

Pacific Northwest Labor History Association



PNW Labor History Quarterly

Fall 2024

Labor Day in Victoria

The Wait for Burgers was Long and Union Talk Turned to Politics

By Ron Verzuh

Covid-19 put the kibosh on Labor Day for a few years, but the first Monday in September 2024 saw a resurgence of interest in the British Columbia capital city of Victoria as a large crowd gathered for a picnic at historic Memorial Park.



Last year, crowds were sparse. This year the park was full and the union booths were back in full swing, offering paraphernalia from caps and toques to pens, pronoun buttons (he/him, them/they) and coloring books for the kids. Some booths also offered mini-flashlights, measuring tapes and tiny boxes of mints.

As a musician played union songs in the background, union members and their families lined up for free cheeseburgers and hotdogs. The line-up was long so you had to be hungry, but the wait occasioned some good exchanges about the current political situation in B.C. and Canada.

The provincial government will hold an election in October with a clear competition between the right-wing Conservative party, newly merged with the Liberal party (BC United), and the New Democratic Party, the left-wing incumbent. (The NDP won a tight election.)

Note: Canadian workers were the first to celebrate Labor Day back in 1894. New York City workers followed suit soon after.

Ron Verzuh is a writer, historian and former Oregon PNLHA vice-president.

2025 Labor History Calendars

The educational 2025 Labor History calendar were mailed to all 2024 PNLHA members.

Additional calendars may be ordered. See flyer at the back of this newsletter.

What You Can Do to Help PNLHA Preserve Labor History

- 1) We are always looking for content in the way of short articles for this newsletter. Write on a labor history event or subject that interests you – preferably about the Pacific Northwest. Pictures and graphics with proper identification are always welcome.
- 2) Does your union have a newsletter or paper? Contribute a short article about your union history or northwest labor history. Identify yourself as a PNLHA member. Please let us give the article a quick review if it is linked to PNLHA.
- 3) Become a PNLHA member. (See back page.)
- 4) Get involved in one of our subcommittees: Outreach & Membership; Leadership & Succession; Events, Programs & Conferences; Communications & Technology; or Connecting with BC. Contact us at pnlha2@gmail.com
- 5) We are looking for a member who would like to maintain the website on a part-time basis. Contact pnlha2@gmail.com

***PNW Labor History Quarterly* is published for PNLHA members four times a year.**

Contributors this quarter are: Tom Lux, Pam Lux, Ron Verzuh (Canadian correspondent), Mike Honey, Michael Funke

Excerpts from *The Stand*, *NW Labor Press*, *Common Dreams*, *Portside* and as noted

HARRY BRIDGES CENTER FOR LABOR STUDIES

AWARDS CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 10, 2024 • 5:00pm – 8:00pm • University of Washington, Seattle

On Sunday, November 10, join us as we recognize the work of our students and faculty and share our agenda for the year, from the Labor Archives of Washington to the Building a Movement Labor Internship. Dinner and Drinks are provided!

REGISTER NOW!

The Anniversary Celebration is free and open to the public, but space is limited, and tickets are required. **Please register by clicking [here](#).** Note: Registrations are filling up and you may be put on a waitlist.



What are we up to?

WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS YEAR?

Oregon AFL-CIO, our trustees and members, Barbar Byrd, Nikki Mandel and Marcus Widenor have recently completed a fantastic historical photo gallery in the Oregon AFL-CIO headquarters in Portland. The AFL-CIO they has invited us to hold our opening night event of our Annual Conference at the headquarters and we will have a tour of the gallery during the reception. Following the reception, we will host a panel of labor leaders and academics. Mark your calendars for April 25, 2025. *Thank you, Barbara, Nikki & Marcus, it is fabulous.*

Springfield Oregon Mural, The History Mural in Springfield, Oregon has been repaired and reinstalled. Although we did not physically do any of that work Marcus Widenor has been our liaison and kept us informed. We did help finance the repairs and believe this is a great expenditure. *Thanks, Marcus, for all you do.*

Oregon Oral History Project, Carolyn Matthews has been heading a group to edit and complete the transcription of all the oral history interviews we have collected. Working with the Oregon History

Society members will be working on completing this incredible project. If you are interested in doing some of the editing email us: pnlha2@gmail.com . *Thank you Carolyn, it's a wonderful project.*

Labor Day Events,

Pierce County Central Labor Council invited us to their annual event. Vennie Murphy and Tom Lux accepted that invitation and had a good time talking about labor history and selling calendars. *Thanks Tom & Vennie*

Thurston Lewis Mason Counties Central Labor Council had an event in Chehalis this year. Jo Blake and Pam Lux went there and took the PNLHA board game "Do you know these Labor Leaders". Most attendees had considerable knowledge about labor events in their area. They also played our new version of "Labor History Trivia". This interactive game had all the people in the room discussing history. The food was excellent. *Thank You, Jo & Pam.*

Snohomish & Island County Central Labor Council: we were represented by the Labor Achieves. They always do a great job of telling our story and asking for more historical documents. *Thanks, Conor, for setting that up.*

Villanova University in Pennsylvania has a program that awards grants for community outreach projects. PNLHA applied for one of those grants. They will be deciding in the next month whether they like our conference plans. *Thanks Marcus & Pam*

National History Day is a competition for middle and high school students. PNLHA has committed to be involved in both Oregon and Washington programs. We will be awarding cash prizes for the best Labor History project in the middle and high school categories. We also will be serving as judges for the state competitions. We will need volunteers, if you want to experience this great event, contact us and volunteer. (pnlha2@gmail.com) You will have a great time and learn something.

Created a new PNLHA Brochure: we have been working on creating a new brochure that reflects who we are. David Jepsen has created the first draft, and we are now in the editing phase. If you are interested in reviewing it please email us and we can get you a copy.

Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies annual banquet this fall is where we award two prizes for the "BEST PAPER IN LABOR HISTORY". This year's recipients are:

Nolan DeGarlais, "Multiracial Labor Organizing and Community Building in Roslyn, Washington 1888-1907"

Al Wagner, "Their Oil Would Become Tears: Labor, Culture and Resistance through Olive Cultivation in Palestine"

Movie Night in Olympia. The Thurston-Lewis-Mason CLC had a showing of David Jepsen's movie "The Labor Wars of the Northwest". PNLHA was invited to bring our Labor History trivia game as the introduction and time filler to this movie event. The Capital Theater was full, and the discussion was lively. This movie is a very good historical depiction; if you haven't seen it you should. You can purchase a copy from us. *Thanks, David, Tom and Pam*

WHAT'S ON OUR CALENDAR TO DATE?

56 Annual PNLHA Conference – Portland, Oregon - April 25 & 26, 2025

Historic Labor Tour of Seattle – April/May

National History Day

Listen, View, and Learn

Mid-Willamette Valley Labor Solidarity Alerts

This is a blog about building labor and community solidarity in Oregon's Mid-Willamette Valley and beyond. The blog is at <https://marion-polk-yamhillsolidarity.blogspot.com/>. Thank you Bob Rossi.

Labor Radio – KBOO 90.7 FM Portland; 104.3 FM Corvallis; 91.1 FM Hood River
6:00 PM Mondays

Union Made – CFRO 100.5, Vancouver, BC
8:00 PM Wednesdays

Labor Radio/Podcast Network-

www.laborradionetwork.org Check it out!

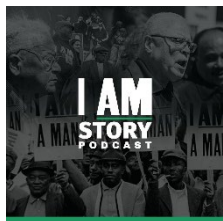
You can find dozens of labor-oriented shows.



Labor History Today - https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-vxhfg-1711c43?utm_campaign=w_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=w_share

Labor Heritage Power Hour - https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-mc7ub-171a3a6?utm_campaign=w_share_ep&utm_medium=dlink&utm_source=w_share

The I AM STORY Podcast



In 1968, sanitation workers in Memphis took a stand against degrading and deadly working conditions. They declared a strike that would lead to a movement that would shake the nation. The I AM STORY podcast tells the story of the sanitation workers who dared to declare: I AM A MAN. Learn more at listen.iamstory.com

Bill Lucy on Black Power - <https://laborhistorytoday.podbean.com/e/bill-lucy-on-black-power/>

William Lucy – an icon of the labor movement -- died this recently at the age of 90. “Bill Lucy served as a brilliant strategist whose words instantly cut to the heart of an issue,” said AFL-CIO president Liz Shuler, who called Lucy “a bridge across generations of our movement; and a leader in connecting the fights of working people all across the world.”

Bill Lucy also co-founded the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and it's that aspect of his extraordinary career that we're going to explore on today's show.

What Can We Learn From the Great Depression? -

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/what-can-we-learn-from-the-great-depression/id1510600522?i=1000671963805>

Chris talks with labor historian Dana Frank; her new book is [What Can We Learn From the Great Depression? Stories of Ordinary People and Collective Action in Hard Times](#). The book takes a new look at working-class activism during the 1930s from the perspective of our own time, examining mutual aid, and eviction protests, the expulsion of a million Mexicans, a sit-down strike by African American women working as wet-nurses, and a white supremacist fascist organization in Ohio known as the Black Legion.



Opinion: **"Memphis police killed Tyre Nichols. It's trauma that's familiar in Tacoma, too,"** by Michael K. Honey, The News Tribune, Feb. 10, 2023,

<https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/184998>

*Michael Honey's "Love and Solidarity: James Lawson, Nonviolence, and the Search for Workers Rights" 3-minute film trailer, <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/loveandsolidarity/>

*James M. Lawson, with Michael Honey and Kent Wong, with Forward by Angela Davis, ***Revolutionary Nonviolence, Organizing for Freedom:***

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520387843/revolutionary-nonviolence>

NW Labor Press Celebrates 125 Years

"Our Movement's Story is Worth Telling"

Northwest Labor Press editor Don McIntosh plans to celebrate the newspapers 125th year by "looking back at our movement's history." Now it will be easier to tapping into that history. McIntosh and others, including PNLHA's Marcus Widenor, have created nwlaborpress.org/archives, a free digital collection at an ancestry.com subsidiary called newspapers.com. Now everyone will have access to this valuable research tool.



The archive "will be hugely helpful to labor historians, students, and genealogists," McIntosh explains. "It will help local unions recover their own histories. And it will deepen our own current reporting, by opening up the back story and letting us call up detail when it's time to honor the individuals who make up our movement — as they retire, or after they're gone."

Congratulations to Don and the *NW Labor Press*, a unique publication and special labor history advocate.

Global Labour News Service Ends

After 13 years of reporting international labour news for online radio listeners around the world RadioCanada International has ceased to operate.

“It was the first labour podcast,” said founder Marc Belanger, a former trade union worker. “Almost 14 years ago no unions had podcasts or video-producing capabilities. RadioLabour produced the weekly news service for them.” Belanger was a trailblazer in developing union computer communications.

A former labour educator with the International Labour Organization in Turin, Italy, Belanger also produced “activist podcasts . . . for labour organizations conducting issue campaigns or events like strikes.” Now unions have their own digital specialists. The service extended to two U.S. labour radio programs but they no longer broadcast.

RadioLabour Canada will continue to offer news that focuses on Canadian labour news, “but will also run stories about the international labour movement,” Belanger told the *Quarterly*. Much of the weekly international news content came from LabourStart where long-time RCI contributor Derek Blackadder will continue to produce programming for the show. It will be available at www.rabble.ca on Fridays.

Readers can listen to earlier broadcasts at www.labourstart.org . For a brief history of RLC go to <https://www.radiolabour.net/about.html> .

New Academic Chair Funded

The University of Toronto has established the United Steelworkers/Leo Gerard Chair in Collective Bargaining and Worker Representation “to develop a better understanding of policies and legislation related to work and employment in Canada and around the world,” says a post on the U of T’s Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources web site.



Named after former AFL-CIO international president Leo Gerard of the United Steelworkers, the chair will encourage “the study and teaching of labour relations and human rights.” Gerard was recently appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada, the country’s highest civilian honour.

The chair “will drive research toward a better understanding of policies and legislation . . . related to working people and how their collective representation can improve equity, productivity and efficiency.” It will also “support teaching in new areas of collective representation; and tomorrow’s labour relations.”

The web site says the chair will help human resources professionals “build and strengthen models of employee representation that are effective from all sides of the employment relationship.”

For more, go to <https://www.cirhr.utoronto.ca/alumni-friends/scholarships-and-donations/united-steelworkers-leo-gerard-chair>.

Mother Jones Lives Again

Mary Harris a.k.a. Mother Jones spoke out for workers’ rights wherever she went, becoming a forceful voice for coal miners, farm workers, women and others across North America. Now a new film lets us see the wit, fire and fight of Mother Jones, a workers’ friend.

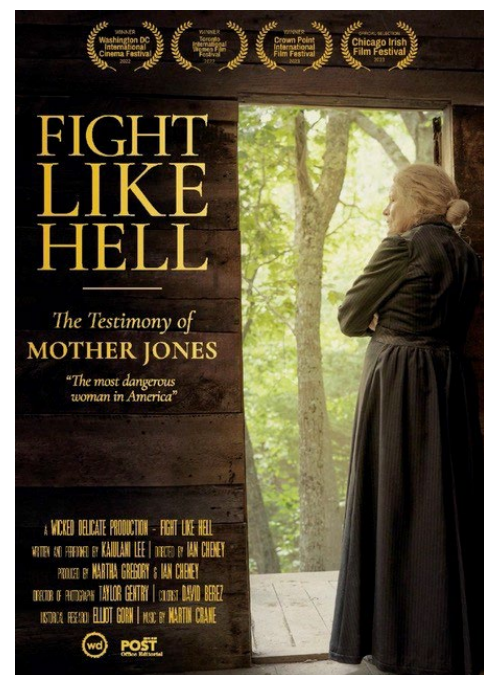
Fight Like Hell: The Testimony of Mother Jones is based on the stage play *Can't Scare Me*, Obie Award-winning actress Kaiulani Lee's one-woman play. The film was written and performed by Lee and directed by Emmy-nominated and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Ian Cheney.

Writer Upton Sinclair said of her, ‘She had force, she had wit, she had the fire of indignation; she was the walking wrath of god.’ Mother Jones said of herself ‘I'm not a humanitarian, I'm a hellraiser.’

Mother Jones “educated, agitated, and organized the dispossessed and showed America what it could be,” and she didn’t confine herself to workers’ struggles in the eastern and southern states. She travelled to the Pacific Northwest where she spoke in Seattle and Tacoma in 1914. From there she trekked to British Columbia to support striking miners.

She may be remembered best for her powerful call to arms: “pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.” Mother Jones died on November 30, 1930, at 93 or 94 years old.

See a trailer of *Fight Like Hell* here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZVyuLLuEc>.
Rent the 55-minute documentary here:
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/fightlikehell>.



Rednecks

A New Novel says the Word Once Meant Something Else

Taylor Brown, *Rednecks* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2024), 310 pages, \$29.95.

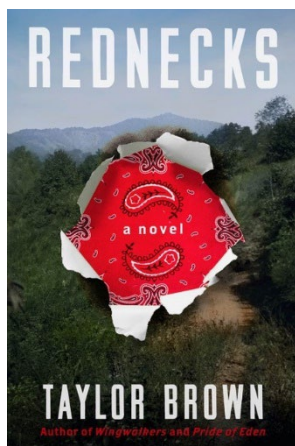
By Ron Verzuh

If you've seen John Sayles 1987 movie *Matewan*, you will already have a sense of America's coal wars in the hills of West Virginia in the early 1920s. Now you can read a novelist's take on the bloody events that occurred as coal miners, a.k.a. rednecks, fought for their rights.

Author Taylor Brown introduces colourful characters on both sides of the Battle of Blair Mountain to tell this story of workers exploited by wealthy coal barons who hire thugs to protect their profits by suppressing the United Mine Workers. The resulting misery in the company camps and in the mine's brutal working conditions is described with a novelist's eye, but Brown keeps close to the actual historical events of the time.

The good guys are plucked from real labour history and put to good use driving the story of the miner's struggle. Here we meet labour luminaries Mary "Mother Jones" Harris, for example, and Emma and Terence Powderly of Knights of Labor fame.

We also meet the author's creative inventions. Big Frank is a loveable giant who gets badly beaten by private detectives and goes on to fight in the hills. His mother Miss Beulah adds a sad and sage element to the telling of his story. Doc Moo, a Lebanese-born physician, is the biggest hero of the story. Add Davy "Crock" Crockett, an ex-marine who manhandles a Gatling gun, Bill Blizzard the UMW representative and Sid Hatfield, the local sheriff with a steely eye and two blazing six guns.



The bad guys are really bad, starting with the evil Bad Tony, mercilessly machine-gunning rednecks. Equally evil are the nameless agents of the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency. Next is Logan City Mayor Chanif, who viciously commandeers a plane and has it outfitted as a bomber. The Vigilance Committee, made up of local business people, is part of the bad guy element.

Two journalists serve as the neutral eyes of the novelist, embedding themselves in the middle of the fighting. Mother Jones has encouraged them to tell the world about the coal wars and how the miners and their families are mistreated by the mine owners.

As the two sides blast away, leaving bodies and body parts behind for Doc Moo, Republican U.S. President Warren G. Harding finally orders the Army to end the standoff. The "Redneck Army" leaves its guns hidden in the hills for a possible future war and retreats alongside the train bringing troops to the front to quell the violence.

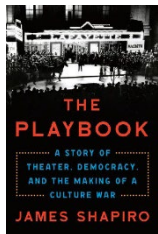
Brown delivers an account that puts readers at the center of the action and he makes no secret of where he stands. This telling is deeply sympathetic to the rednecks and clearly defines the sides. It is also a reminder as Congress considers the PRO Act, which would improve the labour movement's ability to organize, that greed motivates rich men and women to do evil things to working people.

And finally, a reminder that working people in solidarity can and will rise up in the face of workplace tyranny.

See also, *Fight Like Hell: The Testimony of Mother Jones*, directed by Ian Cheney, Bullfrog Films, 55 minutes, 2023, <https://www.bullfrogfilms.com/print/flh.html>.

Ron Verzuh is a writer, historian and former Oregon PNLHA vice-president.

America's War on Theater



Between 1935 and 1939, the New Deal-sponsored Federal Theatre Project staged over a thousand productions nationwide, reaching an audience of 30 million. It was an early target of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (HUAC).

Read Daniel Blank's riveting review in [Los Angeles Review of Books/ Portside](#)

U.S. Labor's Crusade Against "Red" Unions



In *Blue Collar Empire*, Jeff Schuhrke documents how many AFL and CIO leaders participated in witch hunts against UE and other unions in the U.S., and actively conspired with the U.S. government to undermine militant unions around the world.

Read Jonathan Kissam's review: [UE/Portside](#)

U.S. Steel Threatens to go Rogue

Until recently, U.S. steelworkers hadn't experienced an attack as sweeping as that of 1892. On July 6, 1892, America's most profitable corporation sent 300 Pinkerton agents to overpower the workers at its Homestead, Pennsylvania, steel mill, all 3,800 of whom the company had fired four days before as a way to break their union.

Read Harold Meyerson's compelling article: [The American Prospect/Portside](#)

Labour Day Opinion

Join a Union, Make a Friend

By Ron Verzuh

New York Times columnist David French recently wrote about loneliness among working-class Americans. “Millions of Americans are lonely,” he writes. “They feel sad, mad and stuck. They’re alienated from their communities and angry at their predicament, and they don’t feel that they have many options to improve their lives. But friendship can help fix each of those problems.”

He also points to Donald Trump’s appeal to this segment of the population. He “made their lives richer,” French quotes Michael Bender, a fellow journalist from the *Washington Post*. “They came for Trump, but they stayed for the relationships.” Trump’s rallies “gave the Joes a reason to travel the country, staying at one another’s homes, sharing hotel rooms and car-pooling.”

He acknowledges that “you can make friends in mass movements (as we see from the Front Row Joes), but there is often a tangible benefit to local engagement.” What French doesn’t say is that there is a ready source of friendship for all workers in one mass movement. It’s the union movement.



Marc Zwelling, a Toronto pollster and former communications director for the United Steelworkers, explains. “Have you noticed that in all the whining about alienation, lack of friendship and bonding, etc., no one points to a cure right in front of their nose: unions?”

“Not to valorize unions with all their faults, but unions do take virtual strangers and employees without a history of working together and mold them magically into a unit, a local and a relationship to act collectively in their own interests and sometimes in the greater public interest, considering the work unions frequently do in their communities.

“Join a union and get an instant pack of friends and connections.”

Ron Verzuh is a writer and historian. He is also the former Oregon PNLHA vice-president.

1937 Auto Strike

Anti-Union Canadian Newspaper Loses to the UAW

By Ron Verzuh

Canadian trade unionists love and hate their “National Newspaper.” From its start in the late 1800s, it has often shown an anti-labour side engendered by founder George Brown, a Liberal party politician with a hate-on for unions. But most of us working in the modern union movement were covetous of any coverage in the daily. It was a media influencer, in today’s parlance. We were often disappointed.



Now the paper’s best and brightest writers appear in a collection of articles this fall called *A Nation’s Paper*. The book includes at least one example directly related to labour history. It’s about the 1937 General Motors strike at Oshawa, Ontario, when 3,000 auto workers downed tools.

“The GM strike of 1937 helped give birth to the modern labour movement in Canada, cementing the power of unions and paving the way for improved working conditions,” writes future of work reporter Vanmala Subramania (*Globe*, Sept. 2, 2024). She adds that the paper was in the thick of this momentous chapter in labour history, taking a strong anti-union stand in editorials, many of which ran on the front page.”

The United Auto Workers of America (UAW) struck on April 8, 1937, “demanding an eight-hour day, compensation by seniority and recognition of the UAW as their union.” Battling an anti-union employer and an anti-union provincial government, the rest of the Toronto movement got behind the UAW struggle.

George McCullagh, *Globe* publisher at the time, fired up the anti-communist rhetoric on his editorial page, but he let the reporters do their job. “Though there was no direct evidence that [Globe owner William] Wright dictated editorial policy to McCullagh, the publisher knew his backer’s mind and certainly knew his own. He believed organized unions spread socialism and threatened the rights of owners.”

The strike was ultimately won after 16 days, making it a “momentous chapter in labour history.” McCullagh “had placed *The Globe* firmly against the side of labour and on the losing side of his backers.” The famed Flint-Michigan sit-down strikes of the previous year and now the UAW victory in Oshawa inspired a new union movement called the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

The victory also led to the hiring of young labour reporters like Wilf List who wrote stories that showed “how unions played a crucial role in forcing the hand of government and employers to introduce supports such as maternity leave, unemployment insurance and other benefits for workers.”

A Nation’s Paper: The Globe and Mail in the Life of Canada (Toronto: Signal/McClelland & Stewart, 2024).

CAIMAW's 60th Anniversary

On September 21st, 124 retired trade unionists, activists, and various friends, allies, and families of the labour movement congregated inside the Unifor union hall on 12th Street in New Westminster, British Columbia. The occasion was the 60th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical, and Allied Workers (CAIMAW).



If the name CAIMAW is unfamiliar, it's because the union technically no longer exists. After a storied and inspiring (yet criminally underwritten) history beginning on June 14th, 1964, when 560 dissident workers in Manitoba broke away from the International Molders Union and formed their own union. CAIMAW's 6,500 members across British Columbia, Alberta,

and Manitoba merged with the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) on January 1, 1992.

Select former CAIMAW locals live on today under the Unifor banner, formed in 2013 after a merger between the CAW and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP). The union hall in New Westminster made an appropriate venue for the anniversary, which celebrated CAIMAW's past while reminding attendees just how different the Canadian labour movement was sixty years ago.

To read the rest of Mason Godden's article about a militant union that changed the Canadian labour movement into progressive places *RANKANDFILE.CA / Portside*:

<https://portside.org/2024-10-31/caimaws-60th-anniversary>

Labour History in Stamps

A New Proposal for a Canadian Stamp About the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike

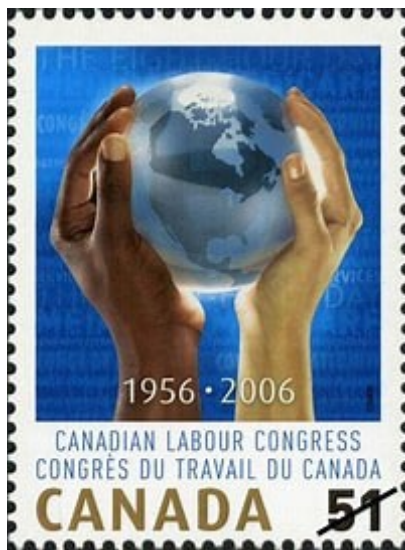
By Ron Verzuh

The Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 is the most historic strike in Canadian history and a root of the modern union movement, says a proposal to Canada Post calling for a labour history stamp series. "While it was among the largest and most violent, it also fostered a new sense of working-class solidarity that strengthened unions," the proposal stated.

The Winnipeg labour conflict involved more than 30,000 workers and lasted from May 15 to June 25. Although it did not result in the immediate improvement of working conditions, it did establish the need for improved labour-management relations.

In its wake the strike left a legacy that includes an enduring symbol of unity for unionizing workers. It also laid some of the early groundwork for the founding of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (later the New Democratic Party). Its founding leader was striker J.S. Woodsworth.

It was the line in the sand for many Canadians who were fed up with Prime Minister Robert L. Borden's wartime Conservative government, its hated conscription (draft) law and its repressive War Measures Act. Canadians were done with a government that didn't seem to care.



The strike was a manifestation of the societal ills facing jobless soldiers, grieving families and struggling immigrants. It was also part of the stimulus for the historic Western Labour Revolt in Calgary in the early 1920s. That meeting saw the formation of the One Big Union, radical though short-lived movement that sought to organize all workers.

The 1919 strike truly marks a historic moment. Other strikes are also worthy of stamp recognition – The Oshawa General Motors strike (1937), the Ford strike (1945), the Asbestos strike (1949), and the Vancouver Island Coal Strike (1912-1914). But none is more worthy than the Winnipeg General Strike. It is a part of Canadian labour history that deserves to be honoured with a stamp.

Ron Verzuh is a writer and historian. He is a former PNHLA Oregon vice-president and a signatory to the ongoing stamp proposal campaign.

MAKING LABOR HISTORY TODAY

At the heart of the Machinist strike against Boeing is the fight over a lost pension plan

At a Seattle rally last month, machinists union vice president Gary Allen addressed a hall full of striking Boeing workers.

“When I'm out on the picket line, I ask everybody, what is the strike about to you?” he said. Allen didn't even have a chance to answer his own question before the machinists in the room interrupted. “Pension! Pension! Pension!” they chanted.

Pensions are a major sticking point between Boeing and the union. The machinists want the company to restore the traditional pension plan they lost a decade ago. But Boeing hasn't budged.

To read or listen to Joel Rose' Morning Edition report: [Morning Report](#)



Those of us who have been through strikes know how hard it is to get back a benefit once it is lost. The latest company offer that the workers will vote on Monday, Nov. 4 still does not include a pension. The vote will determine if the machinists will continue their historic strike or accept what they have won and live to fight another day.

IAM District 751 President, Jon Holden, points out that since 2002 the union has won 31% wage increases. With this one contract offer the members will win a 38% wage increase over four years.

'Change thousands of lives'

Months after [thousands of Portland-area Fred Meyer employees](#) went on strike, their union announced Monday that a new contract has been reached.

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555, the largest private sector union in Oregon, said members voted "overwhelmingly" to ratify a new three-year contract on Saturday for Fred Meyer and QFC stores in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

"This contract is going to change thousands of lives and it could only have been accomplished with the work and dedication of everyone involved and the support of our communities," Dan Clay, president of UFCW Local 555, said.

Click the link above to read Alex Jensen's full article.

Chippendales Dancers' Newest Act – Unionizing!

Frequently described as "the Broadway of burlesque," the Chippendales Dancers are famous for their high-production value and elaborate choreography. Now, saying "we need to have a world-class workplace – and that means fair pay, decent benefits, safety and accountability," the all-male dance troupe is [organizing with Actors' Equity Association](#).

Not Playing Around: World of Warcraft Workers Win Union

Members of the World of Warcraft Gamemakers Guild-CWA [recently gained union recognition](#), becoming the first wall-to-wall union at Activision Blizzard. [Check out their video](#) celebrating this achievement!

- CWA Newsletter

Teamsters Charge Bigfoot with Additional Unfair Labor Practices During Strike

“Amid an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) strike at Bigfoot Beverages, Teamsters Locals 206 and 324 have charged the company with additional ULPs for unlawfully threatening workers for engaging in federally protected union activity. Bigfoot workers went on strike September 19 after Bigfoot attempted to unlawfully eliminate a core pension benefit and lied to the bargaining committee.” Read more: [Matt McQuaid at Teamsters](#)

In Memoriam

Barbara Dane



Guided by her commitment to racial equality and leftist causes, she had numerous brushes with fame that quickly came to naught as she cared far more about fighting for justice than her “career,” a word she invariably intoned with ironic air quotes. Yet, she never expressed regret for following a winding path using her voice “to help with the whole complicated process of trying to change the world,” she told the [Chronicle in a 2016 interview](#).

Read Andrew Gilbert’s article in the S.F. Chronicle: [here](#)

<https://www.theradicalsongbook.com/songs-rants>

*First Starbucks Organized by Starbucks Workers
United in December 2021, Elmwood Ave., Buffalo
NY*

PNLHA

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LABOR DONATED



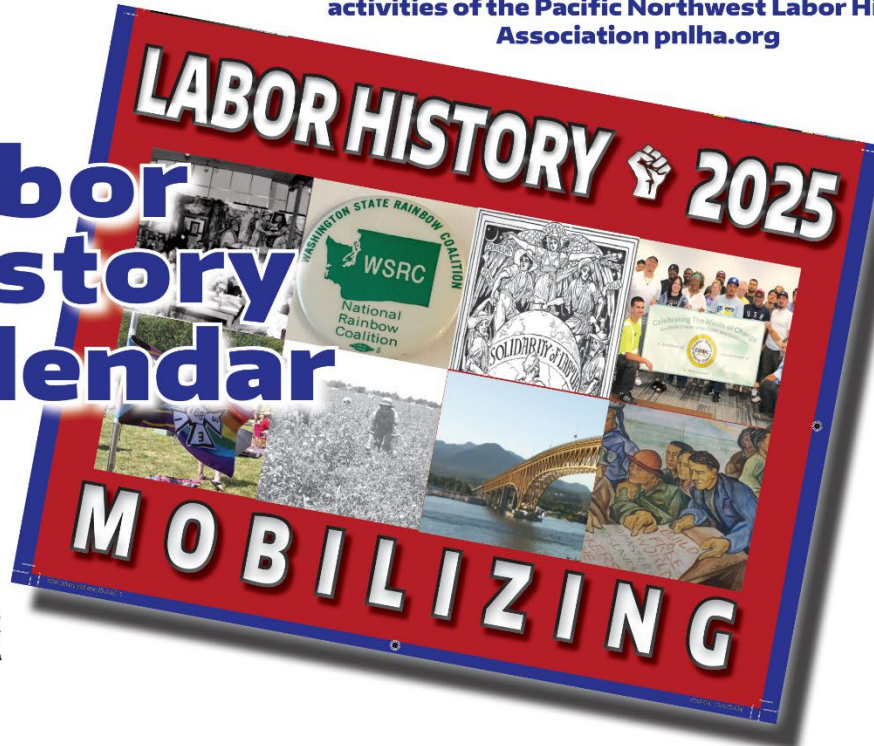
Labor History Education Tool and Fundraiser

A fundraiser supporting the educational activities of the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association pnlha.org

Labor History Calendar



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Pacific Northwest Labor History Association

Preserving the History and Heritage of Workers in the Pacific Northwest

www.pnlha.org

PNLHA 2025 Membership

☐ Sustaining Membership **\$250**

(Includes two free registrations to labor history conference or event)

☐ Organizational Membership **\$150**

(Includes one free registration to labor history conference or event)

☐ Union Retiree Councils **\$50**

☐ Contributing Membership **\$50**

☐ Individual Membership **\$25**

☐ Student / Low Income **\$15**

Please submit your membership in US dollars on our web site www.pnlha.org , or mail this form to: PNLHA; PO Box 75662; Seattle, WA 98175. Include your name, address, phone & email.

Thank You!

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE / PROVINCE: _____

POSTAL / ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

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I AM: ☐ Labor Union ☐ Union Member ☐ Educator ☐ Student ☐ Activist ☐ Other

OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

CHOOSE: ☐ New Member ☐ Current Member ☐ Past Member

Thank you for joining PNLHA! Included in your 2025 membership will be a complimentary copy of the 2026 PNLHA Labor History Calendar.

Note: Membership is from January 1 through December 31. Memberships received after Labor Day of any year will be considered for the following year unless we are instructed otherwise.