Ten persons were shot by police, one fatally, during recent labor riots at the Holmes-Eureka lumber mill here, when 250 strike pickets clashed with 300 employees. One of those hit by a bullet was a woman. Five policemen were hurt and 10 other civilian participants in the melee were injured. Labor trouble in this northern California camp came just when strike troubles in the Pacific Northwest were believed at an end.

The workers are seeking union recognition and higher wages. Although in some cases wage demands were for increases of 30 cents an hour above the prevailing wage, other workers were reported to be going back to the mill, apparently satisfied with 50 cents an hour at 40 hours a week.

At a recent Berkeley meeting of the state's warring prune growers, harmony was revived and growers finally reached agreement on the 1935 marketing agreement.

San Bernardino Sun, 22 June 1935
Redwood National and State Parks Expansion Movement, 1968-1978
The Circumstances
Enough is Enough
Associated California Loggers
1977
The Battle for Headwaters, part of Redwood Summer (1990)
The Circumstances

Redwood Summer: Where the 90’s Begins
Strike for Peace, 1970
The Circumstances
President Nixon;

As president of Humboldt State College, I implore you to consult with the mainstream of our responsible college youth and to attempt an understanding of their widespread, deep-seated desire for peace. The Cambodian decision is causing the most serious and disturbing concern and dismay. Personally, I am disillusioned and disappointed that the war has widened instead of coming to a close. The college community now needs fully justifiable acts and assurances to maintain or regain its faith in national leadership and to dispel its feeling of futility.

[Signature]

Cornelius Siemens
President, Humboldt State College
Humboldt State Special Collections
Additional Resources

- Who Saved the Redwoods? By Laura and James Wasserman
- The Fight to Save the Redwoods by Susan R Schrepfer
- A Good Forest for Dying by Patrick Beach
- The Last Stand: the Fight Between Wall Street and Main Street Over California’s Redwoods by David Harris
- The Legacy of Luna by Julia Butterfly Hill
- Organize! The Great Lumber Strike of Humboldt County by Frank Onstine and Rachel Harris
- Throwback Thursday: Protesting Vietnam in Humboldt County
- Aloe Echo’s “Strike for Peace”
- HSU Strike for Peace Exhibit
- The Redwoods Provide(d) Exhibit at the Clarke Museum, 2018
- May Day: A Time to Remember Labor Struggles

Most of these books can be picked up at local book sellers like Eureka Books! If you have a Clarke membership, don’t forget to ask for your discount on local history books.
Additional Resources (Continued)

- Timber Strike of 1935
- Earth First! protests the destruction of Redwood Forests (Redwood Summer), United States, 1990
- Redwood Rabbis
- WITNESS Library