

# ...Labor Day history

(From Page 2)

other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

## A NATIONWIDE HOLIDAY

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public “the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations” of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday.

Still later, by a resolution of the AFL convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change over the years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics

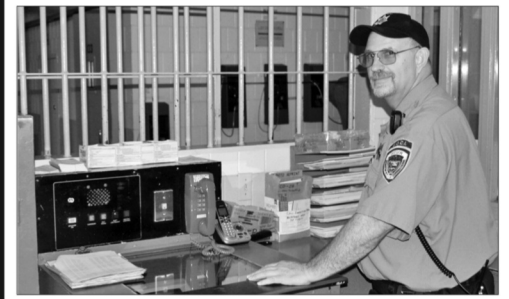
*The first state bill was introduced into the New York Legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on Feb. 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment.*

and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation’s strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.

*(Editor’s Note: This article is from the Northwest Labor Press archives. It is a history of the Labor Day researched by the U.S. Department of Labor.)*

# Happy Labor Day!



*As public employees, we are proud of the services we provide our communities.*

Jeff Klatke, President • Ken Allen, Executive Director



## Enjoy the Fruits of Your Labor This Labor Day!

**8-Hour Day, Paid Sick Leave,  
Higher Wages, Health Insurance,  
Overtime Pay, Pensions,  
Safer Working Conditions,  
Paid Holidays, Job  
Security, Severance Pay, Paid  
Vacations,  
Maternity Leave**

The preceding were brought to you by the men and women of organized labor, who won these benefits at the bargaining table and set the standard for all working Americans.



(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)  
Established in 1900 at Portland, Oregon  
as a voice of the labor movement.

4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,  
Portland, Ore. 97213  
Telephone: (503) 288-3311

Editor: Michael Gutwig  
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co., Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 19 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 80 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

Group rates available to trade union organizations.  
PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID  
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150,  
PORTLAND, OR 97213-0150



Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

## We wish you a Safe and Happy Labor Day

**IBEW & United Workers Federal Credit Union would like to honor our members on this holiday. Your union Credit Union has proudly served only Union members and their families for over 60 years.**

9955 SE Washington Street \* Portland, OR 97216  
(503) 253-8193 \* (800) 356-6507

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators