

Cornerstone of new Portland Labor Temple, with 41 offices and 14 meeting halls, is laid on Labor Day at SW Fourth and Jefferson. The so-called "American Plan" is launched for the open shop to weaken unions, keep them out of major industrial plants. Mixture of spurious "patriotic slogans," intimidation, company unions and "yellow dog" contracts barring union membership in order to get a job, results in heavy losses for labor movement. **1921-23:** *The "Roaring Twenties," nostalgically depicted in movies and musical comedies as an era of unbounded prosperity, fell a good deal short of those marks for most working people. Throughout the decade, unemployment rose. It was hard times, as there was no unemployment insurance or supplementary benefits. Wages dropped sharply, union membership erodes with the loss of about 1 million members.* The Portland Central Labor Council follows a new national trend by starting a Labor College. **1924:** Samuel Gompers dies; William Green becomes new AFL president. Proponents try to pass an amendment to the Constitution to ban child labor, but only 28 of the needed 36 states ratify the measure. **1925:** B.W. Sleeman is elected president of the OFL. A. Philip Randolph helps create the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. **1926:** Railway Labor Act sets up procedures to settle railway labor disputes and forbids discrimination against union members. William Cooper elected president of the OFL. **1927:** The Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers Compensation Act is enacted. **THE GREAT DEPRESSION: 1929-1939** —

The Great Depression was devastating to the common working man but saw dramatic growth in the labor movement. Use of the sitdown strike strategy brings recognition of unions in several large industries, including the auto industry. Many of the labor movements battles were fought and decided in the courts. **1929:** Stock market crashes, falling 40 percent. The Hawes-Cooper Act governing the shipment of convict-made goods in interstate commerce is approved. **1930:** Oregon Federation of Labor forms non-political league to handle legislative and political programs. Union dues checkoff becomes popular in Northwest. Last of Portland Labor Temple bonds paid off and a "monster" celebration is staged. Oregonians approve the creation of public utility districts. **1931:** Davis-Bacon Act provides for prevailing wages on publicly funded construction projects. Oregon is second state in the country to establish an on-the-job apprenticeship training system. Talk about Fremont Bridge construction under way. IBEW and union electrical contractors launch "Cooperative Work Plan" campaign to create work for the unemployed by correcting defects that exist in many of the wiring jobs in residences and businesses. A Circuit Court judge rules that sales of Oregon Labor Press in front of the non-union Rivoli Theatre violate anti-picketing injunction that he granted weeks earlier. Moving Picture Operators were held in contempt of court after they picketed the theatre, then arranged to have copies of the Labor Press sold on the same block. **1932:** Unemployment soars to 14 million;

union membership plummets. Norris-LaGuardia Act prohibits federal injunctions in most labor disputes. Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President of U.S. Oregon records "one of greatest labor victories in history" by beating back attempt by Gov. Julius Meier to slash wages of state highway workers. AFL President Green appeals to every member of organized labor to aid in the search for the kidnapped Lindberg baby. **1933:** FDR launches the New Deal. Section 7 (a) of the National Industrial Recovery Act gives unions right to bargain with employers. Labor Press editorially greets the promise of a New Deal with restraint: "The election will not settle our economic problems." Labor and State Grange combine to defeat sales tax proposal. The Doernbecher Furniture Co., the largest employer in Portland with about 2,800 men, has used "every subterfuge known to the human mind to keep their employees from organizing a union." A rising tide of organization sentiment adds more than 1 million new members and 350 local unions to the ranks of the AFL. AFL agrees to minimum wage rates in Oregon of \$1.20 an hour for skilled labor and 50 cents an hour for unskilled labor on construction work financed by the Public Works Administration. The National Industrial Recovery Act has killed company unions; no longer can an employer discharge a worker for declining to belong to a company union. Oregon Legislature outlaws the "yellow dog" contract and recognizes labor's right to organize, strike, picket, assemble peaceably and otherwise use the lawful weapons of unions. The Tillamook Burn wipes out 240,000 acres of Oregon's finest timber. Creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps to provide unemployment relief for several million young Americans. **1934:** Upsurge in strikes, including national textile strike, which fails. 1,500 Longshoremen enter into bloody strike at Portland waterfront for 80 days. Women's Trade Union League is formed in Portland. On-the-job accidents cost country 89,500 lives and disable another 8.5 million. **1935:** National Labor Relations Act and Social Security Act passed. Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) formed within AFL. Portland Timber Workers' strike keeps mills tied down for three months, 1,200 people affected. D.E. Nickerson elected president of the OFL. Congress funds construction of Bonneville Dam, one of the great engineering marvels of the early 20th century; 4,000 construction jobs created. **1936:** The Anti-Strikebreaker Act declares it unlawful "to transport or aid in transporting strikebreakers in interstate or foreign commerce." CIO expelled from the AFL over industrial worker organizing. Portland labor endorses "super airport" bond sale. Auto Mechanics strike for eight weeks. **1937:** Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters wins contract with Pullman Co., marking the first agreement between black workers and a white employer. Bonneville Dam completed. General Motors Corp. recognizes the United Auto Workers. Steelworkers win first contract from U.S. Steel. Social Security covers 170,000 Oregonians. Grocery Clerks sign pact with 1,100 stores under first negotiations with newly-formed Food Employers Inc. AFL adding members at the rate of 75,000 per month. **1938:** Oregon Legislature adopts "vicious anti-labor measure" restricting pickets; AFL-CIO unsuccessfully challenges it in court. Fair Labor Standards Act establishes first minimum wage and 40-hour week. The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) forms as an independent federation. The Merchant Marine Act of 1936 is amended to provide a Federal Maritime Labor Board. About 800 employees at eight Portland hotels strike for three months. Retail Grocery Clerks Union at all Oregon Safeway stores strike for 56 days. Portland Central Labor Council urges establishment of Housing Authority. **THE SECOND WORLD WAR: 1939-1945** — Women and blacks enter the work force in large numbers as the main work

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