



In 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs the National Labor Relations Act affirming the right of workers to join labor unions, bargain contracts collectively, and strike. The National Labor Relations Board was given power to certify unions, and employers were forbidden to engage in unfair labor practices.

dependent 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. **1939:** AFL Union Label Show is held in Portland in conjunction with Oregon Home Show. Paul Gurske is elected president of the OFL. **1940:** John Lewis resigns and Philip Murray becomes CIO president. U.S. Supreme Court affirms labor organizations' right to picket. Warehousemen's Local 206 wins election at Montgomery Ward and later Retail Clerks Local 1257 and Office Employees Locals 16

and 821 win elections at Wards. Wards refuses to bargain and is placed on the Unfair List. **1941:** U.S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the federal wage and hour law, the last of the major New Deal statutes to be challenged in court. Portland Office and Professional Employees Union conducts its first strike — a two-day walkout that wins a contract from a small firm in the city. U.S. enters World War II. National War Labor Board created with union members. Shipbuilding boom starts in Portland. The AFL backs the war and adopts the No-Strike Code and makes a peace offer to the CIO for national unity. **1942:** Portland Industrial Union Council established. Labor and industry agree to no strikes during the war, with disputes to be set-



When the restaurant at the old Portland Labor Temple at SW Fourth and Jefferson opened for business in May 1935, the scene looked like this. The third customer from the left in foreground is C.M. Rynerson, editor of the Oregon Labor Press.

led by the War Labor Board. Wayne Morse, dean of the University of Oregon Law School, nominated as one of four public representatives on the Board. Labor pledges to win the war by smashing all production records. Labor Day is celebrated with the launching of a Liberty Ship in Portland. Edgar Kaiser builds Vanport on the south bank of the Columbia River; with 35,000 residents, overnight it is Oregon's second largest town. **1943:** Oregon becomes 23rd state to adopt an occupational

disease law. The AFL demands price controls to deal with inflation, and the lifting of substandard wages. CIO forms first political action committee to get out the union vote for President Roosevelt. **1944:** At the Portland Labor Temple, labor officials set a goal of selling \$5 million in war bonds. Nearly 50,000 workers at Boeing produce 16 airplanes a day. In Portland and Vancouver, Henry J. Kaiser's shipyards employ an estimated 100,000 workers. Men and women worked

side by side to build "Baby Flattops" and "Liberty Ships." **1945:** Some 150,000 workers are engaged in 85 shipyards in Oregon and Washington. The Union Label Trades sponsors a B-17 in the war effort. Labor mourns death of President Roosevelt and pledges support for Harry Truman. The Bonneville Power Administration signs an agreement with the Columbia Power Trades Council for collective bargaining. Pacific Coast Lumber and Sawmill Workers strike and tie up the in-



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