

Re. Labor Day

Three years before the founding of Yakima 75 perishable years ago, the first Labor Day celebration was held.

The celebration, a parade at New York City was held at a time running back now beyond memory of all but a few of the living.

~~On the same day~~, Labor Day, however, did not become a national holiday until 1894 when a bill introduced by Sen. James H. Kyle of South Dakota, father of Mrs. J.H. Weber, 7 S. 18th Ave., Yakima, became law. And by that time labor was well established in Yakima and was growing with the town.

Through efforts and skills of men in Yakima's younger years the lean and ~~waxed~~ warped board houses they first built became homes. It was later, also, through their efforts, the rutted streets were covered first with gravel, then brick and concrete and ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ asphalt. They also built sturdy walled and bright-lit church, school and public buildings---all with the watermark of craftsmanship---to replace the shell structures of Yakima's village days when the town was called North Yakima.

Labor Day has now become an inheritance, and labor's possessions are those of achievement.

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This is a Diamond Jubilee year for labor as well as Yakima, for the goal in the days the railroad came building through the X Valley and selected a new townsite four miles north of Yakima City and called the place North Yakima, has long been reached. Nationally the total membership of unions could not have been more than half a million men at that time.

The first organization of national scope, three years before Yakima's founding, was the Knights of Labor.

From little hints of the past we ~~can~~ know that Yakima was three years old when the American Federation of Labor was founded.

This came about at Columbus, Ohio, with Samuel Gompers rallying craft unions into an organization which soon displaced the Knights of Labor. Gompers believed that labor should remain free of affiliation with any political party, a credo that weakened ~~like water~~ with the watering of the years for some of labor's leaders.

Two years after North Yakima's origin, Labor Day was made a legal holiday in Oregon, a non-industrial state. And from Yakima's earliest times, spread across the ages of Yakima newspapers---weeklies at first until like the city they grew---are the little stories of origin of labor in Yakima



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And the unrelenting wind of time blowing out of nowhere, forever turns back the leaves for all to read.

There was the time, even before statehood day , November 11, 1889, the Red Star Employment office on South First Street advertised the arrival of a carload of servant girls from the east. And in the early spring that year, working men of North Yakima were called to the GAR Hall, a name now little known to younger generations and standing for the Grand Army of the Republic which evolved from the Civil War, 99 years ago.

Purpose of the meeting was to organize a Knights of Labor Assembly.

The same year, too, painters struck, asking a wage increase from \$3 to \$3.50 a day, although it was not until 1910 that journeymen painters advanced their scale again, to \$4.

In the pioneering times of labor here, William Lee ~~Mr~~ Sr. of North Yakima was selected delegate to represent the Knights of Labor of Eastern Washington to a district meeting of district assemblies at Seattle, called to organize a state-wide assembly. J.C. MacCrimmon of North Yakima represented Local Assembly 521. And that summer, July 18, 1891, the state labor convention was held in North Yakima.

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The following year when the Knights of Labor decided to build a monument at Pittsburg, Penn., with rock and stone from all sections of the country, Yakimawas represented.

Rock taken from Two Buttes "the sentinels which form the gateway for the Yakima River four miles below this city where in 1855 occurred the first Indian battle in Yakima county," was sent.

Steel rivets fastened a copper plate to the rock on which was inscribed:  
"Presented by Volunteer M.G. Wills to T.V. Powderly through J.C.

MacCrimmon."

MacCrimmon, G.W. Gardner and John Goodwin commended Rep. H.J. Snicely "our representative in the legislature," for championing the eight hour bill, the Pinkerton detective bill, fellows railroad bill, employees weekly cash payments, railroad fence bill, coal miners' check weighman bill and all legislation tending to the relief of the wage workers of this state."

Union organization here took a more direct course ~~xx~~ at the beginning of a new century.

Bricklayers, stone masons and plasterers met in February, 1900, to settle wage differences and organize. The reason. Stone masons were receiving \$4 a day. Bricklayers were paid \$5 and found themselves



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Barbers Union 171 was organized April 6, 1905 by H.P. Hamaker, special organizer for the American Federation of Labor. B.F. Dye was named president, Ed Smith vice president, J.E. Orchard recorder, A.R. Pitts guide and J.S. Churchill guardian. The charter members, seven, had never belonged to a union although other barbers of Yakima were union members.

Fifty team owners organized in August, 1906, under guidance of George E. Doomer of Prosser, state organizer for the Federation of Labor. They met in Gatchell's Hall. Membership was restricted to team owners. Teamsters who were non owners decided to form their own group and affiliate with the Team Owners Union, the name of the newly formed association.

"By October the trade union movement was expanding rapidly" and it will be but a short time until labor unions are united in a trades assembly to cooperate with each other in promoting unionism and securing the resulting benefits."

Followed, then, the chartering of lathers and electricians. The carpenter membership had risen to 190.

Twenty-five barbers met in F.D. Clemmer's shop to organize in April, 1907, elected C.W. Carlson president and Harry Vance secretary. The following month 28 musicians formed a temporary organization.

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In midsummer, L.A. Shrimpton of the Carpenters Union proudly proclaimed that the whistle on the Yakima Brewery would be blown at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. instead of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

"This," he announced, "is for the ~~xx~~ purpose of notifying all union men of the exact hours of the day which the union help is obliged to work."

The Musicians Union, of 30 members, received its charter the same month and by the end of the month took the name, Musicians Protective Union No. 442 American Federation of Musicians. The charter meeting was held in ~~Nagel~~ Frank X. Nagler's cigar store.

William Verran was named president, Perry Caldwell vice president, Walter O. Hamilton secretary, Herman Crawford treasurer and Claude Wright, Ben Wirt and Ed Merwin executive committeemen. Frank Lanterman and Nagler were executive committeemen.

Ordained Unions gathered in Plumbers Hall, located over the Pastime Cigar Store in August, 1907, to name committees to work out a Labor Day program.

Committees included: E.M. Mullen, plumbers; F.R. Lucas, painters; L.H. Shrimpton, carpenters; W.O. Hamilton, musicians and typographical; H. Morrow, lathers; George Barber, barbers; L. Burke, bricklayers and masons; and Mack Gregory, stonecutters.

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Barbers of North Yakima, the same month, ~~xx~~ raised hair cutting prices from 25 cents to 35 cents and massages from 35 to ~~40xx~~ 50 cents.

"The prices of other work will remain the same unless having the moustache curled will cost five cents more which will be optional with individual shops."

Closing hours were advaiced from 9 to 8 o'clock and from midnight to 11 on Saturdays. Shops were closed on Sundays.

E.R. Lucas of the Painters Union went to ~~Pxx~~ Portland in March, 1908, to attend conferences of painters of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. He ~~xxxxxx~~ returned to propose organization of a North Yakima trades and labor council.

Lucas argued that with a general council "we will be in a position to have ~~xxxx~~ a central meeting place where outside laborers could be looked after and their wants satisfied. As it now is, a union man has considerable trouble getting acquainted with and finding some of the members of his union."

Bartenders, 37 of them, organized a local of the Bartenders ~~International~~ International League of America in November, 1910, and looked toward enrolling 30 more bartenders and proprietors.

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They met in Union Hall and chose A.L. Lamkin president; W.J. Briton, vice president; Joe McDonald, chaplain; Alfred Lund, recording secretary; M.W. Mechtel, treasurer; and George Swoop, inspector. Frank Loker was elected guard and Jesse Harkness, Alexander Harkness and Bert Gunn were chosen executive board members.

Women spoke out in 1912 when Judge Chapman of Pierce County superior court ruled in a test case of the eight hour law that a woman operating a typewriter is not a mechanic. Stenographers and typists didn't desire to be classed as mechanics, but wanted to guard against longer working hours. They proposed an eight-hour office workers federation throughout the state.

Labor Temple, 17 1/2 North 2nd St., was the meeting place of 60 cooks and waiters in February, 1913 when they met to organize. They elected Joe Davis president; Louis Paul, vice president; Fred Keller, secretary-treasurer; Roy Loah, chaplain; and Joe Cole, guard.

And with the steady wind of time kept turning the pages, until the Teamsters Union No. 524 built and dedicated its hall at 15 North 3rd Ave., in March, 1948.

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Yakima's Typographical Union No. 614 ~~XXXX~~ reached its golden anniversary in 1903 (it was organized May 25, 1903). Even by the anniversary date the charter members, A.S. Coonse, J.C. Berry, H.P. Hamaker, C.W. Liggett, O.F. Spring, M.H. Mabley, G.N. Tuesley, R.W. Wilkinson and C.D. Williams had died.

How strong, Labor Day, 1960, comparing the half million members at the time of Yakima's beginning? Thirteen and one-half million members today.

The father of Mrs. Weber and grandfather of Mrs. Charles Riemcke, also of Yakima, Sen. Kyle, who introduced and succeeded in gaining passage of the Labor Day Bill nine years after Yakima's birth was a young senator. He served in the U.S. Senate 11 years and died, still in his 40's, on July 1, 1901.

His memory was honored by the people of Ohio, his native state, at a celebration led by Gov. M.Q. Sharpe in 1946. He was nationally honored for "representing the true dignity of labor."

Mrs. Weber was 5 or 6 years old when her father was elected a senator and grew up in Washington, D.C. She came to Yakima in 1922.

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Sen. Kyle was chairman of the committee on education and labor and served on irrigation, reclamation, forest resources, game protection and Indian affairs committees.

He was a Congregational minister and went from Ohio to Ipswich, South Dakota and later to Aberdeen.

He was a friend of Buffalo Bill Cody, who gave Mrs. Weber her first horse when she was small.

And while few boys and girls, starting another school year tomorrow do not know who is responsible for the bill which gives them another day of vacation, most of them know quite a bit about Buffalo ~~Bill~~ Bill.



## Click Relander

Yakima, originally North Yakima, was four years old on Admission Day 74 years ago this Nov. 11. The little town of settlers and builders, spurred along by land and irrigation promoters could not have mustered ~~2,000~~ ~~population~~ a population of 2,000.

Naturally, memories of the state's origin waning with the years faded rapidly after 1918 when North Yakima had reached a young manhood of 33 years. Admission Day was buried beneath the excitement of World War I cease fire and Armistice Day, which also fell on a November 11.

North Yakima's beginning around Christmas time, 1885, came with the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway through the Gap, just below Yakima City which in time became Union Gap. Drab wooden buildings from Yakima City were pulled on rollers, by horse and mule teams, or smaller structures were carried on flat cars to the new townsite. North Yakima, now Yakima, was born in strained relationships with Yakima City, mud, dust and ~~frankly flimsy buildings~~ flimsy buildings.

By Admission Day many of the first buildings were being replaced by imposing stone or brick structures. Sidewalks replaced some boardwalks. Irrigation projects were developing in the seven valleys of the Yakima, bringing sagelands under cultivation. The railway connected Yakima with



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expanding, easier to reach outlets. Land prices were rising. The homestead rush was on.

By day the tang of smoke club in the fall air, intermingling with dust. At night piles of ~~sage~~ flaming sagebrush from newly-~~land~~ cleared land glimmered throughout the Valley. The editor of the Republic wrote:  
"The appearance of our city would be very much improved if all owners of vacant lots would clear off the sagebrush."

A short time later the newspaper announced an ordinance prohibiting ducks, geese and other poultry running at large.

North Yakimans were also working with strong hope the city would become the state capital when Washington was accepted into the Union.

Republican, Elisha P. Ferry, first governor, in a message on Admission Day when Washington became the 42nd state, proclaimed that the day "be known and designated as Admission Day. The anniversary will be celebrated and may very properly be placed among our legal holidays."

The 75th year of statehood is now a year away, but there has been no movement toward a Diamond Jubilee in such recognition.

On only 10 occasions since 1889 has Admission Day fallen on a Monday, Nov. 11, and six of those times have been since ~~Admission Day, 1918~~ Armistice Day, 1918.

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Miles C. Moore was the ~~fix~~ last Territorial governor in a succession of 13 men, excluding two who failed to qualify. These territorial governorships began with Isaac Ingalls Stevens, who issued a proclamation convening the first Territorial Legislature Feb. 27, 1854.

November 1889 was a month of statehood origins, provided through a single Enabling Act.

North Dakota and South Dakota entered the Union Nov. 2, in order named. Montana achieved statehood Nov. 8. They were the first states since Colorado gained stature in 1876. Washington might have led the list of newcomers had there not been a delay by territorial officials in signing necessary certifying papers.

Earlier attempts had been made to gain statehood.

The Territorial Legislature of 1868-69 called for a constitutional vote. The proposition failed and was re-submitted at the general elections of 1872 and 1874 without success. In 1876 the proposition was again submitted and won. Constitutional delegates met at Walla Walla. A Constitution was drafted after 40 days and approved by the people, 6,462 to 3,231. But there was no help from Congress.

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In 1884, with woman's suffrage, there were 41,842 votes cast in the Territory, and 47,230 in 1886, again with woman's suffrage.

Finally, on Feb. 22, 1889, Congress passed an Enabling Act which provided for the division of Dakota into two states and for residents of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington to draw up Constitutions.

A Constitution was ratified 40,152 to 11,879 on Oct. 1, giving a majority of 28,273.

Woman's suffrage was on the ballot and was rejected , 35,527 to 16,487. But influence of women was reflected in the 31,487 votes against prohibition compared with 19,546.

The Constitution had been adopted nearly three months earlier, Aug. 29, ~~without~~ at close of a 50-day session but not without controversies.

One bitter debate was over the preamble which in final form stated:

"We the People of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Being of the ~~Univer~~ universe for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution."

Amendments were offered inserting the sentence: "Grateful to Almighty God."

When the amendments failed to carry because of a tie vote, 33-33, the  
Wasco County Sun, Oct. 1, 1889, editorialized:

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"In view of the fact that the convention is equally divided on the subject, compromise, thus: 'We, the people of the State of Washington, one-half of whose representatives are grateful to Almighty God and the other half ungrateful to Him, do ordain this constitution, etc. That ought to satisfy both sides."

Article I was a declaration of rights, stating the ~~people~~ political power "is inherent in the people and the governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights."

Another section declared:

"A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is essential to the security of individual right and the perpetuity of free governments."

Altogether there were 27 articles, each containing detailed sections covering all aspects of government.

Gov. Ferry pointed out in his inaugural address:

"The State Constitution is only a limitation upon legislative power, differing in this respect from the Constitution of the United States which is a grant of power."

He recalled that when the territory was established 36 years earlier, March 2, 1853, its boundaries were the British possessions on the north, the

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summit of the Rocky Mountains on the east, the Columbia River and the 46th parallel of North Latitude on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

These were the boundaries until the Territory of Idaho was formed March 3, 1863. The eastern boundary was changed to the 117th Meridian.

Location of the state capital was another bitterly fought issue.

The location issue had been brought up many times from 1861 to 1889. In earlier relocation bills, one of several, Vancouver was a weakening contender.

Increasing land settlement east of the Cascades brought North Yakima, Waitsburg, Walla Walla, <sup>eq</sup> Ellensburgh (the original spelling) and Centralia into the picture as capital site contenders.

The issue was strengthened with ~~impending~~ by impending statehood.

Ellensburgh and North Yakima offered capital sites. North Yakima supporters sent boxes of apples plastered with North Yakima labels to the Legislature. They distributed a 20-page pamphlet (none of which are now known to exist in library archives). Chester A. Congdon deeded a 20-acre site with \$20,000 returnable if North Yakima did not get the capital. Olympia showered gifts of oysters and clams on celebrations and fairs to gain support. Ellensburgh fattened its <sup>bid</sup> offer with ~~a governor's mansion~~ offer of a governor's mansion?

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North Yakima fell one vote short of ~~g~~ gaining House approval of the site in the 1887-88 session. The struggle broke out anew at the ~~Constitutional~~ Constitutional convention of July 4, 1889.

Walla Walla gave up and concentrated on defeating North Yakima. Proposals to delay the location vote for several years were defeated and it was included on the Constitutional ballot offered on the first Tuesday of October.

Olympic received 25,490 x of the 55,173 votes, North Yakima 14,711 and Ellensburgh 12,833. Centralia received 314 and Pasco 130. Yakima City, still bitter because ~~of~~ so many of its residents had packed up and followed the railroad to the new town ~~xxNyrthx~~ won 314 votes.

A majority was required so another election was necessary.

This was held Nov. 4, 1890. Intetere~~s~~t in fading efforts of North Yakima and Ellensburgh lagged. Olympia received 37,413 votes this time, Ellensburgh 7,722 and N<sup>~</sup>rth Yakima 6,276.

The capital location battle, however, broke out like a sleeper fire in the timber and was not extinguished until a capital building program was finished in 1927.

E.M. Reed, editor of the Yakima Herald, published once a week, observed North Yakima's reactions to the long awaited proclamation of President Benjamin Harrison, received 5:27 p.m. a Monday afternoon which brought word of statehood.



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Reed ~~Wright~~ wrote:

AThe emancipation from territorial vassalage was received in some giddy cities with the burning of powder, patriotic speeches and champagne for the rich---whisky and beer for the poor. Here in dignified Yakima we smiled a smile of satisfaction and moved along with even tenor on our way, ~~building~~ building three-story brick business blocks; handsome residences and projecting new and greater enterprises for the coming year."

~~Yakima~~ Later Ellensburg (the "h" dropped from the spelling), was given a State Normal College bya harasssed legislature. This school has since become Central Washington State College.

Pullman was given Washington State College, a land grant college, after North Yakima hopes soared high for an agricultural college. And the first location, of what has become Washington State University, appears to have been made inadvertently just inside the Idaho boundary.

North Yakima finally ~~conceded the~~ ~~it~~ was finally conceded the State Fair. Then when state appropriated funds slacked after a few years, North Yakima believers came to the rescue, organizing what became the Central Washington Fair.

But it was not until 1917, and after much ~~a~~ straying mail, a law was passed under which North Yakima became Yakima and Yakima City was ~~re~~-named Union Gap.

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8th ad Admission Day

It is the general belief the name of the Old Town ~~and~~ originated with the Gap just south of ~~town~~ the town. Such is partially correct.

Union Gap was a name given in 1867 to the confluence of ~~the~~ Ahtanum Creek with Yakima River, a "union" of streams.