



LABOR WARS OF THE NORTHWEST

The Struggle That Defined the Region

Sponsored by

**Pacific Northwest Labor
History Association**

LOOKING BACK
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

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THE STORY

By the 1880s, with railroad transportation in place, the era of settlement in the Pacific Northwest gave way to industrialization. Jobs accelerated with the power of a locomotive as tens of thousands of unskilled workers came seeking a living wage in the forests, mines and shipyards. Instead they found themselves embroiled in a conflict with capital. On one side were owners striving to compete in national and global markets. On the other were men and women living vulnerable and oftentimes dangerous working lives, marked by low pay, long hours and inhumane conditions. But the labor wars of the early twentieth century stretched beyond a struggle between capital and labor. At stake was a region trying to come to grips with itself.



SEATTLE STREETCAR STRIKE

In November 1903, traffic came to a halt when members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America walked off the job over wages and overtime pay.

WHY IS THIS STORY IMPORTANT?

February 6, 2019, marks the 100th anniversary of the Seattle General Strike, the first such worker protest in U.S. history and the culmination of more than two decades of regional labor strife. No film historian has put this story together into a single program. The centennial offers a timely opportunity to educate students on the defining struggle in Northwest history. It's not hyperbole to suggest anyone who today enjoys fair wages, safe working conditions and job security owes their status in part to workers of an earlier generation. *Labor Wars in the Northwest* will enable viewers to learn more about themselves as they explore their past.



OUR AUDIENCES

Our goals are educational. We want to reach students in Pacific Northwest colleges, universities and high schools, as well as television viewers who enjoy historical documentaries



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OUR OBJECTIVES

We plan to tell a balanced story of the conflicts between business and labor in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The second result will be a new and important piece of curriculum for college and high school students, consistent with guidelines under the OSPI and EARLs.



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OUR TEAM

PACIFIC NORTHWEST LABOR HISTORY ASSOCIATION

This non-profit association has been passionately preserving the history and heritage of workers in the Pacific Northwest for more than five decades. Trade unionists, students, academics, and others believe the labor movement must know where it's been to know where it's going

LOOKING BACK PRODUCTIONS

Looking Back Productions President David Jepsen is an historian, educator and writer specializing in the Pacific Northwest. "Labor Wars of the Northwest" is part of his passion for bringing history to life for his students and history fans of all ages.

TUP STUDIOS

Tup Wright, president of Tup Studios in Seattle, has been creating feature films and documentaries since the early 1990s. He operates on the principle that "success happens when the story and vision are compelling."

Contact:



David J. Jepsen

253-442-4899

djjepsen@comcast.net

*ROBERT CURTIS
137055*